

K-State researchers study activity of harmful alfalfa pest

The alfalfa weevil, one of the most well-known and devastating pests to agriculture, can cause serious defoliation in alfalfa during the spring, if not treated in a timely manner. Producers might have difficulty spraying insecticides timely in the spring, as spring alfalfa weevil activity can be intense for a period of three to six weeks, and spring weather is unpredictable.

Researchers at Kansas State University are evaluating an alternative treatment strategy that consists of spraying insecticides on alfalfa in the fall, followed by a spring application. Adult weevils become active in alfalfa fields in the fall where they feed, mate and start laying eggs in alfalfa stems, said Jeff Whitworth, K-State Research and Extension entomologist.

"We're not trying to eliminate the weevils in the fall," Whitworth said. "We're just trying to reduce egg laying so that it will help out in the spring."

In addition to Whitworth, the research team at K-State includes Alysha Soper, research assistant, and Holly Davis, insect diagnostician. The study began in the fall of 2012 to determine if a fall insecticide application significantly reduced spring infestations of the alfalfa weevil, and if so, what fall application timing would be most effective.

Understanding alfalfa weevil behavior is helpful in under-

standing the reasoning behind this study. The alfalfa weevil is a univoltine insect, Whitworth said, which means there is one generation produced each year. The weevils produced in the spring, from mid-March to mid-May, leave the alfalfa fields for the most part when temperatures get around 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

The alfalfa weevil can especially harm the first cutting, but the effects often transcend that first cutting to cause reduced quality and growth. Those weevils that aren't destroyed in that first cutting will leave alfalfa fields and go to cooler and shadier places. A few stay in leaf litter in fields, Whitworth said, but most will come back in the fall to lay eggs around mid-October. The eggs, and some adult weevils, will overwinter on the plant and in the leaf litter. Anytime the temperatures get above 48 degrees though, the weevils become active and continue laying eggs until temperatures cool again.

In the fall of 2011, Whitworth said chemical companies came up with registered insecticide fall application, which complied with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. It was too late in 2011 to test the fall application, so in 2012, the K-State research team put together a study to see if spraying adults in the fall would reduce spring infestation.

The researchers started the fall insecticide applications two weeks

after detecting the first adult weevil. The first application last year was Oct. 9, the second on Oct. 23, the third on Nov. 6 and the fourth on Nov. 20. They evaluated alfalfa for weevils this spring on April 5 and April 12.

Results showed that the third application had less alfalfa weevils per stem compared to the other application dates.

"From a statistical standpoint, Nov. 6 (insecticide application) showed significantly reduced infestation in the spring," Whitworth said.

Although they were statistically reduced, Whitworth said from a practical standpoint they were not reduced enough to prevent significant damage if not treated in the spring. He said producers should keep in mind that most conventional synthetic-organic insecticides provide two to three weeks residual activity, and knowing this is helpful in determining the most effective application time to delay egg laying and eggs from hatching.

The findings are preliminary, based on one year of study, but the researchers studied large plots of alfalfa from six different fields. The researchers will continue studying this fall and evaluate again in the spring of 2014.

For information about this research, go to the K-State Research and Extension bookstore (www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/mf2999.pdf).

Man reassembles the bills his dog ate

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A Montana man who painstakingly gathered and reassembled parts of five \$100 bills eaten by his golden retriever has been reimbursed by the U.S. Treasury for the "mutilated" currency.

Wayne Klinkel of Helena received a \$500 check, the *Independent Record* (bit.ly/1540xEA) reported.

"It was great to get the check after all the crap I went through," Klinkel, a graphic artist at the newspaper, joked.

His 12-year-old dog, Sundance, downed all but half of one of the bills in December. Sundance, a rescue from a Wyoming animal shelter, snacked on the cash left in the family vehicle while Klinkel and his wife ate at a restaurant, but left a \$1 bill untouched. They were on a road trip to visit their daughter in Colorado.

Klinkel picked through the dog's droppings over the next few days to recover parts of the bills. His daughter found more when the snow melted in the spring.

Klinkel cleaned and carefully reassembled the bills, put them in plastic bags and sent them to the U.S. Treasury in April with an explanation.

He got a receipt for the bills 10 days later, and didn't hear from the Treasury until he got the check.

"I gave Sundance a pat, showed it to him and told him not to eat it," said Klinkel.

He said there wasn't any correspondence with the check, but the memo section in the bottom left read: "MUT.CURR REFUND."

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Last Monday

2:50 a.m. — Security checks to downtown businesses.
3:19 a.m. — Security check at Oasis.
3:44 a.m. — Provided information to motorist at Oasis.
3:48 a.m. — Security at Walmart.
6:43 a.m. — Checked on an object that was hit by Wagoner's on U.S. 24. It was a sheep in the north ditch.
8:29 a.m. — Caller reported subject sleeping in a car. All OK.
10:19 a.m. — Caller reported male subject possibly involved in robbery overnight seen walking in the 2400 block of County Rd. P.
12:26 p.m. — Walk through at Colby Middle School.
1:25 p.m. — Caller reported back door open on trailer. Secured door; all appeared OK.
1:28 p.m. — Accident in parking lot at 980 S. Range.
7:10 p.m. — Criminal damage to property report filed.
11:26 p.m. — Removed a tree branch from Fourth and Grant.
11:31 p.m. — Caller reported a strong odor of drugs. Report filed for possession.

