



Fall insurance reminders for Wyoming producers

By James Sedman and John Hewlett

Winter wheat producers can use Yield Protection (YP) and Revenue Protection (RP) insurance based on a producer's average production history (APH) yield. This type of coverage is available for a wide range of crops.

YP policies protect against losses in yield, while RP policies can protect against losses due to changes in price or yield based on a revenue guarantee. RP policies can be purchased with or without harvest price exclusion.

Winter wheat producers can seek a winter coverage endorsement to cover against winter-kill losses on at least 20 acres or 20 percent of the total acreage where there is not enough stand population to produce 90 percent of the production guarantee. If producers do not meet the sign-up deadline, they may still purchase coverage if the request for coverage is made by March 15, and there is verified adequate stand.

Forage insurance is available for alfalfa and alfalfa-grass producers. Stand populations must meet minimum requirements, and coverage is available from 50 to 75 percent

of established yield at the determined price based on the existing stand. Sign up is due by September 30 with acreage reporting by November 15.

Livestock Insurance Options

Cattle prices have never been higher; protect now against falling prices. Beef cattle, dairy, lamb, and swine producers have several price insurance options available. Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) policies protect against declines in price, and Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) insurance policies protect against increases in feed prices for cattle, swine, and dairy production.

Both policy types have a specific contract length based on the production period and rely on prices determined by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange futures prices depending on the contract length and not the actual price received.

Producers can purchase an LRP contract at any point in a given month and LGM on the last business Friday of a given month.

Vegetative Index-Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (VI-PRF) insures against losses on pasture and hay land by using satellite data compiled by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) measuring productive capacity.

Indemnities are paid when the measured vegetative index drops below the expected index for a selected grid area. Total coverage

Important Sign-up Dates and Information

RP and YP Insurance:
Wheat/Other Fall Planted Crops:
Sales Closing Date: Sept. 30,
Planting Dates: County Specific

Forage Insurance:
Sales Closing Date: Sept. 30

VI-PRF Insurance:
Sales and Reporting Date: Nov. 15
LRP Coverage: Sign-up Ongoing

LGM Coverage:
Sign up last business Friday
of the month

For more information

Crop insurance programs are one of the most important risk management tools producers can use to manage production and price risk.

They offer numerous options to suit almost any farm or ranch. Visit a local crop insurance agent to learn more about policies that may be a fit for a specific farm or ranch situation. For more information on crop insurance programs, producer profiles, online spreadsheet tools, or other risk management strategies on the Web, visit RightRisk.org.



is determined by the selected coverage level (70 to 90 percent) and the selected protection factor (60-150 percent). Sign-up deadline is November 15.

James Sedman is a consultant to the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and **John Hewlett** is a farm and ranch management specialist in the department. Hewlett may be reached at (307) 766-2166 or hewlett@uwyo.edu.

Growing fruit in Wyoming? Here's another challenge – and it's not going away

By Jeff Edwards

Fruit producers (yes, there are some in Wyoming!) and homeowners know fruit flies can show up when there is damaged or overripe fruit either in the field or on a kitchen counter.

A new fruit fly has found its way to Wyoming and is not going to go away. The spotted winged drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*) was first identified in Wyoming in 2013 and seems to have overwintered.

What makes this pest such a problem is that, unlike other fruit flies, this species prefers to lay eggs on non-damaged and non-ripened fruit, particularly fruit with soft flesh (like berries) and has a host range that includes all fruit (this includes tomatoes).

Detection and Monitoring

If this pest is in berries, the fruit will not appear "normal," possibly off-color, droopy, and prematurely soft and mushy. Suspect fruit can be opened and inspected for maggots (yes, maggots in your fruit – not too appealing, is it?). The fly larvae are very small and may be difficult to spot. An option is to drop the fruit into a container of rubbing alcohol, and they will emerge from the fruit. You may also see fruit that has dehydrated on the stem (the larvae have developed in this fruit and moved on).

You can make monitoring traps, or some are commercially available (see below). These traps can be filled with apple cider vinegar, hung within the crop, and checked periodically to determine if flies are present. Pheromone traps are also available that will



Spotted winged drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*).
Photos: Hannah Burrack, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org



lure the flies – distribute these outside the boundaries of your fruit production. Pheromones will draw the flies to them and away from fruit. These traps are manufactured by Trece and available through many different commercial outlets.

Economic Injury Level

The economic injury level is the number of pests that can be present prior to determining if a treatment program is warranted. Pretty simple for this pest...recent reports suggest if you have one, you need to treat.

Management Options in Wyoming

A good scouting and aggressive harvest program can provide some relief from this pest. Although rarely discussed in the

literature, there is evidence suggesting a trap crop of muskmelon or cantaloupe will draw flies away from other fruit crops. Also, refrigeration will slow development, and freezing will kill the larvae.

A well-timed chemical control strategy can lead to effective management.

With help of other states and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, a data sheet containing chemical options is available and is published on the UW Extension pesticide education website: <http://uwyoextension.org/psep/>

Chemical management is the only control option for this pest. Read, understand, and follow label restrictions for controlling this insect. Pay particular attention to the

re-entry interval (number of hours or days that must pass post-treatment before anyone can enter the treated area without the stated personal protective equipment) and the pre-harvest interval (number of hours or days that must pass prior to harvest and consumption of the treated fruit). This pest will have multiple generations per season – this means you should not spray a single product more than two times per season – the fruit fly can develop resistance to a particular product rendering that product ineffective.

Bee warning! All of these products can be toxic to bees, and the label will state if there are any restrictions on application. The best option for preserving bee health is to apply when the weather is calm – right at dusk after the bees have gone home for the evening.

Other Resources

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/swd.htm>

<http://spottedwing.org/>
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/sites/default/files/documents/hort/2010/spotted_wing_drosophila_traps_osuviculture1.pdf

Pheromone trap manufacturer
http://www.trece.com/PDF/PHERO-CON_book.pdf

Jeff Edwards is the University of Wyoming Extension pesticide training coordinator. He can be contacted at (307) 837-2000 or at jedward4@uwyo.edu.