

2007
July



Keep Eye on 2nd Generation Beetles



I often get asked how do you control potato bugs? Obviously the question is not coming from a potato farmer or anybody who is related to one. The answer gets tougher when it's an organic minded home gardener—pick them.

With the use of neonicotinoids like Admire, Platinum, Actara, and Provado, growers have improved Langlade County CPB control to the point of great satisfaction.

But what happens when the beetles develop an insensitivity to this mode of action? With several Wisconsin growers facing the reality of resistance, is this looming on our horizon?

As the season wears on, the concentration of active ingredient in the soil wanes. If resistance genetics is going to have any chance of developing, it's in this time period of low or falling

concentration.

So, if you have a considerable sized second generation of beetles emerging and taking a foothold in your field; it's a good time to react. Call me or Russell Groves and we will collect beetles and run an assay for insensitivity.

The field should then be treated with a non-neonicotinoid insecticide. Russell Groves, UWEX insect management specialist says, "Don't use a foliar neonic like Assail Provado, Genesis, and other generics. No back to backs with neonics."

For an alternate mode of action, there are not many options. Hence the need to protect this class of insecticides or "mode of action".

Agrimek (abamectin) controls CPB in the larval stage, but no adults. BT products (Novodor) require several successive applications because of the relatively short residual (48 hours.) These however can be tank mixed with a fungicide/protectant spray. BT is based on the chemistry of a *Bacillus thurengiensis*, and is an

ingested poison. BT is used in organic systems with another class of insecticides called spinosads, (Spintor, Entrust.)

Tank mixes are an option with synthetic pyrethroids, (Asana, Pounce, Baythroid, and Ambush), and carbamates (Thionex, Vydate.)

The old standby Avaunt kills just the adults not the larvae. But like some pyrethroids, there can be localized resistance to this and other insecticides that have been registered for some time.

The importance of control at this point of the game is due to a lower tolerance of defoliation at or post flowering. A 10% defoliation will reduce potential yield as maximum photosynthesis means maximum yield.

Keep an eye on the bottom line, as management choices on the farm, either make money or take money. A \$25/acre product may preserve a mode of action, maintain yields, or be \$25 less profit in the end.

Questions to Alex Crockford 627-6313 or Russ Groves 608-262-3229.

UW — EXTENSION — LANGLADE COUNTY

Langlade Ag-Letter

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June 19

ANTIGO FIELD DAY STARTS AT 1:00 PM—AIRPORT

Farmers Invited to AgrAbility Assistive Tech Awareness Day

Are you a farmer farming with a disability? Does your injury or illness make your farm chores difficult to do? If so, then AgrAbility can help you!

AgrAbility of Wisconsin is hosting an educational Assistive Tech Awareness Day on Wednesday, July 18, in Wausau, WI for area farmers and health care and rehabilitation professionals. The day starts at 1p.m. and concludes at 5p.m. Farmers and healthcare professionals in the community will be informed about

the many services offered by AgrAbility and other organizations and resources available to farmers. “We want farmers with disabilities and serious health conditions to know there are resources that they may not be aware of available to them,” said Cally Ehle, the Associate Outreach Specialist for AgrAbility.

Participants will also have the opportunity to talk to other farmers with disabilities and hear their stories about how AgrAbility has worked with them. Farmers will have the

opportunity throughout the afternoon to meet with representatives from organizations such as UW Extension, WisTech of the Department of Health and Family Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Wisconsin FARM Center. AgrAbility will also have information about the program as well as examples of equipment modifications and comparisons. Farmers will also have the opportunity to meet with other farmers who have participated in the AgrAbility program.

Since it began in 1991, AgrAbility has worked with over 1400 Wisconsin farmers and their families experiencing the effects of disabling conditions such as: back injuries, arthritis, respiratory impairments, and amputations. AgrAbility services may include recommendations for worksite and equipment modifications, referrals to different funding sources and service providers and access to a peer support network.

Services are free of charge to the farm family and are completely confidential.

AgrAbility is a partnership between the Easter Seals Resource Center for Farmers with Disabilities and the UW Extension. It combines the disability expertise of Easter Seals Wisconsin with the educational networking capabilities of Extension services to provide a comprehensive program for farm families affected by disabilities. AgrAbility can help farmers and their families continue to farm safely and successfully.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin Promotes Success in Agriculture for Farmers with Disabilities. For more information contact Cally Ehle at (608) 262-9336.

8th Annual Sheep Production Field Day hosted in nearby Gleason, WI

Organized by:

Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Dan and Traci Smith-Someday Farm
W13552 Second Ave Gleason, WI

Directions: Take US Hwy 45 north through Antigo to County C. Go west on C approximately 8 miles to County H, turn right (north) on H. Go approximately 8 miles north on H to Second Ave, turn right (east). Someday Farm is at the end on the left side of the road.

8:00 a.m. **Registration \$10/family**

9:00 a.m. **Timber Wolf Status in Wisconsin** Robert C. Willging, USDA-Wildlife Services-will present an overview of government programs, along with some demonstrations of predator damage management tools, and procedures to report losses.

