How BAD Will Insect Pests be in 2017?

Predicting insect pressure this early in a growing season is difficult. In general, we know overwintering insect survival is driven by environmental conditions. Mother Nature has equipped insects with physiological mechanisms and behaviors to deal with the extremes of the environment for overwintering survival. Some insects do not overwinter where they are a pest but migrate and move to other areas where they will become a pest. Predicting the overwintering of insects can be broken down into two groups, below are some thoughts on each groups insect pests.

**Overwintering In-place Insects**

**Corn – Corn Flea Beetles**

Recommendation: Mustang® Maxx insecticide 2.72 - 4 oz./A or Hero® insecticide 2.6 to 6.1 oz./A

Corn flea beetles will probably be more severe in 2017 due to the relatively mild winter up until March. Corn flea beetles are known to spread Stewart's wilt, a bacterial disease of corn. Corn flea beetles are black in color and will often, “hop” like a flea as well as crawl but are weak fliers. Other flea beetles will vary in color and often are striped. Start looking for flea beetles as early as emerging coleoptile corn, typically seen at V-2 corn and later. Flea beetle damage is distinctive leaving a “white racing stripe”, approximately 1/8 to several inches long.

**Corn – Western Bean Cutworms**

Recommendation: Mustang Maxx insecticide 1.8 - 4 oz./A or Hero insecticide 2.6 to 6.1 oz./A

2016 was the first year where loads of corn in northern Indiana, northern Ohio and Michigan were rejected due to DON levels. Western bean cutworm ear feeding damage allowed fungal ear disease infections to be quite widespread as well as infection levels becoming high enough to significantly elevate DON levels. Expect heavy Western bean cutworm infestations to be widespread in 2017. Consider tank-mixing Mustang Maxx insecticide or Hero insecticide with Preemptor™ SC fungicide to control Western bean cutworm and protect corn yields from foliar diseases.

**Corn – Corn Rootworms**

Recommendation: At-plant In-furrow, T-Band Capture® LFR® insecticide 6.8 - 17 oz./A or at-plant in-Furrow, T-Band Ethos® XB insecticide/fungicide 6.8 - 17 oz./A

Will vary but pay attention to areas where July through September was hot and dry and soil cracked. This is where corn rootworm overwintering survival has the potential to be greatest because female corn rootworm beetles were able to readily lay eggs deep in the soil profile at depths for close to maximum survival from predators. Continuous corn is where corn rootworms will build up and be a problem. Resistance to GMO rootworm traits makes use of Capture LFR insecticide or Ethos XB insecticide/fungicide a valuable solution.

**Soybean – Bean Leaf Beetles**

Recommendation: Mustang Maxx insecticide 2.8 - 4 oz./A or Hero insecticide 2.6 - 6.1 oz./A

