

# New Pest Alert for Sweet Corn: **Western Bean Cutworm**



**Celeste Welty**  
**February 2009**

# Western bean cutworm



- Long-time pest of corn & dry beans in Colorado & Nebraska
- Moving eastward (Iowa) starting 2000
- Now common in Illinois & Wisconsin
- **Pest of sweet corn ears**

# How to identify it?



**WBCW**



**CEW**

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	<b>Western bean cutworm</b>	<b>Corn earworm</b>
<b>Number of worms per ear</b>	<b>Many</b>	<b>One</b>

# How to identify it?



**WBCW**



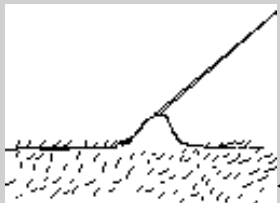
**CEW**

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<b>Prothorax (segment behind head)</b>	<b>Broad dark stripes</b>	<b>No stripes</b>

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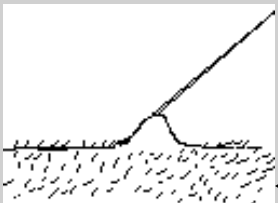
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<b>Net-like marks on head</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>





# How to monitor it?

Western Bean Cutworm Moth



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- **Pheromone lure in jug trap**
  - **One generation per year**
  - **Adults active in July**
  - **confirmed catches of moth in NW Ohio in 2007 & 2008**



Western Bean Cutworm Moth



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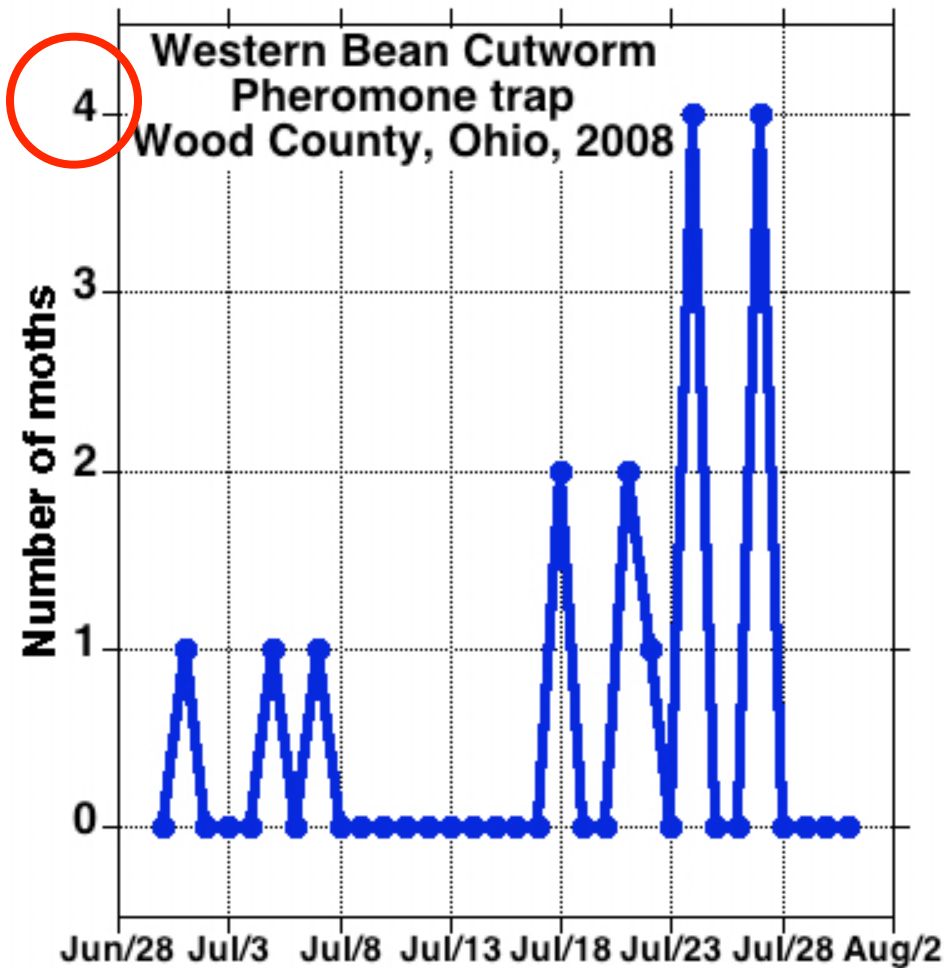
**What numbers are typical for catch of western bean cutworm moths in traps?**

