

PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT
42 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS



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Week Ending August 8, 2009

Pink Bollworm Activities

Southern California:

There were 7 native pink bollworm (PBW) moths captured during the week in both Riverside County (5) and in the Highway Lines (2). This represents a 36.4% decline from the 11 natives caught at the same time last year and a 99.9% drop from 2007. There have been no natives caught in traps in Imperial County for the last seven weeks. This includes the Bard/Winterhaven area, Imperial Valley cotton plots, and the okra plantings in the Imperial Valley. Sterile to native ratios remain extremely high, 274:1 this last week in all cotton and okra growing areas in Imperial and Riverside Counties. The sterile to native moth ratio for the 2009 season is 225:1.

San Joaquin Valley:

A total of 10,059,979 sterile moths were released this week, bringing the season total to 124,901,816. Aerial releases of sterile pink bollworm moths were increased from 1.5 million to 2.0 million a day starting Thursday, August 6th. The Shafter Identification Lab examined 173 traps from Southern California which contained 1,920 sterile moths and 7 native moths. The Lab examined 133 traps containing 623 sterile moths in traps from Kern, Fresno, and Merced Counties. There was one native trapped this week. This was a repeat from the cotton field where five natives were captured last week in Merced County.



Pheromone Baited Delta Trap

PBW Area-wide Eradication Program Consultant Dr. Bob Staten, USDA retired and CDFA Program Supervisor Jim Rudig investigated possible pathways of introduction of pink bollworm native moths in the San Joaquin Valley. Meetings were held with the County Agricultural Commissioners' of Fresno, Merced, and Tulare, along with various cotton seed researchers. Dr Bob Hutmacher, University of California Cooperative Extension Director of the Shafter Cotton Research Station and the Five-Points Research and Extension Center was consulted. Preliminary theories suggest a possible connection to cotton seed research plots. Cotton seed companies are being contacted to insure proper compliance with seed import regulations.

Sacramento Valley:

The latest heat unit projections indicate mapping and trapping will begin in mid to late August.