Seed + Grain
Readiness & Response

FALL ARMYWORM UPDATE

6th January 2023

Key Points:

New finds:

- **There have been several new confirmations of FAW added since the New Year, taking the total finds to 45 since 1 September 2022. The new finds have all been in the north of the North Island.**
- **There have been no new finds in regions outside of those affected in autumn 2022, but as the temperatures continue to rise, it is expected there will be finds in new areas. Important to continue scouting and reporting to understand this pest's movements.**

Approval for Insecticide use

The Insecticide Sparta® (spinetoram 120g/L) is now **on label** for use on Fall Armyworm in maize and sweetcorn crops for **ground applications.**

Withholding periods

Maize:

Meat: DO NOT cut for feed, or graze animals intended for slaughter within 28 days after application.

Milk: DO NOT cut for feed, or graze lactating dairy animals producing milk for human consumption within 28 days after application.

Sweet corn:

Sweet corn stover can be grazed post-harvest.

Please contact your local advisor for details on the safe use of this insecticide.

Monitoring and field observations:

- The models indicate that we can expect detections of moths during this week and the next – please continue to check traps and report online.

- Growers and reps should be **actively scouting** for caterpillars on the crop, do not rely only on the moth catches from traps. **As this is still an unwanted organism all findings must be reported to MPI:** https://report.mpi.govt.nz/pest or using the app https://www.findapest.nz/ , by email to FAW@mpi.govt.nz or by freephone 0800 80 99 66.
- There are no negative consequences to growers for reporting, as this pest will not be controlled by removing crops.

Thresholds of economic damage

Plant Health Australia provides useful guidance for this:

CROP	THRESHOLD
Maize **vegetative**	>3 larvae per plant and/or 50% of plants show signs of fresh feeding
Maize **whorl stage**	>20% of plants at whorl stage with one or more larvae and/or more than 75% of plants showing signs of feeding damage
Sweet corn **Tassel emergence**	>15% of plants infested at tassel emergence

More detail on this on https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Fall-Armworm-Quick-Guide.pdf

It is also of key importance to report any negative finds. If you are scouting your crops and not finding any FAW, it is valuable too. Send this in at faw@mpi.govt.nz .

For useful tools and guides on detection and identification consult FAR website for the latest identification guides https://www.far.org.nz/assets/files/blog/files//8a209e4b-4ca8-5338-af06-f3b80bab18e2.pdf and MPI Website www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50839-Fall-armyworm-fact-sheet or contact Ivan Lawrie ivan.lawrie@far.org.nz