

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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IFA and Baled Hay

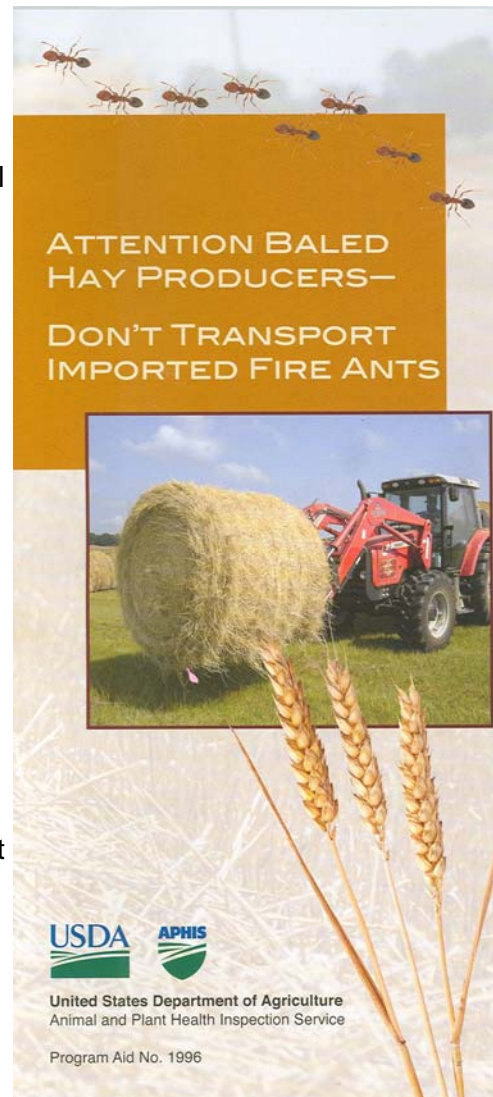
By Beth Long

A new USDA brochure is being sent out in the county mail packets this week for your use; Attention Baled Hay Producers: Don't Transport Imported Fire Ants. Please distribute it as appropriate to your hay producers.

As you know, the spread of Imported Fire Ants (IFA) are becoming more of a problem, especially around county fair time, when hay can inadvertently be moved with animals across county quarantine lines. Remember that hay is a regulated item in the IFA quarantine. If you are bringing hay to a county fair, and the hay is from a quarantined county, it must be inspected, determined to be free of IFA and accompanied by a permit, prior to movement. Hay must have been stored off the ground to be shipped. Therefore, hay not on the bottom row (laid on the bare ground) would be fine to be shipped or moved out of the quarantine area with a permit.

Dr. Karen Vail, Extension Entomology Specialist, sends you a reminder each year regarding the permitting process along with the permit forms. More information on regulations pertaining to imported fire ants and the current quarantine boundary can be found at Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Imported Fire Ants Web site located at: <http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/regulatory/importedfireants.html>

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional brochures.



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Reglone—Section 18 Exemption

By Gene Burgess

EPA has issued a specific exemption under the provisions of section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, as amended, to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for the use of diquat dibromide, formulated as the product Reglone, as a pre-harvest aid treatment in canola.

The registered product Reglone Desiccant (SC formulation), contains 37.3 % diquat dibromide and manufactured by Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc.

The following occupational mitigation applies: *Occupational handlers must wear chemical resistant gloves and dust mist respirators. Mixers/loaders for aerial applications must wear an organic vapor respirator unless using closed system engineering controls.*

Reglone Desiccant may be applied at a rate of 24-30 fluid ounces of product (0.375 – 0.469 lbs. a.i.) per acre, either aerially or by ground equipment. A maximum of 1 application per season is allowed. A maximum of 352 gallons of product (704 lbs. a.i.) may be applied under this exemption. A 7-day pre-harvest interval (PHI) is required.

A maximum of 1,500 acres of canola may be treated in Tennessee under this exemption.

This exemption expires on July 1, 2009.

Tobacco IPM Scouting Report No.1

By Gene Burgess

This is the first tobacco scouting report from the Philip Morris Interns, who are located in various Tennessee counties.

Hawkins Co. – Michael Matthews, Intern

The plants have been in the ground for 15 days and there are no real insect, disease or weed problems. Traces of Brown Spot have been found.

Macon Co. – Terra Kimes, Intern

The tobacco plants were transplanted on May 20. The field was free of insects and diseases at the time scouted. Some pigweed, crabgrass, common ragweed, annual grass perennial broadleaf and foxtail were reported. Two plants had phosphorus deficiencies.

Loudon Co. – Jessica Harris, Intern

The plants had an average of 4.3 flea beetles per plant. They were at economic threshold level and need to be treated. Crabgrass, Johnson grass and broadleaf signalgrass were reported. And, drowning was reported in three sections of the field.

