rmyworms attacking wheat

Well, this past week has definitely been interesting. Emotions for everyone involved with wheat harvest were running high with the discovery of kernel damage caused by the wheathead armyworm.

The elevators that discovered the problem asked others to check, and people soon realized that many locations were having a problem with a high percentage of insect damaged kernels. Flour mills will only accept wheat with a low percentage of insect damage.

These 1- to 1.25-inch long, limegreen to tan worms, with stripes along the side, have caused a problem for several reasons. First, the area has been cool and wet. Warmer weather is needed to promote the diseases and parasites which usually attack these worms. Thus, more of them were able to stay around longer than normal, and continue feeding.

Second, these armyworms feed mostly at night, so during the day very few worms would have been seen from the road.

Third, this insect has not been a problem for a number of years. If farmers or consultants did see this insect out in the field, they may not have realized it was a problem.

Fourth, when the wheat starts drying down, farmers and consultants divert their attention to the planting and scouting of spring crops. Typically, nothing besides hail or high winds causes damage to the wheat at this point.

All of these factors combined led to the situation we are currently in.

This brings up a couple of other concerns. Will the wheathead armyworm continue feeding on the wheat when it is in the bin? The answer is no. These worms may live for a few days in the bin and feed on each other, but will die shortly thereafter.

Will the wheathead armyworms be a problem for the corn and grain sorghum? According to our entomologists, they will be completing their life cycle and pupating into a moth in the next week or so, causing minimal if any damage on the spring crops. However, considerable numbers of true armyworms are also present. True armyworms do little damage to the wheat kernel, but they are ravenous eaters and will consume a lot of foliage. They may not be as developed as the wheathead armyworm and may move off of the wheat onto crops like corn or

of Your Choice



grain sorghum.

The true armyworm has a smaller head capsule than the wheathead and does not have the tapered body of the wheathead. To see pictures of each and control options for the true armyworm in corn and grain sorghum, follow the appropriate link at the web site below. Control mea-vided to elevators for farmers. If you sures for the true armyworm should did not receive a copy of this, or to be considered if the worm is less than 1.25 inches in length.

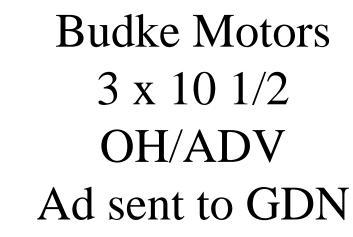
For Norton and Decatur counties, the farmers may see this as more of a nuisance than anything else due to Armyworm Information icon, or extra time needed to determine the visit your local county extension percentage of insect damage for each load. For Trego, Gove, and Sheridan where the problem is more tension agronomist for Decatur, pervasive, it could cause some serious setbacks for farmers who may counties. E-mail bolson@oznet.a high percentage of damage in the would like to see a newspaper ar-

ity wheat has less wheathead army- 475-8121.

worm feeding. Hopefully, this trend continues and the old adage of the first wheat cut is always the worst will hold true.

An informational flyer on insectdamaged kernels, what producers can do, insurance options and where to send the sample has been proview pictures of the wheathead and the true armyworm, please visit the Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu/ agronomy-block2 and click on the

Brian Olson is multi-county ex-Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego have had wheat turned away due to ksu.edu if you have any questions or ticle on a specific crop production As I am writing this, we are start- topic. For more information, coning to see signs that the better qual- tact the county extension office,





1-800-731-3360

CLIP OUT AND SAVE • JULY

Decatur County Community Calendar

Call 785-475-3441

(Call Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce to have your organization's meeting updated and listed in next month's calendar.)

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	lin Herald YEAR OF SERVICE	Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital; Ro- tary, Gateway, Noon; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.	Dr. Eskildsen, Decatur County Hospital; Blood Pressure Golden Age, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Oberlin Business Alliance, LandMark Inn, noon; AA, ambulance barn, 8 p.m.; Jaycees, Red Crown, 8:30 p.m.	3	4TH OF JULY 4 Fun Day at the swimming pool, games start 1 p.m.; Prairie Chapel Church burgers and melon at the park starting at 4 p.m. to ?? Fireworks at dusk at the fairgrounds.	1/2 Price Day Bargain Box Plus
Attend the Church of Your Choice	Norcatur Rebekahs Lions, Medical Arts Bldg.	Dr. Doolittle, Dr. 8 McGowan, Cardiology, Decatur County Hospital; Rotary, Gateway, Noon; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Convention Visitors Bureau, LandMark, 5:30 p.m.	Dr. Eskildsen, Decatur County Hospital; Le- gion Auxiliary meeting, 7:30 p.m.; AA, ambu- lance barn, 8 p.m.; Nor- catur Royal Neighbors	Dr. Curtis, Cardiology, Decatur County Hospital	Oberlin Royal Neighbors Golden Age, 4 p.m.	12
Attend the Church of Your Choice Antique Engine Club potluck, Sappa Manor, 6:30 p.m.	14	Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital; Ro- tary, Gateway, Noon; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.	Dr. Eskildsen, Decatur County Hospital AA, ambulance barn, 8 p.m.	Community Garage Sales Maps Available after 3 p.m. Chamber board meeting, Decatur Co-op board room, noon	Chamber Community Garage Sales	Chamber Community Garage Sales
20 Attend the Church of Your Choice	Dr. McDonald, cataracts, Decatur County Hospital; Lions Club, Medical Arts bldg.; Hospital board meeting, 7 p.m.; Norcatur Rebekah.	Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital; Ro- tary, Gateway, Noon; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.	Dr. Eskildsen, Dr. Newman, Urology; Dr. Rainwater, Cardiology, Decatur County Hospital; AA, ambulance barn, 8 p.m.	Oberlin American Legion Meeting	25	Oberlin Busi- 26 ness Alliance Beach Party, starting at 10 a.m. and Auction and Garage Sale, old The Bank drive-thru.
27 Attend the Church	28	Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital; Ro- tary, Gateway, Noon;	Oberlin Business 30 Alliance 5th Wednesday Scrip Drawing, OBA stores to sign up.	31 THE		

Dr. Eskildsen, Decatur

County Hospital; AA, am-

bulance barn, 8 p.m.; \$3

Bag Day, Bargain Box

Weight Watchers,

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Prairie Land Electric

Cooperative, Inc.