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Curious Cutworms in Soybean Fields

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Curious Cutworms in Soybean Fields

Abstract

In the last two weeks, I've heard reports of cutworm damage in soybean. Rich Pope visited a commercial soybean field in Harrison County and identified a mixture of black cutworm and dingy cutworm (Fig. 1). Matt O'Neal, ISU soybean entomologist, confirmed cutworm damage in soybean research plots at Curtiss Farm just south of Ames in Story County. The small cage plots were also infested with a combination of cutworm species (Fig. 2). It can be difficult to distinguish cutworm species without a hand lens, but a previous ICM article can [help with identification](#).

Keywords

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Disciplines

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CCA Credit Opportunity on June 24

Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension Field Agronomist

Certified crop advisers (CCAs) can earn five hours of credit – three hours in soil and water management, one in pest management, 0.5 each in crop management and nutrient management – by attending a special CCA morning session and the Southeast Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm spring field day tour June 24. The morning session and field day will be at the ISU research farm near Crawfordsville.

The morning session will begin at 9 a.m. with a presentation by Matt Helmers, ISU Extension ag engineer, on “How do we design subsurface drainage systems considering crop production and water quality?” Other morning presentations will include a demonstration on “Goof plots – herbicide injury symptoms” by Jim Fawcett, ISU Extension field agronomist; and a presentation by Emily Heaton, ISU agronomist, on “Environmental impacts of perennial energy crops.”

The afternoon tour will include: Crop Season Review & Soil Drainage Research Results by Kevin Van Dee, farm superintendent and Helmers; Cover Crops & Nitrogen Management, by John Sawyer, ISU Extension agronomist; Research on Miscanthus and Other Crops for Cellulosic Ethanol, by Heaton; and New Developments in Soybean Aphid Management, by Erin Hodges, ISU Extension entomologist. Tours will begin at 1 p.m.

Pre-registration should be completed by June 22 to avoid a \$20 late fee. To pre-register call the Johnson County Extension Office at 319-337-2145 or send an e-mail note to Jim Fawcett at fawcett@iastate.edu. The registration fee of \$50, which includes lunch, can be paid at the door. Registration for CCAs will begin at 8:30 a.m.

To reach the research farm go 1 3/4 miles south of Crawfordsville on Highway 218, then 2 miles east on G-62, then 3/4 mile north.

Jim Fawcett is an Iowa State University Extension field crops specialist serving eastern Iowa counties.

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