



PRESS RELEASE

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Western Nebraska at Significant Risk for Grasshopper Infestation

For the second consecutive year, USDA researchers for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are warning that rangeland in western Nebraska will face a significant risk of serious grasshopper infestation this summer.

According to UNL Entomologists Bob Wright, Lincoln and Jeff Bradshaw, Scottsbluff, the high number of adult grasshoppers seen last year is an index for estimating the number of eggs laid by the overwintering stage of the species most damaging to rangeland. While the impact to rangeland will be lessened with ample rainfall that will increase grass growth, Wright cautioned that for wheat producers “Probably the biggest issue will be this fall when winter wheat is emerging.”

For more information on management options for wheat producers, UNL Entomologist Gary Hein and Wright wrote an article in Crop Watch (August 21, 2009). The article can be found at <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/web/cropwatch/archive?articleId=1901516>.

The Nebraska Wheat Board administers the one and one quarter cent per bushel excise tax levied on wheat marketed in Nebraska. The Board invests the funds in programs of international and domestic market development and improvement, policy development, research, promotion and education.

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