

## "Accessing Innovation"

### Ask Your Agronomist: Levi Lehmkuhl

How bad is bad, and when do you know whether or not to apply an insecticide to your beans?

Right now we have been seeing a fair amount of bug pressure in beans for the last two weeks. Over the past couple of days, the pressure has seemed to back down with the warmer weather, but the main thing to keep in mind is the insects have not quit feeding. Potentially, they have moved into the lower cool canopy or have pupated into a moth/butterfly, and are laying more eggs for another round!

Key insects we are finding are: Japanese Beetles, Green Clover Worms, Grasshoppers, Thistle Caterpillars, and a few Bean Leaf Beetles. As the beans are progressing and the pods are developing, we want to ensure you have the best protection out there against the entire spectrum of insects that we are finding in fields. Remember, these pests can clip pods which will negatively impact your yields! Along with pod clipping, a significant leaf defoliation is another side effect.

To answer the question of, how bad does insect pressure have to get before applying insecticide to your beans, let's take a look at a simple math equation. There are a few factors that play into this, but the general premise is that on a 140,000-acre stand, saving 2-3 bean pods that would otherwise get clipped off by insects would potentially save about 5 bushels. With current soybean prices, that works about to be at least \$40 an acre. It is also beneficial to spray when their numbers are low; it helps reduce the rate of reproduction. If there are fewer insects, that's less to feed on plants and leave an open wound to make your soybeans more susceptible to disease.



### Market Update: Lincoln Hillyer

Both corn and soybeans were down on the week. Cooler temperatures entering the corn belt has the trade taking a breath at the moment. As August rolls around the corner, the bean crop will be closely monitored with the pod filling stage upon us. The corn market will anxiously wait for the crop tours to begin to get a better feel on production. Variability will most likely be the buzzword of these tours.

With harvest right around the corner, make sure to share with the grain department any changes in splits or entities. It is much easier to handle these changes before harvest. The grain department has implemented a new text messaging service. The intent is to get information to you in a timely manner. Whether its price movements, space updates, hours of service, or any other valuable material our goal is to make sure you are informed at all times. To sign up, go to [www.agpartnerscoop.com](http://www.agpartnerscoop.com) and click on the link on the homepage or give a call and we will get it taken care of. Have a great weekend.

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### Insect Highlight: Thistle Caterpillars

Thisle Caterpillars are brown to black with a yellow stripe on each side of the body. However, their most distinctive feature is their stout, spiny hairs that give their body a prickly appearance. To feed, they can be found in webbed leaves. The adult butterfly's wings are red and orange with black and white spots.

The caterpillars feed for 2-4 weeks, then pupate, and the butterfly emerges 7-10 days after that. It is important to note that two generations of Thistle Caterpillars are expected. They injure plants through defoliation of leaves.



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