



Pest e-alerts



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Reports of Seedling Wheat Infested with Fall Armyworm

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I continue to receive reports of fall armyworm infestations in newly emerged winter wheat. Lanie Hale reports infestations in wheat fields in Blaine County and Mike Rosen reports infestations in Kingfisher County. David Nowlin, Extension Educator in Caddo County has also received reports of fall armyworm infestations in newly planted winter wheat. A few wheat fields have had to be re-planted. The bottom line is that **wheat growers need to be scouting their fields so they can protect them from fall armyworms.**

The first signs of fall armyworm feeding are “window paned” leaves. Follow up by looking for all sizes of fall armyworm caterpillars. Examine plants along the field margin as well as in the interior, because they sometimes move in from road ditches and weedy areas. The suggested treatment threshold is 2-3 larvae per linear foot of row in wheat with active feeding.



I repeat this photo, taken by Lanie Hale in 2017 to illustrate the importance of looking closely when scouting. He counted 3 fall armyworms per row foot from his visual count (which is treatment threshold) but when he looked closely at his photo on his computer screen, he saw 15 worms in an area the size of his hand (they were very tiny, and probably newly hatched). It is easy to miss some of these little worms in the field because they hide in residue and are very tiny.



It is much easier to control fall armyworm with an insecticide when they are small (less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inches). For control guidelines and information on registered insecticides for fall armyworm, Consult the newly updated OSU Fact Sheets [CR-7193 Management of Insect Pests in Rangeland and Pasture](#) and [CR-7194 Management of Insect and Mite Pests of Small Grains](#) and for control suggestions. We will not get relief from fall armyworms until we get a killing frost, so keep vigilant!

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