



Agriculture Newsletter

Alfalfa Weevil Egg Populations January 2021

On January 21-22, 2021, alfalfa crown samples were taken at 6 sites across the state to ascertain egg populations of alfalfa weevils (Figure 1). Considering the type of winter we have experienced thus far, we may continue to see numbers remain low. Numbers presented in the attached table reflect weevil eggs/ft². These numbers may not indicate the severity of the upcoming alfalfa weevil larval infestation, since most of the egg-laying by adult weevils typically occurs during the warm periods of January and February. Numbers obtained during this sampling indicate the amount of oviposition that has taken place so far, including that from October and November of last year. Conditions during this time throughout most of the state saw a cool and wet fall.

Remember the magic number for egg hatch is 150-degree days. We are likely in store for some additional winter weather with continued low egg populations in most locations. Alfalfa weevil egg collections have been trending lower during our January or early February sampling periods over the past several years. In previous collection years (2004), numbers approaching 500 eggs/ft² have been observed. Changes in weather patterns during the fall oviposition time-frame and winter weather events like extreme freezing temperatures, into the teens and single digits, and moisture like the snow we had in December can have a great impact on eggs and early larval development.



Figure 1. Alfalfa Weevil eggs

These conditions are not conducive to mating and oviposition by adult alfalfa weevils. So far, throughout January we have seen temperatures averaging below 50° F. It appears that most of the populations are still in winter diapause. Presently, all but one of the locations in the attached table (Table 1) have degree day totals below 30.

If cold weather conditions persist, we could experience a similar pattern with egg hatch being delayed. However, if a warmer weather system develops and degree day numbers begin to increase, larval populations could appear sooner (Figure 2).

Table 1. Alfalfa Weevil Egg populations for January 2021. Degree Days through January 28, 2021 are presented in the last column.

County	February 2020	January 2021	Degree Days through 1-28-2021
Alfalfa		3.6	20
Blaine	2.8	4.8	15
Payne	0.0	3.6	22
Kiowa		2.0	24
Grady	26.4	4.8	28
Garvin	3.2	.8	47
Pottawatomie	0.0		
*Means			
With low numbers observed, no variables were taken.			

Beef Cow Herd Calendar

FEBRUARY

Fall Calving

1. Continue supplemental feeding program.
2. Remove bulls after a 90-day breeding season.
3. If needed, continue limit-fed creep to calves.

Spring Calving

1. Continue supplemental feeding and increase feed amount for cows that calved early, especially first calf heifers and thin cows.
2. Thirty days before breeding, vaccinate replacement heifers with 7-way Clostridial bacterin; IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV modified live vaccine; and 5-way Leptospira-Campylobacter bacterin. Consult your veterinarian on vaccine types and other vaccinations recommended in the area.

3. Deworm if needed. Also, evaluate growth of yearling replacements. Will they be big enough to breed in April or May?
4. Check the cows regularly for possible calving difficulties, and baby calves for scours or pneumonia.
5. Complete selection and culling of yearling heifers as outlined in January.
6. Prepare for herd sire selection and procurement as outlined in March and April.

General Recommendations:

1. On small grain pasture, continue to limit-graze cows for protein needs and creep-graze calves.
2. Begin anaplasmosis control program. At the time of this printing Anaplasmosis vaccine is not in production, with no definite time of restarting production. The following recommendations are made with the assumption that a vac-

cine will be available soon. Consider vaccinating before parasite carriers become active and while cows are open. If cows are not vaccinated and there is a potential problem, begin feeding chlortetracycline in mineral mix in late February and continue throughout the entire growing season. Vaccinate bulls for anaplasmosis, regardless of antibiotic use. If the herd is purebred and the cattle are shipped in interstate commerce, consult with your veterinarian on a control program because the vaccine will cause cows to react to the test.

3. Fertilize fescue and small grain pastures depending on moisture, soil test, and forage production needs.
4. Oats can be drilled in Bermuda sod in February or March.
5. Sprig Bermudagrass during late February and March in a clean firm seedbed.
6. Use prescribed fire to improve forage quality, reduce ticks, and control weeds and brush.

MARCH

Fall Calving

1. Continue to creep-graze calves and limit-graze cows on wheat and other small grain pasture.
2. Continue supplemental feeding of cattle wintered on low quality forage. If grass is in short supply, feed hay or other supplemental energy.
3. Vaccinate all heifer calves between four and ten months of age for brucellosis. Calves may also be vaccinated with 7-way Clostridial bacterin, 5-way Leptospira bacterin, and an Intranasal IBR-PI3 vaccine or IBR, BVD, PI3 & BRSV vaccine that may be used around pregnant cows.

Spring Calving

1. Continue supplemental feeding. Increase protein and energy intake to offset increased nutrient requirement for lactation.

