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2021 CORN PEST TRAPPING SUMMARY

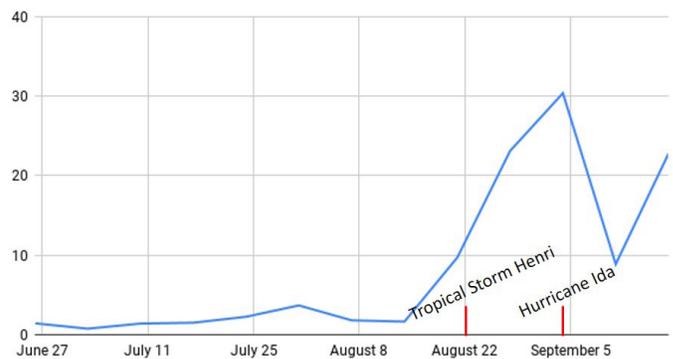
This was the last week collecting corn pest trap counts from our collaborator farms and scouts for the season. Squash vine borer traps will stay up for another few weeks to determine if we'll see a second flight of adult moths this year, but this week we have all zeroes again. Our final sweet corn pest trap counts for this week can be found in Table 1, and we've compiled season-long trapping data from across the state into graphs below, to give a summary of the emergence of the three moths over the course of the summer. We began trapping both strains of European corn borer in early-June, and saw the first peak flight occur around June 12 or 19. The second flight is usually more drawn-out and less pronounced—we saw relatively high ECB trap counts from about July 31 to August 21. Corn earworm and fall armyworm showed up in late-July and trap counts remained fairly low until mid-August, when they sharply increased at most sites and remained high into September, with Tropical Storm Henri and Hurricane Ida bringing up waves of moths. This CEW increase was about 2 weeks later than we saw last year, but was correlated with storm activity as usual.

Corn yields and quality was fairly poor overall this year because heavy rain and erratic temperatures in July caused poor germination, stand, weed control, and ear development. At this point in the season, growers are harvesting corn that was seeded after the July rains, so yields and quality have improved, despite high caterpillar pressure.

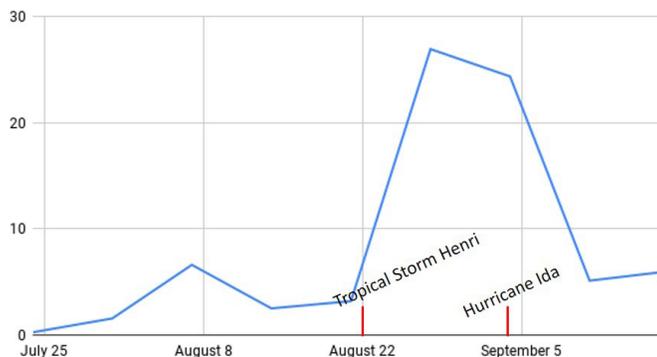
2021 European Corn Borer Trap Counts



2021 Corn Earworm Trap Counts



2021 Fall Armyworm Trap Counts



CONTACT US:

Contact the UMass Extension Vegetable Program with your farm-related questions, any time of the year. We always do our best to respond to all inquiries. **Office phone:** (413) 577-3976 *We are currently working remotely but checking these messages daily, so please leave us a message!* **Email:** umassveg@umass.edu

Home Gardeners: Please contact the UMass GreenInfo Help Line with home gardening and homesteading questions, at greeninfo@umext.umass.edu.

Location	GDD (base 50°F)	ECB NY	ECB IA	FAW	CEW	CEW Spray Interval
Western MA						
Deerfield	2604	0	0	24	8	4 days
Southwick	2541	1	0	2	100+	3 days
Whately	2698	0	0	4	0	no spray
Central MA						
Leominster	2523	1	0	2	5	5 days
Northbridge	2386	0	0	3	5	5 days
Spencer	2489	0	0	3	14	4 days
Eastern MA						
Ipswich	2501	0	0	0	16	4 days
Concord	2531	0	0	2	60	4 days
Millis	-			N/A		
North Easton	2672	0	0	N/A	5	5 days
Sharon						
Seekonk	2908	0	0	11	6	5 days
Swansea						
- no numbers reported for this trap						
N/A this site does not trap for this pest						
*GDDs are reported from the nearest weather station to the trapping site						