Tuesday

Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

- Kyle Kendall Hernandez, 24, Colby, June 11, possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a narcotic drug, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, released Oct. 9 on recognizance.
- Magnum L. Shea, 28, Colby, Sept. 17, bond violation, Thomas County Sheriff, released Oct. 16 on recognizance.
- Gary Eugene Eisman, 30, Colby, Sept. 20, abuse of a child, aggravated battery (two counts), Thomas County Sheriff, released Oct. 11 on \$10,000 bond.
- Jesse Jay Ellwood, 29, Dallas, Oct. 6, possession/distribution of hallucinogenic drugs, Kansas Highway Patrol, released Oct. 8 on recognizance.
- Lavelle Ann Carpenter, 45, St. Francis, Oct. 7, battery against law

2:31 a.m. — Security check at Walmart.
8:20 a.m. — Provided traffic block for ambulance.
10:43 a.m. — Caller reported counterfeit bill. Report filed.
11:25 a.m. — Walk through at Walmart.
2:05 p.m. — Theft reported, entered into National Crime Information Center.
5:34 p.m. — Narcotics violation report filed on incident.
11:53 p.m. — Caller reported cameras watching subject. No report.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Last Monday

1:08 a.m. — Booked Christopher J. Hoyte.
6:43 a.m. — Caller reported hitting an animal by Wagoner's on U.S. 24 that damaged his vehicle.
9:19 a.m. — Caller reported vehicle in field east of residence may be subject's who she has protection from abuse order against. Report filed.
9:50 a.m. — Provided traveler's aid.
10:19 a.m. — Helped Colby Police look for suspect in case from overnight.

12:04 p.m. — Booked Shawn Codie Gill.

Tuesday

9:02 a.m. — Theft, criminal damage to property; caller advised of damage to substation. Report filed.
9:36 a.m. — Logan County advised of cattle out at U.S. 83 mile 164. Contacted owner.
10:16 a.m. — Caller reported two subjects asking customers for money at JJ Oil, Oakley. Turned over to Oakley Police Department.
10:50 a.m. — Served arrest warrant on Christopher Hoyte.
10:50 a.m. — Served arrest warrant on Shawn Gill.
1:26 p.m. — Took prisoner from Colby to Sherman County.
2:04 p.m. — Helped stranded motorist at I-70 mile 46 east-bound.
2:47 p.m. — Brought two prisoners from Sherman County to Colby.
6:58 p.m. — Booked Rashaan D. Taylor.
7:34 p.m. — Booked Monte Campbell.
8:12 p.m. — Booked Cesar Yanez.

enforcement officer, domestic battery, disorderly conduct, obstruction of official duty, Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office, released same day to other agency.

- Cristina Marie Gonzalez, 28, Oct. 7, forgery, making a false writing, conspiracy, Thomas County Sheriff, released Oct. 8 on probation.
- Norma Jean Kammer, 55, Brewster, Oct. 7, criminal damage to property, assault, Thomas County Sheriff, released Oct. 9 on probation.
- Bryan David Walz, 40, Colby, Oct. 10, driving under the influence, wearing of seatbelt required, Highway Patrol, released same day to responsible party.
- Tyler L. Robinson, 28, Colby, Oct. 11, failure to appear, Colby Police Department, released same day on bond.
- Sandra Valdez, 40, San Anto-

nio, Oct. 12, theft, Colby Police, released same day on recognizance.

- Hamad Adel Alyousif, 21, Norman Okla., Oct. 13, possession of hallucinogenic drugs, Thomas County Sheriff, released same day on recognizance.
- Kristine Lynn Ahrens, 54, Colby, Oct. 16, failure to pay/battery, failure to pay/disorderly conduct, Colby Police, released same day on bond.
- Kelly Kay Hake, 32, Oakley, Oct. 16, violation of protective order, driving with license suspended or revoked, Highway patrol, released same day with charges pending.
- Ronald Wesley Ruby, 44, Oakley, Oct. 16, violation of protective order, Highway Patrol, released same day on recognizance.

USE THE CLASSIFIEDS! 785-462-3963

Join us in our Defending Our Freedoms Section

Bring in your family member's Military photos with the information below. We will publish all the photos and information on Veteran's Day November 11.

All photos must be submitted by October 25 to be included in our section. If you submitted information for anyone on active duty in our last section, please let us know if we need to update any information.

Help us honor those who have served our country.

NAME _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

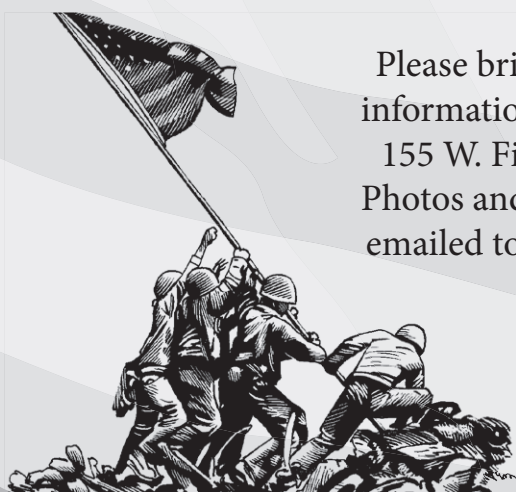
THEATRE OF OPERATION _____

YEARS OF SERVICE _____

God bless all those who answer our nation's call to defend our great country's freedoms!

Vet, SSgt. Matthews USMC 3rd Recon Bn.

Please bring in or mail photos and information to The Colby Free Press
155 W. Fifth St., Colby KS, 67701.
Photos and information may also be emailed to khunter@nwkansas.com



Family Center for Health Care and Citizens Medical Center, Inc. will hold an open house to view the clinic's new addition and welcome Dr. Kelly Gabel, General Surgery, and Dr. Sarah Gabel Family Practice, to our organization and community.



Dr. Kelly Gabel



Dr. Sarah Gabel



Citizens Foundation is very grateful for the support that we have received from our community and we hope everyone can join us as we celebrate the completion of the addition and honor those who have contributed to its success.