Tobacco Blue Mold

By Darrell Hensley

Tobacco blue mold was observed in a float bed in Chester County, Pennsylvania near Oxford on 6/5/09. Oxford is located in the eastern portion of Pennsylvania. The North American Plant Disease Forecast Center is reporting blue mold near Landisville, PA, as of 6/11/09. Sporulation was occurring on the plants, and it was estimated that infection occurred during the last week of May. As of now, it does not appear that this is a major threat to tobacco in Tennessee. It is strange however, that blue mold would be found in Pennsylvania and not be present anywhere to the south or west of the reported location. Unless it overwintered in a greenhouse, the spores had to blow in from somewhere, or be carried in as transplants from another region. I don't have any information about the origin of the transplants, but either way it would indicate that there is likely blue mold somewhere else in the US that hasn't been identified yet and my guess is ornamental tobacco varieties may be the culprit.

Currently, we need to be watching tobacco fields and greenhouses for any sign of infection, and paying close attention to forecasts of spore movement. Please encourage producers to maintain a good control program using mancozeb on plants remaining in float beds and/or greenhouses. Plants not used should be destroyed as soon as they are no longer needed for the field. Several products are available for blue mold control, these include: mancozeb (Dithane, Manzate, Pencozeb), aluminum-tris (Aliette), dimethomorph (Acrobat, Forum), benzothiadiazole (Actigard), and azoxystrobin (Quadris). Remember, these products are used differently, so read the label prior to use. If blue mold threatens, recommendations for

Corn Pest

By Russ Patrick

John Wilson (Blount County Leader) called me concerning some insect damage that a producer had observed in corn. The damage he described sounded like European corn borer damage, however the insects observed in the field were beetles. After I saw the emailed images, I knew they were not European corn borers but they were cereal leaf beetles. The damage inflicted on the corn was minimal by these pests.



Cereal leaf beetle



Cereal leaf beetle



Leaf damage

Bat Bugs Can be Easily Mistaken for Bed Bugs!

By Karen Vail

In the last week or so, we have had two bat bug submissions. Bat bugs are very similar to bed bugs in that they are reddish-brown; oval-shaped; flattened top to bottom (when unfed) and have a four-segmented antennae with the fourth segment shorter than the third; the “beak” or mouthparts do not reach the second pair of leg bases, and the second and third pair of leg bases are widely separated. Bat bugs are distinguished from bed bugs, by the bat bug’s long pronotal hairs which are longer than the width of the compound eye and the bed bug’s pronotal hairs which are shorter than its compound eye (Figure 1).



Figure 1. A bat bug (left) and bed bug (right). The bat bug’s pronotal hairs are longer than the width of the compound eye and the bed bug’s are shorter.

Bat bugs are blood feeders and typically feed on bats, but will also feed on alternate hosts such as birds and rodents. Bats typically nest in caves, but on occasion may roost in the dark spaces of an attic, where bat bugs may feed on the flightless young. When bat pups start to fly or when a colony is discovered and excluded, bat bugs may seek and bite humans. Bat bugs can live a long time. At least one reference listed below indicates that bat bug populations will not sustain themselves or reproduce well if their preferred hosts, such as bats, are not present. However, in one of our cases, bats were excluded late summer/early fall and were still biting humans in June of the next year. It would appear that the bat bugs are sustaining themselves on humans.

Continued from page 4

Management:

Identification is vital to determine the necessary pest management options. If bat bugs are identified, then removal of the bat host is necessary to reduce bat bug populations. Be cautioned that bat removal can cause the bugs to enter human living spaces in search of hosts. Therefore, it is best to spray a bedbug labeled insecticide around the perimeter, but not in the bat roost, to prevent the ectoparasites from moving away from their current host prior to excluding the bats. Also be aware that bats are protected species and cannot be killed. Adult bats cannot be removed while helpless young are still in the roost. See PB1624 **Managing Nuisance Animals and Associated Damage Around the Home** (<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/pb1624.pdf>) for suggestions on removing bats. Once the bats are removed, treat the entire roost, including cracks and crevices, with labeled insecticides.

Management of bat bugs can be difficult because both the bugs and their regular hosts must be controlled. If the bat hosts are not removed and excluded to prevent future infestations, bat bugs are likely to reappear. Just spraying for bat bugs is unlikely to eliminate the problem if the bat hosts are not removed. Multiple tactics will be needed for a successful management program and may include preventative measures (bat-proofing and exclusion), sanitation and chemicals applied to targeted sites. Severe bat bug infestations are typically best handled by a pest management professional. Once the bat bugs have moved into the human living space, treat cracks and crevices where the bat bugs may hide. At this point, follow a bed bug control program. Bed bug management suggestions can be found in PB1739, **Bed Bugs: Making a Comeback in Tennessee Too!** (<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB1763.pdf>) and the Redbook's **Household and Structural Pest Management for Professionals** at <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/redbook/pdf/professionalinsects.pdf>.

References:

- Cranshaw, W.S., M. Camper and F.B. Peairs. 2009. Bat Bugs, Bed Bugs and Relatives. Colorado Extension Service No. 5574. <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05574.html>
- Jones, S. C. and K. K. Jordan. 2000. Bat Bugs. HYG-2105A-05 Ohio State Extension Fact Sheet. <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2105a.html>
- Vail, K.M. 2006. PB1763. Bed Bugs: Making A Comeback in Tennessee Too! University of Tennessee Extension. <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB1763.pdf>

Stored Grain

By Russ Patrick

I have included several photos on a web site that may be used with any of your developed PowerPoint presentations concerning stored grain. Please visit the following location <http://160.36.45.248/>.

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

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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