http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/extension/extensio.htm

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

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# NEW VACCINE FOR HORSES FOR THE WEST NILE VIRUS IN 2004 from MERIAL:

**Corrected (4/30/04)**

In January this year, Merial Company has released a new USDA approved equine vaccine called RECOMBITEK Equine West Nile Virus vaccine. Recombitek contains recombinant canarypox vectored West Nile Virus that has been modified to express the desired antigens capable of stimulating a protective response to the West Nile Virus. Manufacturer recommends two initial doses, 4-6 weeks apart as well as a single annual booster. Challenge test showed that horses were protected from WNV as early as 2 weeks after completion of the two-vaccination series.

The vaccine that has been widely used for the past two years, West Nile-INNOVATOR™, was developed by Fort Dodge. The manufacturer also recommends 2 initial doses of this killed virus product, given intramuscularly, 3-6 weeks apart, and then annual booster vaccination. Protection from disease is reportedly achieved about 6 weeks after the second initial vaccine dose.

WNV vaccines are an adjuvanted product similar to vaccines against Eastern equine encephaliditis (EEE) and Western Equine Encephaliditis (WEE) and are only available through licensed veterinarians. Horses vaccinated against EEE, WEE, and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis **are not** protected against infection with WNV.

Link to Information on the Merial RecombiTEK™ West Nile Virus Equine Vaccination

Link to Information on the Fort Dodge West Nile-Innovator™ Equine Vaccination

Ludek Zurek

# Army Cutworms, Alfalfa Weevils, Alfalfa Aphids:

## Army Cutworms

It seems most wheat fields that were treated for army cutworms have recovered and/or compensated for feeding damage if not treated. However, a few fields are still showing the effects and the cutworms are still feeding in these fields, so it will be interesting to see how these fields respond. Most larvae discovered during the last week (2-6 April) were fairly mature and will probably be pupating within the next couple of weeks. However, cooler than normal temperatures may delay pupation, and thus extend feeding. Most worms have moved out of the feeding-devastated areas into better feeding areas (i.e., healthier wheat/alfalfa) but please remember larger, more vigorous stands can tolerate more worms/feeding damage. Also, because of the numbers of larvae we've had this spring there may be a large flight of adults. These moths can be a real nuisance as they congregate in cracks and crevices around buildings and thus get into houses, stores, etc. This phenomenon may last for a week or two before they migrate to the Rocky Mountains for the summer.

## Alfalfa Weevils

Examined several alfalfa fields in central Kansas during the last week (2-6 April). Found plenty of alfalfa weevil larvae, especially south of I-70. About 80% were 1st instars, which means eggs are probably still hatching and damage is noticeable only on the upper terminals. One must look closely, as these tiny larvae are well concealed in the terminal growth. They are not easily dislodged if you're shaking the stems into a white bucket for counting, so make sure you examine each stem closely after shaking. We found 1-8 larvae per stem with very little feeding damage yet apparent. As these larvae grow, and more hatch, damage will become more visible. Several fields had recently been treated and the timing is probably ideal. No adults were found, thus maybe most eggs will hatch during a relatively short period from fall laid eggs and we will not get a second "flush" of egg hatching. Fields treated with most of the registered insecticides should have 14-21 days residual protection. Please check the weather in the next week because freezing conditions could interfere with insecticide efficacy as larvae may move to the lower canopy or into the leaf litter below the canopy, thus less vulnerable to insecticides. Remember, the only way to determine the infestation level in your fields is to actually get out and look. For insecticides and economic injury levels please consult the Alfalfa Insect Management Guide for 2004 or check the World Wide Web at http://www.oznet.ksu.edu.

## Alfalfa Aphids

Found one pea aphid while examining alfalfa fields. Although there apparently aren't too many out yet, you need to keep these in mind. There were also quite a few lady beetles in most alfalfa fields, which help keep aphids in check. For more information on any of the common alfalfa aphids consult the same guide or web

site as for alfalfa weevils above.

Jeff Whitworth

# March Flies, Family Bibionidae:

Well the calendar says April, but those hoards of small, dark, hairy, rather slow flies found in yards and fields are still called march flies. The wings are clear with a yellowish brown stigma (spot) near the tip of each wing.

These flies may be slow, but what they lack in speed they seem to make up for by being prolific. March fly adults emerge very early in spring, before there are many predators about. And they emerge en masse, making it really easy to find each other. They mate, lay eggs, and die before the competition really gets going. March fly larvae feed primarily on decomposing plant matter and sometimes on plant roots. Larvae are occasionally noticed in fairly high numbers in wheat fields and lawns in late winter or early spring, but apparently do little if any damage. Since the adults are short lived and the larvae mainly feed on decaying plant material, controls are not justified.

March Flies

Phil Sloderbeck

# Wheat Insect Observations:

Army cutworm activity appears to be on the decline as worms should be starting to pupate. Hot spots of Russian wheat aphids are being reported from the Texas Panhandle and a few reports of some activity in far western Kansas. Heavy numbers of brown wheat mites and winter Grain mites also being reported in a few fields. For more information on these and other wheat pests see: http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/

extension/InsectInfo/Wheat/WheatInsects.html

Phil Sloderbeck

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Sincerely,

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