2. Semen evaluate bulls, trim feet if needed and vaccinate with Leptospira/Campylobacter bacterin. Address internal and external parasite problems.
3. Purchase new bulls. Use EPD's along with other performance and pedigree information to make selection decisions. Check health history, including immunizations and diseases from farm of origin.
4. After calving and before breeding (30 days preferable), vaccinate cows with 5-way Leptospira/Campylobacter bacterin, IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV vaccine. Vaccines used should be recommended by the local veterinarian.
5. Supplement cows to maintain body condition at calving to enhance re-breeding performance.
6. Monitor development of replacement heifers. Make certain they are gaining enough to reach 65% of their expected mature weight by the begin-

ning of the breeding season (715 pounds if mature weight is 1100).

General Recommendations:

1. Vaccinate bulls for anaplasmosis, if not previously done this year.
2. Begin grazing Bermudagrass pastures overseeded in fall with small grains. Use for lactating cows, stocker calves, or as a creep for nursing calves.
3. Sample soil from established Bermudagrass, old world bluestem, and lovegrass pastures to determine fertilizer needs.
4. Remove old growth from weeping lovegrass and old world bluestem by grazing, clipping, or burning.
5. Plant spring-seeded legumes, such as lespedeza, sweet clover, red clover, and white clover. Inoculate legume seeds before planting.
6. Use prescribed fire to improve forage quality, reduce



EXTENSION

RANCHERS' THURSDAY LUNCHTIME SERIES

Show Cattle Fundamentals

Join our Beef Cattle Extension team, experienced livestock marketers and ranchers to learn and share beef cattle production, management and marketing tips.

- ▶ **Thursday, February 11, 2021 | 12:30 p.m. CST**
Keys to Show Ring Success - Oklahoma Youth Expo Staff Roundtable Discussion
 - Parker Henley, Oklahoma State University; Rusty Gosz, Oklahoma State University; Tyler Norvell, OYE President; Kass Newell, OYE Executive Vice President
- ▶ **Thursday, February 18, 2021 | 12:30 p.m. CST**
Keep It Simple - It's Still Beef: Residue Avoidance and Nutrition
 - Parker Henley, Oklahoma State University; Mark Johnson, Oklahoma State University; Rusty Gosz, Oklahoma State University; Kirk Stierwalt, Stierwalt Cattle and Clinics
- ▶ **Thursday, February 25, 2021 | 12:30 p.m. CST**
Get Me to the Show on Time: Biosecurity, Health Requirements and Transport
 - Dr. Rosslyn Biggs, Oklahoma State University; Ben Janssen, Cimarron Trailers President; Dalton Newell, Oklahoma State University
- ▶ **Thursday, March 4, 2021 | 12:30 p.m. CST**
High Risk - High Value Health
 - Dr. Bryan Weaver, Kansas State University; Dr. Mark Barker, Professional Animal Health Newcastle, OK

LIVE WEBINARS

- Register Online:**
[dasnr.zoom.us/
webinar/register/WN
BR8cn81OTyOimLIZlkt4kg](https://dasnr.zoom.us/join/9876543210)

CONTACT

- ▶ **Dr. Rosslyn Biggs**
Beef Cattle
Extension Specialist
rosslyn.biggs@okstate.edu
405-744-8587



COLLEGE OF
**VETERINARY
MEDICINE**



February Horticulture Tips



General

Base any plant fertilization on a soil test. For directions, contact your county Extension Educator.

Provide feed and unfrozen water for your feathered friends.

Clean up birdhouses before spring tenants arrive during the middle of this month.

Avoid salting sidewalks for damage can occur to plant material. Use alternative commercial products, sand or kitty litter for traction.

Join *Oklahoma Gardening* on your OETA station for the start of its season beginning in February on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Trees & Shrubs

Fertilize trees including fruit and nut trees and shrubs according to a soil test. ([HLA-6412](#))

Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or March. ([HLA-6414](#))

Finish pruning shade trees, summer flowering shrubs and hedges. Spring blooming shrubs such as forsythia may be pruned immediately after flowering. **Do not** top trees or prune just for the sake of pruning. ([HLA-6409](#))

Look for arborvitae aphids on many evergreen shrubs during the warmer days of early spring.

Gall-producing insects on oaks, pecans, hackberries, etc. need to be sprayed prior to bud break of foliage.

Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. ([EPP-7306](#))

Turf

A product containing glyphosate plus a broadleaf herbicide that are both labeled for this use can be used on **completely tan dormant** bermuda in January or early February when temperatures are above 50°F for winter weed control. ([HLA-6420](#))

Vegetables



Cool-season vegetable transplants can still be started for late spring garden planting.

By February 15 many cool-season vegetables like cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peas, and potatoes can be planted. ([HLA-6004](#))

Flowers



Force spring flowering branches like forsythia, quince, peach, apple, and weigela for early bloom indoors.

Forced spring bulbs should begin to bloom indoors; many will need 10 to 12 weeks of cold, dark conditions prior to blooming.

Feed tulips in early February. Wait to prune roses in March.

Fruit & Nuts

Spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide for prevention of peach leaf curl before bud swell. ([EPP-7319](#))

Mid-February is a good time to begin pruning and fertilizing trees and small fruits.

Collect and store graftwood for grafting pecans later this spring.

Begin planting blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, asparagus, and other perennial garden crops later this month.

Choose fruit varieties that have a proven track record for Oklahoma's conditions. Fact Sheet [HLA-6222](#) has a recommended list.