

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

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## Tobacco Scouting Report No. 3

**By Gene Burgess**

### Hawkins County – Michael Matthews, Intern

Scouted Field (No Demo.). A few flea beetles, hornworms and grasshoppers were found. These were not at economic threshold levels.

Demonstration Field. Different tobacco fields were treated with Orthene, Admire and Platinum. The Orthene field had more flea beetles. A few hornworms were found in the Admire field. These were not at economic threshold levels.

### Robertson County – Brad Wilks, Intern

Scouted Field (No Demo.). A few flea beetles were found in one field under threshold level. Common ragweed, horse nettle, fall panicum, broadleaf signalgrass, annual broadleaf, fox tail and jimsonweed were found in the three scouted fields.

Demonstration Field. No insects were observed.

### Macon County – Terra Kimes, Intern

Scouted Field (No Demo.). A few hornworms were observed, but they were not at economic threshold level.

Demonstration Field. A few flea beetles were found in the check plot. No insects were found in the treated plots with Admire, Platinum or Orthene.

### Loudon County – Jessica Harris, Intern

No report. Jessica was on vacation.

### Sumner County – Melissa Edwards, Intern

No report. Melissa was at 4-H camp.

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## Stored Grain

**By Russ Patrick**

A Stored Grain Workshop has been planned for Southern Alabama. I plan to attend the workshop and assist Dr. Kathy Flanders of Auburn University. I will be out of the office in the Month of July, however I will be returning on a part-time basis, beginning August 1st. Please contact Scott Stewart if you need any assistance during my absence in July. Hopefully, when I return in August we will have a few corn producers planning to store harvested grain in bags. Please let me know if you have any producers planning to bag grain for short term storage, so we can aid them with insect, moisture, and temperature monitoring. Also have growers use one of the insecticides such as Pyrenon and Diacon II if they plan to store grain. These products may be mixed together and sprayed on the corn as it goes into a bag or used on grain stored in the bin. Keeping the grain aerated

in bins should not just be an option, but a requirement. Aeration helps keep the insecticides from breaking down too fast.



**Temperature and moisture monitoring**

On another subject, Kathy and I were in Cannon County for a Stored Grain Workshop this week, when one of the producers asked us about some soybean problems. He described the plant stems as having a swollen area and indicated that some adventitious roots were protruding from the main stem. This was an obvious case of threecornered alfalfa hopper damage. The removal of weedy borders this year should help reduce this pest's population next year, especially if the growers intend to plant soybeans, alfalfa, beans, cowpeas, sweet clover, tomato, or bermudagrass.



**Threecornered alfalfa hopper**

## Team to Explore Bee Deaths

**By Darrell Hensley**

Case studies and questionnaires related to management practices and environmental factors have identified a few common factors shared by those beekeepers experiencing a disease of bees known as colony collapse disorder (CCD). However, no common environmental agents or chemicals stand out as the cause of this disorder. Three major possibilities that are being looked into by researchers include:

- Pesticides may be having unexpected negative effects on honey bees.
- A new parasite or pathogen may be attacking honey bees. One possible candidate being looked at is a pathogenic gut microbe called Nosema. Viruses are also suspected.
- A perfect storm of existing stresses may have unexpectedly weakened colonies leading to collapse. Stress, in general, compromises the immune system of bees (and other social insects) and may disrupt their social system, making colonies more susceptible to disease.

These stresses could include high levels of infection by the varroa mite (a parasite that feeds on bee blood and may transmit bee viruses); poor nutrition due to apiary overcrowding, pollination of crops with low nutritional value, or pollen or nectar scarcity; and exposure to limited or contaminated water supplies. Migratory stress brought about by increased needs for crop pollination might also be a contributing factor.

Due to these factors, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has formed a pollinator protection team to expand the agency's inquiry into the possible causes of declines in pollinators, especially honey bee populations. The new multidisciplinary team will address the potential risks that pesticides may contribute to what is known as CCD.

