



# CEREAL Newsletter

Vol. MMX No. 1

www.cerealcentral.com

May 2010

## Wheat Head Armyworm Trapping Starts Early

**T**his year our wheat head armyworm trapping program is starting two months earlier than in 2009. We established the traps the first week of April. Last week, collecting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, we found our first WHAW moths (4 moths). This early start will allow us to better understand how early the adults start to fly, the number of adults flying and where the largest populations might happen later in the season.

### Wheat Head Armyworm



Our trapping effort also expanded to 25 locations covering much of the area from the Holdman area to Duroc and from

Midway to South Juniper. We have selected locations where WHAW has been found over the last three years. We also will sweep the wheat plants weekly to see when larva start to appear.

Last year we actually collect two closely related wheat head armyworm species: *Faraonta terrapicathlis* and *Faronta diffusa*. We hope to collect larve this year, and rear them to adults so that we can confirm which of the species is damaging the wheat heads.

Here are a few reminders about this pest:

- More than one generation per year
- First generation larvae feed on mature wheat heads.

- Larvae vary in coloration from greenish to cream-colored, with longitudinal white and brown lines down each side of body.
- Larvae feed on the wheat heads from evening to early morning, typically hanging onto the awns upside down and hollowing out kernels.
- Larvae rest in the soil at the base of the plant during the day.

### Leaf feeding Sawfly



The leaf feeding sawfly is also found out in the same general area and on east towards Athena and the Blue Mountain

foothills. If you need help with a correct identification between these two worms please feel free to call and we will assist you.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

**If you find wheat head armyworms in your field, please call so that we can come and collect samples!**

LIVE SAMPLES WANTED!