10:00 a.m. **Defenders of Wildlife-**Gina Schrader Conservation Associate — Defenders of Wildlife is a non-profit organization dedicated to

the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. Defenders supports the use of non-lethal methods to prevent or reduce livestock losses caused by predators. She will present information about their programs that are available to farmers, landowners and communities to reduce conflicts between wolves and livestock, including support for guard dogs.

11:00 a.m. **Guard Llamas-** Ali Soukup of Sugar River Llamas of Lyndon Station, WI. She will present an overview of the success of guard llamas as predator control. She will include how to introduce a llama to your herd, some basic llama care, and what to look for in purchasing a llama that will act as a guard animal.

12:00 p.m. **Lunch-**a lunch stand will be available.

1:30 p.m. **Dan and Traci Smith Farm history and grass walk-** Dan will explain his farm history and production system that includes pasture lambing, rotational grazing and the use of guard dogs, followed by a pasture walk.

Milk Price Bumps— Corrects Quickly—Points to Commodities

By Ed Jesse
Interim Associate Dean
UW Extension

Last Thursday (June 28) cheese prices fell sharply on the CME; -13 cents/pound for block cheddar and -14 cents/pound for barrels. That's equivalent to about a \$1.25/cwt. drop in the Class III price.

The following Monday was an interesting day on the CME dairy markets, and it was -- but not in the way I expected. Block and barrel cheddar both closed up 1/2 cent per pound, and the spread is the normal 3 cents in favor of blocks.

The unexpected occurred in Class III futures, with the near (July) contract settling limit up (+\$0.75/

cwt.) at \$20.85 and the August-November contracts up from 17 to 35 cents. Apparently, two days of stability in cheese prices lent some confidence to futures traders, who bid milk prices back more in line with cheese prices. But we'll still need to see cheese go over \$2.00 to support the July contract price.

The milk price correction is related to what is happening in corn markets. Corn futures have been falling steadily since mid-June. The CBOT Dec -'07 corn contract traded above \$4.30 per bushel on June 18 and under \$3.50 yesterday. The USDA acreage report released yesterday showed 2007 U.S. corn plantings at 92.9 million acres, up 19 percent from last year. This

information eased buyers' fears that cheese supplies would be extremely tight this fall as high feed costs stifled milk production.

But while corn market activity influenced the national milk picture, Wisconsin dairy farmers might be more concerned about what is happening in soybean markets. The CBOT Nov-'07 contract has moved from \$7.60 per bushel in late April to close to the \$9.00 range. In reaction to the USDA acreage report, which showed soybean acreage down 15 percent from 2006, the soybean market opened limit up (+50 cents/bushel) yesterday before easing back 10 cents by closing.

Free Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing

Madison, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin-Madison Agronomy Department and UW-Extension, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, offers free soybean cyst nematode (SCN) soil testing for Wisconsin growers. This program allows growers to sample several of their fields in order to identify if SCN is present and at what levels.

To participate in the test, growers should collect soil from fields

suspected to have SCN and send the sample to the SCN testing laboratory for analysis. They will receive a lab report back with the SCN egg count and a brochure to help plan future rotations and other cultural practices to lower SCN infestation if they are present.

A limited number of free test kits are available on a first come - first

served basis at up to four per farm. Crop consultants, advisors, and crop input retailers are encouraged to request kits for their client's farms. Each kit has a bag and a prepaid mailer for one soil sample which should represent about 10 to 15 acres. Postage and lab fees are prepaid.

Anytime during the growing season or right after harvest are great times to collect soil samples for SCN identification.

Soil sample test kits can be requested from Colleen Smith at clsmith8@wisc.edu or by calling 608-262-7702.

For more information on SCN testing and management practices to help reduce the losses from this pest, please contact John Gaska, UW-Madison Department of Agronomy, by phone at 608-444-4924 or email jmgaska@wisc.edu.



Fielding Complaints About Overspray & Aerial Applications

Complaints about overspray or drift are not uncommon, especially as rural landowners are increasingly disconnected with production agriculture.

While pea and bean contracts are a good opportunity for growers, growers and landowners are sometimes found in the middle between a contract and a neighbor with complaints.

If you need to interact with a person with concerns, maintain a positive and professional image. You may have them call the Department of Ag complaint hotline (608) 224-4500 or give them the website:

http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/pesticides/filing_complaint.jsp

Antigo Field Day July 19 at 1:00 p.m.



Langlade County

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Through the **University of Wisconsin-Extension**, all Wisconsin people can access university resources and engage in lifelong learning, wherever they live and work.

On July 19th, at 1:00 p.m. UW Extension will be hosting a field day at the airport research plots. Researchers conducting trials at the Antigo site are Chuck Kostichka, AJ Bussan, Walt Stevenson, Jed Colquhoun, and Dan Heider. Also present will be Carrie Laboski and Russell Groves who conducted on-farm research in Langlade County this season. The field day will be followed by refreshments, brats and burgers.



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