



Pest e-alerts



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Get Out and Check Pastures for Fall Armyworm

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I continue to get reports of fall armyworms infesting grass pastures. Fescue and Bermudagrass pastures are most vulnerable, especially in eastern Oklahoma. I encourage producers to regularly scout their grass pastures through the first killing frost.

Scouting for caterpillars in pasture is easy. For those wanting to put up grass hay, look for caterpillars and “window paned” or chewed leaves. Get a wire coat hanger, bend it into a hoop, place it on the ground, and count all sizes of caterpillars in the hoop. Take samples in several locations, along the

field margin as well as in the interior. The coat hanger hoop covers about 2/3 of a square foot, so the threshold in pasture would be reached when you find an average of two or three ½ inch-long larvae per hoop sample (3-4 per square foot). It is much easier to control fall armyworm with an insecticide when they are small (less than ½ inches). For control guidelines and information on registered insecticides for fall armyworm, consult OSU Fact Sheet [CR-7193 Management of Insect Pests in Rangeland and Pasture](#).





Dr. Richard Grantham - Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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