



Pest e-alerts



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Fall Armyworm Notice Part II: Check Your Pasture and Wheat!

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I continue to receive reports of fall armyworms in wheat and pasture. The latest reports are from Logan (caterpillar counts ranging from 6-12 per square foot) and Murray (8-20 per square foot) counties in OK and in SE Kansas.

Scout pastures with a wire coat hanger, bend it into a hoop, place it on the ground, and count fall armyworms in the hoop. Examine plants at several locations along the field margin as well as in the interior. Look for “window paned” leaves and count all sizes of larvae. The hoop covers about 2/3 of a square foot, so a threshold in pasture would be an average of two or three ½ inch-long larvae per hoop sample.



In wheat (once it has emerged) scout for fall armyworms by examining plants in several (5 or more) locations in the field. Fall armyworms are most active in the morning or late afternoon. Look for “window paned” leaves and count all sizes of larvae. As with pasture, examine plants along the field margin as well as in the interior, because they often move in from road ditches

and weedy areas. The suggested treatment threshold is 3 to 4 larvae per linear foot of row in wheat with active feeding.

Several pyrethroid insecticides have been registered in pasture this year, so consult the newly updated OSU Fact Sheets CR-7193 "*Management of Insect Pests in Rangeland and Pasture*" and CR-7194 "*Management of Insect and Mite Pests of Small Grains*".

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