**In Colorado, cumulative catch from start of flight until peak:**

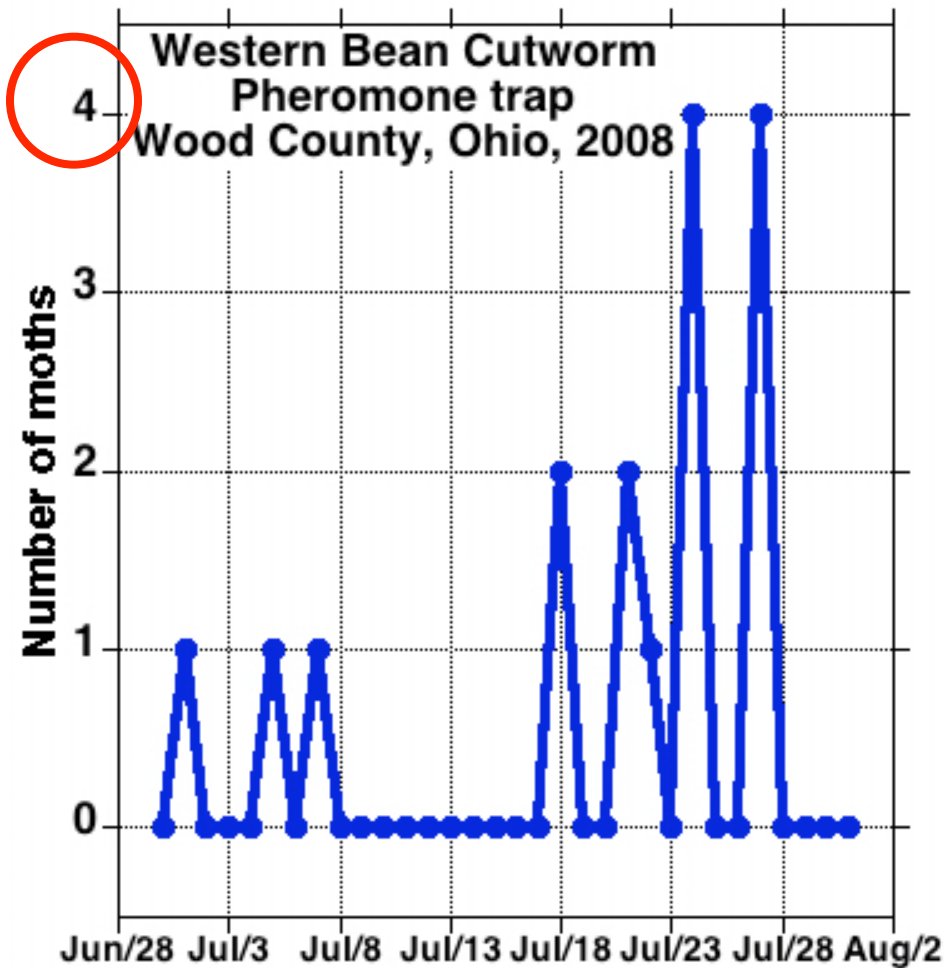
- **<700 is low risk**
- **700-1000 is moderate risk**
- **>1000 is high risk**



