



## *Cotton Insect Newsletter*

Volume 2, Issue #15

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

16 August 2007

### Fall Field Day

This is a reminder that you are invited to our Fall Field Day at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville, SC, on 6 September 2007. Registration will begin at 9:00AM. Tours and programs will begin at 9:30AM. Lunch will be from 12:00 to 1:00PM. The cotton/soybean program will be immediately after lunch. An early copy of the program will be available and distributed soon.

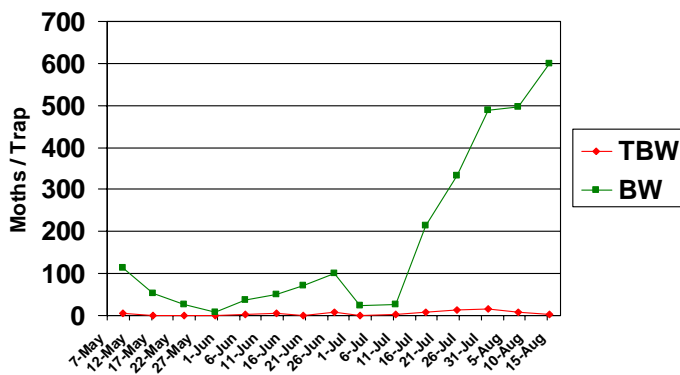
### Crop Situation

As of 12 August 2007, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 70% setting bolls, just behind the 5-yr average of 76%. About 1% of the bolls are opening, behind the 5-yr average of 4%. About 2% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 28% good, 53% fair, 13% poor, and 4% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

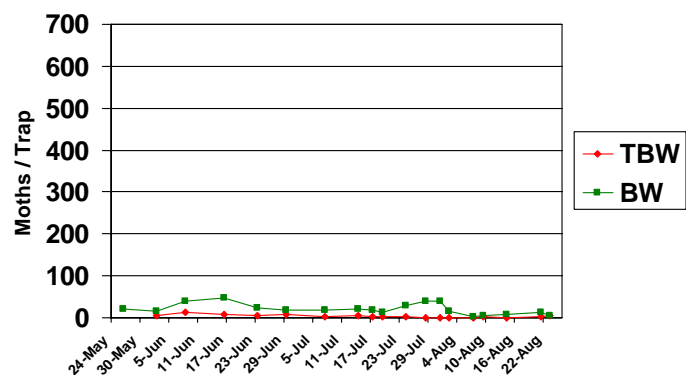
### Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. We detected reduced numbers of tobacco budworm moths again this past week. Captures of bollworm moths continued to increase. The scales on the 2007 and 2006 charts are the same and demonstrate how much larger our bollworm numbers continue to be this year compared with last year. The numbers from this past week are about 12 times higher than our highest weekly capture all of last year.

**Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)**



**Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)**



It is still very easy to see bollworm moths flying everywhere in cotton this week, and egg pressure is still high in some places where the cotton is still lush and attractive. In untreated non-Bt cotton, there are “big worm butts hanging out of bolls” everywhere, to quote my good friend Dr. Gus Lorenz in Arkansas. Surprisingly, considering the hot, dry weather and extreme pressure from bollworm, we have seen good control of caterpillars

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on Bollgard cotton. Dual-gene cottons (Bollgard II and WideStrike) are fairing even better but are not completely undamaged.

On another note, I collected corn earworm/bollworm out of a soybean field in Orangeburg County on Monday that had experienced two applications of a pyrethroid insecticide at high rates within a week. In about 30 minutes, we easily collected about 135 large caterpillars. These insects will be tested to address their status on being resistant to pyrethroids. I will report these results when they are available. Although pockets of these pyrethroid-tolerant insects do appear every year, the pyrethroids will continue to be recommended for their control; at least until resistance issues outweigh the benefits of this outstanding class of insecticide chemistry.

### Stink Bugs

We are halfway into “Stink Bug Month” and counts are starting to increase. Bugs seem to be late again this season. Populations have yet to increase in many places, but there is some time left with the crop, so we need to remain vigilant. Until we develop better ways to monitor cotton for stink bugs, the best way to sample for stink bugs in cotton remains to check bolls for symptoms of internal feeding injury. When 20% of sampled bolls display at least one symptom per boll, treatment is recommended. Examine at least 25 bolls per field. If a field is larger than 25 acres, add 1 boll for each additional acre after 25. Verify the presence and species of stink bugs in fields with observation and drop-cloth sampling. You should always “know” that what you are trying to control is actually present in the field. Recognizing reproducing populations in the field is important this time of year. Immature stink bugs look very different from adults. Recognize the following immature stink bugs?



