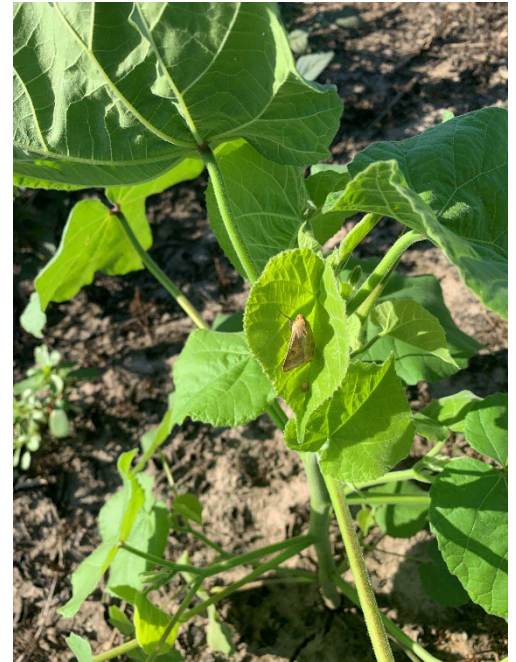


September '25 Monthly Crop Report

Don't Let the (Worms) Bite

Most soybeans in the area are in the mid-reproductive stages, varying some later planted beans being a tad behind and early season beans towards the latter half. As these beans continue to progress, the marketable product is much more at the forefront of producer's minds than leaf defoliator types. These pests have become very active, such as: podworms (also known as corn earworms and/or sorghum headworms), bean leaf beetles, and even fall armyworms being reported. These are common insects and even appear to be magnifying in areas where our late summer/early fall weather is cooler with more moisture accumulation than in previous years.

When scouting, threshold levels are typically considered to be one larva per foot of row with small worms (less than ½ inch) feeding on the beans directly. These larvae will feed for roughly 2 weeks before pupating. As larvae continue to develop, they will consume more and the feedings will continue for another 7-10 days at current temperatures. So how do we combat these pests, or better yet, what insecticide management strategies should we be considering? Active ingredient Chlorantraniliprole (main A.I. in recognized products such as Besiege, Elevest, and Prevathon) is a Group 28 insecticide that has very good activity towards lepidopteras. Other viable options include the Pyrethroid family of insecticides (Permethrin and Bifenthrin may be recognizable), although the overuse of these products can lead to insect resistance. These are popular products due to low toxicity to mammals and birds, require very low doses to kill insects which can be cost effective, and are fast-acting. Most importantly is scouting for pests in your soybean crop, recognizing what insect type(s) are causing damage, and the effective actions and/or products needed to combat the situation.



Corn earworm/soybean podworm moths are light brownish-tan with 1-1.5" wingspans

Late Season Herbicide Application Down Falls

You're out driving around looking at bean fields and notice there's some waterhemp escapes coming through the bean canopy. The first thought/instinct might be "Looks like I need to pull out the sprayer and clean those few escapes up. At least should make a 'victory lap' and get the end rows where there's some heavier pressure." While it may make a field appear "cleaner," how much of a benefit are we really achieving other than less haggling from the neighbor? If weeds are noticeably above our bean canopy, these weeds are already too developed to be controlled and, in some cases, may already be producing seeds. The damage done by these weeds had been caused weeks ago. We also have to consider herbicide labels. Each product labeled for a post application either has a growth stage cut off or a PHI (pre-harvest interval) timeline that we need to be cautious about. For instance, glufosinate type products are labeled up to R1, or the beginning reproductive stages of soybean plants. This is true for many post-emergent chemistries, with very few being labeled past or even during flowering. Other products (with s-metolachlor or clethodim active ingredients) have a PHI of so many days that need to be considered so pesticide residue isn't on harvested crops. While it's easy to throw in some glyphosate with a fungicide and insecticide application, remember that the label is the law and there could be more harm being done than good with respect to yield.

"People Generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for."

Harper Lee