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To: Rains County Leader

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### **Continue to be on the lookout for Armyworms**

Several weeks ago I wrote an article about being on the lookout for armyworms. Well folks, they are still here and it does not look like they are going away anytime soon. That is why I am re-addressing that issue in this week's news column. With the recent rain, producers need to be diligent in watching their pastures and fields. I have been getting a tremendous amount of calls throughout the county on armyworms wiping out hay meadows especially those that have been recently cut and re-fertilized.

Each hay meadow, yard, garden, or field of any kind needs to be inspected every day because they can show up overnight. If you see armyworms in there hay meadows you need to decide if that grass is mature enough to cut and bale or if it needs to be sprayed. Producers also need to be very mindful this year when planting winter forages. Because of the continuous outbreaks the armyworms would probably destroy the young tender winter forages. If at all possible I would delay planting at least 2-3 weeks this year.

Several generations (A generation is the development from egg to adult stage.) occur each year and typically the life cycle from egg to adult takes 28 days. The life cycle can be extended if cooler temperatures occur and can last up to several months. Armyworms in the spring and summer occur in more distinct groups than later in the season. Populations of larvae often blend together several generations and may appear to be continually occurring.

The threshold level ranges from two to three larvae per square foot for young tender growth. For older plants, three to four larvae and obvious foliage loss justify control measures. If practical, apply insecticides early in the morning or late in the evening when armyworm larvae are most

active and therefore most likely to come into contact with the insecticide spray. Again, if the field is near harvest, an early harvest, rather than an insecticide treatment, is an option.

### **Insecticides Labeled for Armyworm Control in Pastures and Hayfields.**

Always read and follow all label instructions on pesticide use and restrictions. Information below is provided for educational purposes only. Read current label before use.

**Karate Z.** 13.1% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass, grass grown for hay and silage and grass grown for seed. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted use insecticide.

**Lambda-Cy.** 11.4% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass, grass grown for hay and silage and grass grown for seed. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted use insecticide.

**Mustang Max.** 9.6% zeta-cypermethrin. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Applications may be made up to 0 days for forage and hay, 7 days for straw and seed screenings. Restricted use insecticide.

**Tombstone Helios.** 25% cyfluthrin. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Pasture, rangeland, grass grown for hay and seed. Zero days to grazing or harvesting hay. Restricted use insecticide.

**Warrior II.** 22.8% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass, grass grown for hay and silage and grass grown for seed. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted use insecticide.

**Baythroid XL.** 12.07% cyfluthrin. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Pasture, rangeland, grass grown for hay and seed. Zero days to grazing or harvesting hay. Restricted use insecticide.

**Dimilin 2L.** 22% diflubenzuron. Fall armyworm and immature grasshoppers. Dimilin must be applied before armyworm larvae reach ½ inch or larger. Provides residual control for up to 2-3 weeks, as long as forage is not removed from the field. Label does not list a restriction on grazing.

**Prevathon.** 5% chlorantraniliprole. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Prevathon has a 0 day waiting period for harvest or grazing and is not a restricted use insecticide.

**Besiege.** 9.26% chlorantraniliprole and 4.63% lambda cyhalothrin. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Pasture and rangeland grass may be used for grazing or cut for forage 0 days after application. Do not cut grass to be dried and harvested for hay until 7 days after the last application. Restricted use insecticide.

**Sevin 4F, Sevin XLR, Sevin 80S, Generic Carbaryl.** Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. When applied to pastures, there is a 14 day waiting period before grazing or harvesting.

**Malathion 57%** and Malathion ULV. Fall armyworm and grasshoppers. Zero days to harvest or grazing.

**Intrepid 2F.** Fall armyworm (not grasshoppers). Begin applications when first signs of armyworm feedings appear. Use higher rates for heavier infestations. Do not harvest hay within 7 days of application. No pre-harvest interval for forage. 0 days to grazing.

**Tracer.** Treat when armyworm eggs hatch or when larvae are small. Use higher rates for larger larvae. Do not graze until spray is dry. Do not harvest hay or fodder for 3 days after treatment. Do not allow cattle to graze until spray has dried. .

Be sure and follow label directions when using any pesticide. The label is the law when dealing with any pesticide. If you have any question, please contact the Rains County Extension Office located at 410 Tawakoni Drive or call 903-473-4580.