NEWS

ROUND TWO OF MASSACHUSETTS FOOD SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM NOW OPEN

The Baker-Polito Administration announced this week that it has made available \$15 million in funding through a second round of its [Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program](#). The Administration opened the funding opportunity on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 and is currently accepting applications for funding. In this round, the program is focused on addressing access to fresh food by improving and strengthening the resiliency of the Commonwealth's food system and expanding the distribution of locally grown and sourced products to vulnerable communities. **The Request for Responses for project proposals is available [here](#), and is open until October 31, 2021.**

Eligible grantees include entities that are part of the Massachusetts local food system including production, processing and distribution, the emergency food distribution network, Buy Local, community and food organizations, school meal programming, urban farms and community gardens, non-profits, and organizations that provide business planning, technical assistance and information technology services.

Eligible proposals include, but are not limited to, projects seeking to:

- Increase the resiliency of the overall food system in the Commonwealth;
- Increase capacity for food storage;

- Increase capacity of local food distribution partners;
- Increase capacity of the emergency food network;
- Increase capacity of food production by purchasing food processing equipment; and,
- Offer innovative solutions for urban farming.

NEW ROUND OF PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE APPLICATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 23

The USDA has announced a new program, called the [Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program](#).

The Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant Program provides grants to food processors, distributors, farmers markets, and producers to respond to coronavirus, including for measures to protect workers against novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID–19). This program is authorized and funded under section 751 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116—260). USDA developed the PRS Grant Program in response to extensive stakeholder feedback during listening sessions in March 2021, and written comments provided through March 30, 2021. Information from the listening sessions is available online at: www.ams.usda.gov/services/ams-covid-stimulus.

Important Dates:

- Application Period Opens: September 23, 2021
- Application Period Closes: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on November 8, 2021

Follow this link for eligibility information: https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda?id=usda_eligibility_info

SWEET CORN GROWERS: SURVEY TO IMPACT CORN EARWORM MANAGEMENT RESEARCH IN THE NORTHEAST

Dr. Kelly Hamby, Associate Professor/Extension Specialist with the Department of Entomology at University of Maryland, is leading a team of researchers who have developed a survey to prioritize research and extension efforts for improving corn earworm management in sweet corn throughout the Northeast. We appreciate your participation in this survey and will use results to develop a grant proposal to try to get federal funding to address these needs.

Survey link: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9vRh1xHnDp4KEaa

IMPORTANT UPDATES TO CFAP 2 PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE FOR VEGETABLE & FRUIT PRODUCERS

USDA made two important announcements on August 24, 2021 for assistance to “sales commodity” producers. “Sales commodities” include fruits, vegetables, maple sap, honey, Christmas trees and tobacco.

Originally under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2), payments were based upon 2019 calendar year sales of eligible “sales commodity” crops. USDA announced an amendment to the CFAP 2 payment calculation for “sales commodities” to allow producers to substitute 2018 sales for 2019 sales. Producers are encouraged to take a look at their 2018 sales and to contact their [USDA FSA Office](#) to modify their CFAP 2 application if using the 2018 sales would result in a higher payment. Similarly if a producer hasn’t filed a CFAP 2 application for sales commodities, those producers now have the option of using either 2018 or 2019 sales.

USDA also announced the final deadline for filing a new or modified CFAP 2 application with the USDA-FSA as **October 12, 2021**.

Producers are encouraged to contact the FSA Office that serves their farming operation with questions they have along with procedures to file a new or modified application and related paperwork. Producers should call their FSA Office before visiting the FSA Office since FSA may have restrictions in place for in-person office visits. Sales records are not required at the time of signup but producers will have to provide evidence of total sales if the application is selected for a later spot-check. As of August 22, 2021, 1,260 approved CFAP 2 “Sales Commodities” applicants in Massachusetts have received \$27,698,404 in payments. Don’t miss out on this opportunity!