Although the role that pesticides play in the phenomenon has not been scientifically established, the team will explore possible approaches, tools, and resources for reducing the potential risks of pesticides to pollinators. The team has also developed a strategic plan that focuses on three main goals for guiding the agency's work and direction in protecting pollinators in the years ahead:

- Advancing the agency's scientific knowledge and assessment of pesticide risks to pollinators
- Improving risk management tools for mitigating potential risks to pollinators
- Increasing and broadening EPA's collaboration and communication with governmental and non-governmental organizations and the public in addressing pollinator issues

The EPA has been working on multiple fronts to protect honey bees through regulatory, voluntary, and research programs. However, since colony collapse disorder first focused attention on honey bee declines in 2006, the agency has been reassessing its approach to pollinator protection.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ecosystem/pollinator-protection.html>

## Hot Temperatures May Produce Sunscald

**By Darrell Hensley**

During the weeks of June 14<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>, Tennessee experienced some extremely hot temperatures. I noticed two ferns that appeared to have burned leaves in my own backyard. I highly suspected sunscald. Sunscald usually occurs on plants suddenly exposed to intense sunlight, high temperatures, and high humidities. Just the other day, someone stopped by my office and indicated that 50% of the peppers they were growing were exhibiting signs of burning lesions on the fruit. Depending on the plant, sunscald may have varying symptoms. On



**Sunscald**

pepper and tomato, sunscald turns the affected areas straw-colored to white. These areas quickly become soft, sunken and wrinkled. These dead areas form only on the side exposed to the sun. Dead areas eventually become dark-colored if infected with a



**Sunscald (no evidence of fungal growth inside fruit)**

secondary organism, such as a fungus. Sunscald can also occur if individuals handle plants rough and break branches during harvest or if heavy rains or hail expose the fruit to direct sun light. Remember to provide proper fertilization and water for healthy plant growth to reduce this possible problem. Also, do not get sunscald symptoms confused with blossom end rot. Blossom end rot, is caused by acidic soil (low pH) conditions and/or lack of available calcium, usually due to low soil moisture. So make certain you water your plants well during these extremely hot days.

## Kentucky Quarantines 20 Counties to Contain Emerald Ash Borer

**By Beth Long (includes excerpts from KY Press Release, June 24, 2009)**

LEXINGTON, Ky. — State officials have issued a quarantine for 20 Kentucky counties regulating the transportation outside those counties of articles that could harbor the emerald ash borer.

The quarantine prohibits “regulated articles” from being moved outside a quarantined area without a certificate or limited permit except under certain conditions. “Regulated articles” are defined as the emerald ash borer, hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, green ash lumber, other ash material, and any other materials that present a threat of artificial spread of the emerald ash borer.

The counties under quarantine are Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Carroll, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson, Jessamine, Kenton, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Scott, Shelby, Trimble and Woodford. The quarantined area includes the seven counties where the emerald ash borer has been identified – Campbell, Fayette, Franklin, Jefferson, Jessamine, Kenton and Shelby – plus counties close to an infestation site and counties with a high density of ash trees.

Persons may obtain a certificate to move regulated articles to any destination in Kentucky when, in the judgment of an inspector, the articles have not been exposed to the emerald ash borer, appear to be free of the emerald ash borer, have been treated to destroy the emerald ash borer, or have been grown, produced, manufactured, stored or handled in such a manner that their movement does not present a risk of spreading the emerald ash borer.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle native to the Far East. It was first discovered in North America in June 2002 in southeast Michigan. EAB has been identified in 12 states and two Canadian provinces. It can kill an ash tree within two to three years of infestation. Ash trees are widely used in urban landscapes and are ecologically valuable for their ability to fill gaps and provide shade for the forest floor.

To report a possible infestation, call the EAB Hotline, 1-866-322-4512, or the Tennessee state entomologist’s office at (615)837-5139. No emerald ash borer infestations have been found in Tennessee to date.

For the latest on emerald ash borer in Kentucky, go to <http://pest.ca.uky.edu/EXT/EAB/welcome.html> For more information about the emerald ash borer, go to [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

BUSINESS NAME

**OTHER UT NEWSLETTERS WITH PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**

**Fruit Pest News**

<http://web.utk.edu/~extepp/fpn/fpn.htm>

**Tennessee Crop and Pest Management Newsletter**

[http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton\\_insects/ipmnewsletters.htm](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton_insects/ipmnewsletters.htm)

**Ornamental Pest and Disease Update**

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/publications/ornamentalnwsltr.html>

**School IPM Newsletter**

<http://schoolipm.utk.edu>

**Tennessee Soybean Rust Hotline - 877-875-2326**

**USDA Soybean Rust Web Site**

<http://www.sbrusa.net>

**Pesticide Safety Education Program, PSEP**

<http://PSEP.utk.edu>

**IPM & Pest Management**

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Extension/TN-PMIN/FYI/FYI.html>

**Entomology and Plant Pathology Web Site**

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu>

**This and other "What's Happening" issues can be found at**

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/whatshap.htm>

**Precautionary Statement**

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

**Disclaimer**

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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