



Pest e-alerts



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Alfalfa Weevil Egg Viabilities High

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Alfalfa weevil egg populations while relatively low, compared to some years, reflect some very high viability readings, in excess of 76% on average. While several factors (moisture, temperature, etc.) will ultimately determine final larval populations and when economic thresholds will be attained, in light of our current drought, these numbers do not bode well for this year's crop, particularly if the drought persists. Indications from climatologists suggest that we are in a prolonged dry cycle (La Nina) that may last for one or more years. With this in mind, growers should be alert to a multitude of potential pest problems including; cutworms, grasshoppers and aphids. In particular, spotted alfalfa



aphids caused very significant problems during last year's drought and may continue to be a limiting factor in 2012. These aphids in conjunction with our usually reliable alfalfa weevil populations can quickly devastate a stand of alfalfa, as we found out last year. In addition, while alfalfa weevil larval populations are not generally as bad on new stands (planted in the fall of 2011) these stands are particularly vulnerable to spotted alfalfa aphids.

We anticipate taking egg samples again in February to help us get a clearer picture on the outlook for alfalfa weevil populations. We will also assess other significant pest populations during that time. These samples are generally taken just prior to the theoretical hatch (150 degree days) time and don't necessarily guarantee us low or high numbers. They simply give us an indication of where the populations stand at that time. Ultimately, environmental influences will dictate the impact of these conditions on pest populations and alfalfa growth and production. Keep an eye out for future news releases.

County	Jan 2012	Jan 2012 % Viable	Jan 2007	Jan 2007 % Viable	Jan 2006	Jan 2006 % Viable	Jan 2005	Jan 2005 % Viable	Jan 2004	Jan 2004 % Viable	Degree Days (2012)
Grady	33.2	---	.8	---	56.0	---	43.6	---	206	34	40.7
Kingfisher	77.6	82	48.0	---	82.0	---	162	94	207.2	75	55.9
Payne	69.6	72	56.4	70	189.6	45	338.8	90	241.2	79	51.5
Pottawatomie	4.8	---	14.8	---	134.8	41	218	82	118.4	79	73.8
Tillman	54.4	---	2.0	---	40.8	---	54	---	26.8	---	68.4
Washita	74.4	76	3.6	---	130.0	45	57.2	93	486	69	61.8
Garvin	52.4	---	0.0	---	111.6	76	113.2	87	38	---	87.5
Rogers	17.6	---									73.4
Major	74.8	---									48.0
Grant	198.0	75									34.2

No viability in a specific county means that egg numbers recovered was insufficient to conduct an assessment.

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