Detailed information also can be found at: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/pandemic-assistance/cfap2>

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR USDA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing up to \$50 million in cooperative agreements to support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities for two year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers. **Applications are due October 25, 2021.**

[Click here to see the full USDA press release.](#)

[For more details and information on how to apply, click here.](#)

GUIDANCE FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED FOOD CROPS

With the excessive amount of rain we've received this year, there are many farms that have experienced flooding, particularly in the western end of the state. If your farm is susceptible to flooding, please read the FDA's **Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption**, found [here](#).

Per the guidance: "If the edible portion of a crop is exposed to flood waters, it is considered adulterated under section 402(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 342(a)(4)) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and should not enter human food channels. There is no practical method of reconditioning the edible portion of a crop that will provide a reasonable assurance of human food safety. Therefore, the FDA recommends that these crops be disposed of in a manner that ensures they are kept separate from crops that have not been flood damaged to avoid adulterating "clean" crops (Ref. 1, 2, 3)."

The guidance also addresses potential microbial, chemical and fungal contamination, the safety of food crops when flood waters did NOT contact the edible portion of the crop, as well as flooding vs. pooled water.

Please contact MDAR's Produce Safety Division if you have any questions regarding the safety of your crops: Kate Bailey, Produce Safety Inspector, Phone: 857-315-7478, Kate.Bailey@Mass.Gov

SNAP PROCESSING EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS AND FARMERS MARKETS: APPLY BY SEPTEMBER 24

Free mobile SNAP processing equipment from Novo Dia Group is now available to direct-marketing farms and farmers' markets through the Department of Transitional Assistance, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Resources, and with financial support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Eligibility is limited to SNAP-authorized farms and markets that do not currently have working equipment received through previous federal grants. Equipment will not process credit/debit. For complete program details and a link to the application, go [here](#).

Are you looking for SNAP processing equipment but not eligible for this program? Learn about other options, [here](#).

Questions? Contact David Webber, 617-626-1754 or David.Webber@mass.gov or DTA.HIP@mass.gov.

This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

USDA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO HELP COVER COSTS FOR ORGANIC CERTIFICATION: DUE NOVEMBER 1

Organic producers and handlers can now apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification. Applications for the [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#) (OCCSP) are due Nov. 1, 2021.

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year. Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 including application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Organic farmers and ranchers may apply through an FSA county office or a participating state agency.

EVENTS

MASSACHUSETTS FARM ENERGY PROGRAM GRANT INFORMATION WEBINAR

If you have questions about the federal [REAP grant](#), or are thinking about doing an energy project on your farm, then this is the webinar for you. Come learn what's new this round!

The [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program](#) will provide an overview of the application process and requirements for the USDA's Rural Energy for America (REAP) grant, in advance of the upcoming November 1 deadline.

When: Friday, September 17 10am-11:30am

Where: online

Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bXhSQaOeT_utWaRJ0LuvLA

For more information, contact Megan Denardo at the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at megan.denardo@ceton-line.org or 413-727-3090.

UVM EXTENSION AG ENGINEERING: VIRTUAL SCRUB TWILIGHT MEETINGS

The UVM Extension Ag Engineering Program is holding a series of virtual twilight meetings on a range of postharvest efficiencies and best practices. See the series page, [here](#), for details about each session and registration links.

When: Wednesdays, September 1 - October 6, 6:30-8pm

Where: online

Registration: <https://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/scrub-events/>

Session Dates and Topics:

- September 22: Wash Water Management
- September 29: Tools for Employee Management and Empowerment
- October 6: Bubblers/Aerators for Greens Washing

WE'D STILL LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Let us know how you use the New England Vegetable Management Guide

Do you use the New England Vegetable Management Guide as a resource? If so, we want to hear from you!

The authors of the New England Vegetable Management Guide want to learn more about how the guide is used, so that we can make it as useful as possible. While we are revising the guide, we have designed a short survey to better understand what YOU value in the guide. Please consider taking 5 minutes to provide your feedback and suggestions.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS!



Become a sponsor!

Vegetable Notes. Genevieve Higgins, Lisa McKeag, Susan Scheufele, Hannah Whitehead co-editors. All photos in this publication are credited to the UMass Extension Vegetable Program unless otherwise noted.

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