2016 had an slight increase in bean leaf beetle numbers and some acres warranted spraying. The warm winter will allow greater survival allowing more overwintering beetles to attack newly, emerging soybeans. Bean leaf beetle are responsible for spreading bean pod mottle virus which can severely reduce soybeans yields. Bean leaf beetle have many different color variations but all have a dark or black triangle on the back side of the thorax.
Always read and follow label directions. NOTE REGARDING RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDES: Anthem ATZ herbicide; Athena insecticide, Brigade 2EC Insecticide/Miticide, Brigade WSB Insecticide/Miticide, Brigadier Insecticide Capture 3RIVE 3D insecticide, Capture LFR Insecticide, Declare Insecticide, Hero Insecticide, Mustang Insecticide, Mustang Maxx Insecticide, Pounce 25WP Insecticide, Stallion Brand Insecticide, Temitry LFR Insecticide/Fungicide, Triple Crown Insecticide, Ethos XB Insecticide/Fungicide and Gladiator Insecticide/Miticide are Restricted Use Pesticides. NOTE FOR CALIFORNIA: Accurate Extra herbicide, Aim herbicide, Aim EC herbicide, Aim EW herbicide, Anthem herbicide, Anthem ATZ herbicide, Anthem Flex herbicide, Anthem MAXX herbicide, Authority Assist herbicide, Authority Elite herbicide, Authority First DF herbicide, Authority MAXX herbicide, Authority MTZ DF herbicide, Authority XL herbicide, Cadet herbicide, Chisum Herbicide, Command 3ME microencapsulated herbicide, Crusher Herbicide, Edition Broadspec herbicide, Edition Tankmix Herbicide, Marvel herbicide, Nimble Herbicide, Nuance Herbicide, Preemtorse SC fungicide, Report Extra Herbicide, Solstice herbicide, Spartan 4F herbicide, Spartan Charge herbicide, Spartan Elite herbicide, Temitry LFR Insecticide/Fungicide, Topguard EQ fungicide, Zeus Prime XC herbicide, Zeus XC herbicide, Capture 3RIVE 3D insecticide, Ethos XB Insecticide/Fungicide, Hero Insecticide, Mustang Maxx Insecticide, Display cotton harvest aid, Zoro Miticide and VGR Soil Amendment are not registered for sale or use in California. VGR Soil Amendment is not a pesticide. Beale and Carbine are trademarks of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd. Hercocubin is a trademark of Nippon Soda Co., LTD. Sovran is a registered trademark of BASF. FMC, 3RIVE 3D, Accurate, Aim, Anthem, Athena, Authority, Brigade, Brigadier, Cadet, Capture, Chisum, Command, Crusher, Declare, Display, Edition, Ethos, Preemtorse, Fracture, Fryfanon, Gladiator, Hero, Koverall, LFR, Marvel, Mustang, Nimble, Obey, Pounce, Report, Rhyme, Rovral, Shark, Solida, Solstice, Spartan, Stallion, Temitry, Topguard, Topguard Terra, VGR and Zeus are trademarks and HatchTrak and Investing in farming’s future are service marks of FMC Corporation or an affiliate. ©2016 FMC Corporation. All rights reserved. 11/16

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How BAD Will Insect Pests be in 2017?

Overwintering In-place Insects (cont’d)

**Corn & Soybeans – Japanese Beetles**

**Recommendation:** Mustang® Maxx insecticide 2.72(Corn)/2.8(Soybean) - 4 oz./A or Hero® insecticide 4 - 10.3 oz./A

The mild winter Indiana, Michigan and Ohio are experiencing will help with overwintering survival of Japanese beetles. Silk feeding damage in corn by Japanese beetles and foliar feeding as well as feeding on soybean blossoms and pods could be extensive will warrant timely applications of Mustang Maxx insecticide or Hero insecticide in 2017. Consider tank mixing Mustang Maxx insecticide or Hero insecticide with Preemptor™ SC fungicide to control Japanese beetles and protect corn yields from foliar diseases.

**Migrating Insects**

**Corn – Black Cutworms**

**Recommendation:** Mustang Maxx insecticide 1.28 - 2.8 oz./A or Hero insecticide 2.6 - 6.1 oz./A

Black cutworm adult moths are blown by northerly winds out of Texas. Pastures are greening up earlier than usual and with adequate moisture will have a higher than usual number of black cutworm adult moths. While black cutworm have not been at the levels seen in the past, the potential exists for some heavy feeding damage and corn stand loss in 2017 throughout Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Mustang Maxx insecticide or Hero insecticide may be tank mixed with Anthem® MAXX herbicide for either pre-plant, at-plant, pre-emergence and early post applications to make trips count in corn.

**Corn & Wheat – True Armyworm**

**Recommendation:** Mustang Maxx insecticide 1.76(Wheat)/3.2(Corn) - 4 oz./A or Hero insecticide 4.0 – 10.3 oz./A (Corn Only)

True armyworm adult moths are reared in Oklahoma, Kansas and Southern Missouri and are moved by storm fronts out of the Southwest. Pastures are beginning to green up earlier than in most years. In the past, people have been caught off guard by true armyworm. While flights have not been at levels seen in the past, the potential exists for some heavy feeding damage and corn stand loss in 2017 throughout Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Mustang Maxx insecticide or Hero insecticide may be tank-mixed with Anthem MAXX herbicide for either pre-plant, at-plant, pre-emergence and early post applications to make trips count in corn.

Capture LFR, Ethos XB, Hero and Mustang MAXX are restricted use pesticides. Read and follow label directions.