

ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL

Farm Bill 2017 WALNUT TWIG BEETLE THOUSANDS CANKERS DISEASE SURVEY

A detection survey is being conducted in 2017 to survey for walnut twig beetle in eastern Kansas. For 2017, fifty sites in 21 counties will be in the northeastern part of the state will be surveyed. The 12 counties planning to be surveyed are Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Nemaha, Shawnee, Osage and Wyandotte. The survey will entail trapping 33 sites with 1 trap at each site in the 12 northeastern counties using a seasonal staff person from August and September.

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The WTB is one part of the equation for thousand cankers disease; the disease results from the combined activity of the WTB (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) and a canker forming fungus *Geosmithia morbida*. Ongoing research is looking at both disease vectors to see which is more problematic (the beetle or the fungus). Also, the disease impacts on the trees vary widely across the country, with some areas experiencing high walnut mortality while mortality is low in other areas.

Research has also proven that other trapping methods may be more successful than those currently used by PPWC. We have for several years trapped using a four-tier Lindgren funnel trap with a wet cup holding propylene glycol as a preservative. We are evaluating our methods and may include small bolts of wood and dry cup Lindgren funnels in further surveys. We are working closely with our partners at the Kansas Forest Service and K-State to find our best option for detecting the disease.

EAB PARASITOID RELEASES 2018

PPWC continues to work closely with our USDA-APHIS partners releasing 3 different non-stinging wasp parasitoids weekly at an early detection site.

We hope to expand to several release sites in 2018. The three parasitoids are *Oobius agrili*, *Tetrastichus planipennis* and *Spathius agrili*. *Oobius agrili* is a

parthenogenetic wasp that parasitizes EAB eggs. *Tetrastichus* and *Spathius* are larval parasitoids.