Brown stink bug



Green stink bug



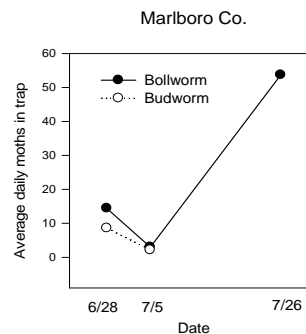
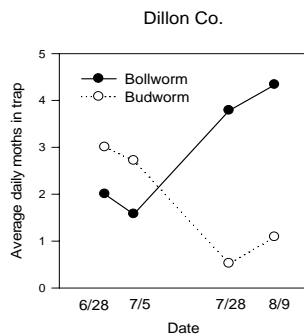
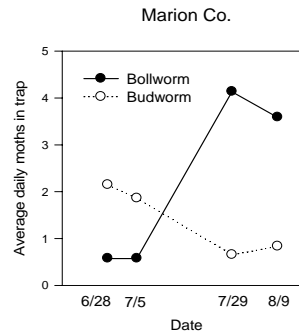
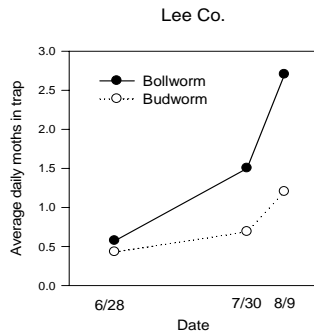
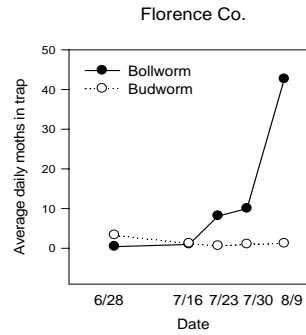
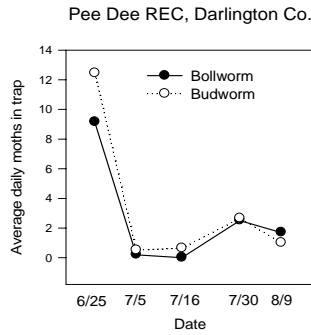
Southern green stink bug





News from Above the Lakes

Dr. Francis Reay-Jones reported the following captures of bollworm moths in traps he has run near the Florence area. Trap catches of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps in the Pee Dee area for this season are pictured below. Traps were set up in June and will continue to be monitored above the lakes.



News from Below the Lakes

Eddie Miller, with Helena in Cameron, and Lonnie Bull, consultant, conducted a couple of unreplicated demonstration trials with Tommy Walker targeting control of fall armyworm (FAW) on cotton and found the following earlier this week. Before treatment in one field (DP 515BRR) on the Hugo Lyons farm, Eddie and Tommy found 8 small and 16 large FAW on 10 drop-cloth samples and 1 small and 6 large FAW in 50 purple blooms (8 August). They treated the field with Baythroid at 1 gallon per 60 acres plus 9 oz of Diamond per

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acre. After 5 days they found 2 small and 2 large FAW per 10 drop-cloth samples and 1 large FAW per 50 purple blooms. That was an 84% reduction in 5 days. On another demonstration field (DP 494 RR) on the Terry Dantzler and Haynie Bull farm, Lonnie and Tommy found 21 small and 24 large FAW per 10 drop-cloth samples before treatment with Karate 1EC at 1 gallon per 25 acres plus 9 oz of Diamond per acre. They also found 8 large FAW in 50 purple blooms before treatment. After 5 days they found 6 small and 29 large FAW remaining in the untreated part of the field and 10 large FAW in the treated portion of the field. There were 18 small FAW per 50 purple blooms in the untreated section and 1 small FAW per 50 blooms in the treated section. That was a 79% reduction in FAW. These unreplicated tests will be checked again this week to see if control improves. Tank-mixes of products (as those used in these tests) for control of FAW that escape pyrethroid sprays for bollworm will likely provide about what was reported above. They will offer some control, but it will not be 100%. I would expect that other products or combinations might perform similarly on FAW, but the difficulty in obtaining data on FAW hinders our ability to address problems when they arise. Thanks to Eddie, Lonnie, Tommy, and the cooperating producers on this effort, we have some data. If additional producers, consultants, and industry representatives are willing to address FAW problems (or any other cotton insect problem) with testing, please contact your local Extension office or me directly.

### **Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations**

Copies of "Cotton Insect Management" (IC 97) recommendations are available at your local county office. You can visit the following website for an electronic version of the recommendations:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following webpages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

Sincerely,

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