



June Report

2019 Brad Alexander PAg

Spices

- In the incubator trial at the Koch farm there was a carpet of bees on the floor around each light trap; the Koch's have never seen this happen in the past and don't use vaponas. I am eagerly awaiting a report from Danica regarding re-parasitism. She is counting parasites this week
- I have to admit that it was a little scary to see so many parasites.

Vapona

- I was able to personally check thirteen incubators and several places where Vapona had been used recently.
- Unfortunately after I gave the meter back to Danica she started experiencing issues with it. She cleaned it and found cinnamon inside. I tried using the meter after this cleaning and it was giving very mixed and unreliable numbers. Danica has the meter now and is contacting the manufacturer for help. Luckily I was able to get most of the scheduled incubators checked. (NOTE: I haven't done any cinnamon work)
- I am currently working on a newsletter to explain my findings, here are the highlights.
 - As Danica described last year; when hanging clips throughout the incubator there is a gradient of efficacy as you approach the clips, and there is often higher levels as you go higher in the racks. We know from Danica's work that the parasites can "stop off for a snack" on their way to the light trap, thus there should be a clip near each light trap.
 - Some incubators have all of the vapona strips in a separate room from which the air is circulated throughout the incubator. These incubators had a much more even distribution of vapona throughout the trays. There wasn't a difference between heights, although the corners could sometimes have less. This method is very effective from what I could tell.
 - I was in a large shop with incubators attached, there wasn't any vapona put in the shop on purpose, yet the meter continued to read high levels of Vapona throughout the shop. We tested several other objects in the shop to rule out a false reading; we tested the chemical room, newly built potato boxes, wood, and glue, but there wasn't anything else found in the shop that could be giving a false reading. Somehow the air in the incubators is mixing with the air in the shop and this is exposing workers to Vapona unintentionally. It would be advisable to always have the shop doors open while working in a shop attached to active incubation rooms.
 - It is not a good idea to save and reuse strips. Under normal conditions (room temperature) the strips will only last a maximum of four months and will be "virtually

odorless". In the higher incubation temperatures the active chemical volatilizes much more quickly. According to the manufacturer, even if you can smell the strips you aren't necessarily smelling vapors, just the strips.

- The strips only have a shelf life of five years, one producer bought a whole box in bulk but now they're expired and he is only half way through the box.

PGRs



- I've completed the final application of PGR on June 18th, because there was poor weather coming I could not wait until the 20th as planned, but the two days shouldn't make much, if any, difference.
- The site in Bow Island has a very distinct line of height difference in the treated plants versus the surrounding field, wind keeps stopping me from flying over it though. The plants in the Rolling Hills plot may also be shorter but the whole field is more filled out and that could be blending the visual differences. The numbers will tell.

Weevils - Olds

- The weevils were late coming out but when they did they really exploded with over 100 in every sweep.
- The Olds researchers applied the chemicals last week, and on Tuesday we conducted the first post-application collection. Paul is currently counting weevils.
- It is VERY apparent that most of the trial applications are not as effective as the chemical control. You can see this in the damage to the plants.



Mutants

- Chad planted the mutated seed and it is already growing. It looks like it is taking much better than previously, this may be due to the fact that the mutagenesis process was adjusted to be more directed towards lignin mutations rather than just a broad array.

A stop for the tour?

- Half of this field is for seed so it was treated with herbicide, the other half is for forage so it was not treated.
- This difference can be easily seen from the ground.