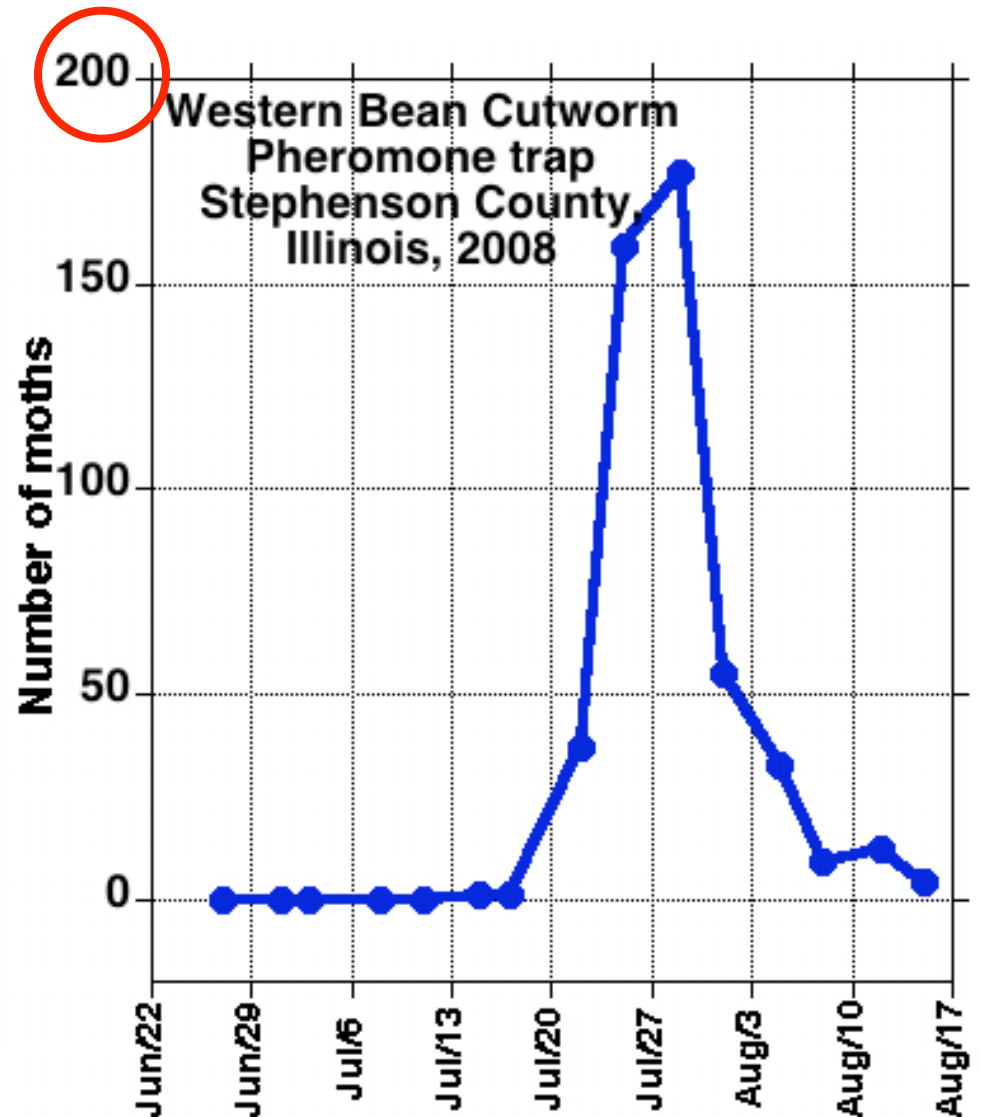
# Site with highest catch in Ohio



## Site with highest catch in Ohio



## Site with highest catch in Illinois



# How to monitor?, part 2

- If any moths trapped, then scout:

- Late July & early August

- In plantings with tassels emerging

- Upper 4 leaves of 100 plants/planting

- Look for eggs

- Look for young larvae



# How to decide on control?

- **Thresholds (sweet corn):**
  - **4% of plants infested (processing)**
  - **Tentative: 1% of plants (fresh-market)**

# What are control options?

- **Insecticide:**

- **If threshold exceeded**
- **When eggs are hatching** →
- **When ~90% of tassels have emerged**
- **A pyrethroid or Pennncap-M or Sevin**





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- **Transgenic hybrid varieties:**

- ‘Attribute’ sweet corn and ‘YieldGard’ field corn are not effective
- ‘Herculex’ field corn is effective

Western Bean Cutworm Moth



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The end