



Pest e-alerts



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Alfalfa Weevil Egg Populations 2017

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While the calendar says we're still in the midst of winter, spring green up will be upon us before we know it. In an ongoing effort to identify alfalfa weevil and aphid populations over the upcoming season, we continue to look at weather as well as other factors that could contribute to increased or decreased populations of these pests. In the first few weeks of 2017, we've experienced fairly cold temperatures with some areas slipping below zero. Snow and ice have also been observed throughout most of the state. However, with enough warm days, increasing temperatures have already spiked degree days to 150 or more in numerous counties in the southern half of the state with several others approaching that mark (Table 1.). Remember, in regard to alfalfa weevil populations, 150 degree-days represents the level that serves as an indicator for growers and consultants to begin scouting for larvae. In most years, an early egg hatch would mean a relatively quick demise for larvae and continued suppression of aphid pressure since extremely cold temperatures, with the addition of ice/snow or cold rains can usually still be expected throughout February. In their recent forecast Mesonet meteorologists have indicated Oklahoma may be in for above average temperatures for the next couple of months. If that trend develops and a moderation in temperatures occurs an earlier than normal weevil population could develop. As always, the best way to keep informed of what is going on in your area is to remain diligent about monitoring Mesonet degree day information, entomology e-pest alerts, contact your local extension educator, or certainly continue scouting.

Phil and I will be on the road this week to collect egg samples from around the state. Once the samples are collected and back to the lab, it will take about a week to process. While the data we collect can't conclusively predict the severity of the upcoming season, this information can help give a snapshot of the current activity in areas of collection throughout the state. We'll continue to monitor the weather, provide egg population data, and future information as it becomes available.



Table 1. Degree Day accumulations for 10 counties throughout the state as of 1-30-2017.

County:	DD
Alfalfa	83.5
Major	106.7
Kingfisher	109.0
Kiowa	128.4
Tillman	156.8
Comanche	188.4
Payne	137.1
Rogers	108.4
Garvin	187.2
Pottawatomie	150.2

Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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