FALL ARMYWORM UPDATE - (Courtesy of Seed and Grain Readiness and Response)

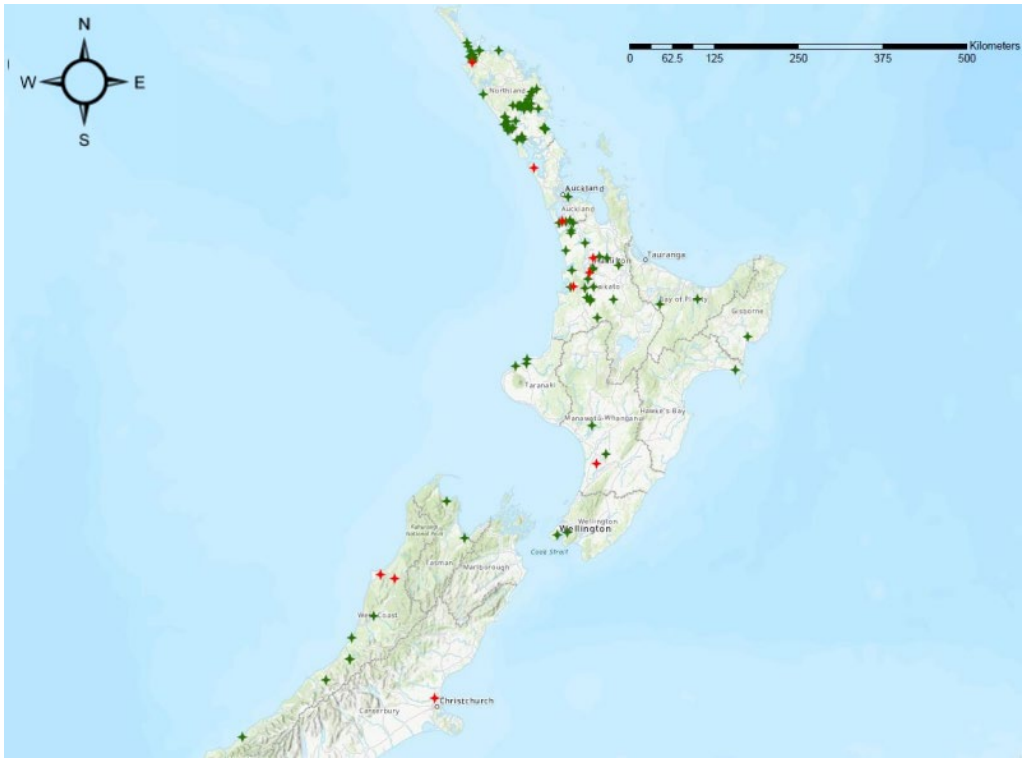
2nd June 2023

Key Points:

- **As it became apparent that FAW is unlikely to be eradicated in NZ, the FAW response has ended and we entered into the Transition to Long-Term Management phase on Friday 21st April. This will be an industry-led management transition.**
- **There are a total of 140 confirmed reports of FAW across NZ.**
- **FAW moths have continued to be caught in our Northland traps, although numbers have slowed. A winter surveillance strategy is currently being initiated for the winter in Northland.**
- **There has been a large population of Tropical Armyworm in the North Island, while not to be ignored, it has resulted in much confusion with FAW. Watch Colin Hurst (Federated Farmers) and Ivan Lawrie (FAR) setting the story straight here** https://www.1news.co.nz/2023/05/29/farmers-fearful-as-destructive-fall-armyworms-spread/
- **In many areas poor weather around the harvest timing has shown large amounts of lodging, shedding/shattering, resulting in volunteer maize, a potential winter host for FAW.**
- **As temperatures are decreasing, the life cycle has begun to slow, and along with a reduction in surveillance, it is important to stay vigilant and scout harvested and any neighbouring paddocks as FAW will predate a large variety of crops. They have been observed on ryegrass and clover in a harvested maize paddock. Crop residues should not be overlooked either.**
- **Any information on new host plants will be welcomed as we begin to understand overwintering capabilities and green bridges. Significant observations are important, please record them and inform us.**
- **The insecticide Sparta® is on label for aerial and ground applications for controlling Fall Armyworm on maize and sweetcorn crops. Consult with your advisor and avoid the use of insecticides that are ineffective**

on Fall Armyworm and potentially harmful to beneficial insects such as parasitic wasp *Cotesia sp.* which will help contain the numbers.

Photo: Scouting winter oats on the West Coast. The paddock had a reasonable FAW population at the time of the Maize harvest. Three moths have been trapped since.



FAW distribution map courtesy of MPI

For useful tools and guides on detection and identification consult the FAR website for the latest identification guide https://www.far.org.nz/articles/1708/fall-armyworm-identification-fact-sheet and MPI Website www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50839-Fall-armyworm-fact-sheet or contact Ivan Lawrie ivan.lawrie@far.org.nz and Ash Mills ashley.mills@far.org.nz