

# Western Bean Cutworm milk jug trapping

CDD #009  
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Photo credit: Bruce Mackellar  
Drawing: Chris DiFonzo  
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Western bean cutworm (WBC) was first found in Michigan in 2006. Larval damage was confirmed in Michigan field corn in both 2007 and 2008, as well as in dry beans in 2008. To time larval scouting, simple pheromone traps can be used. A milk jug trap is inexpensive and easy to make. A pheromone lure hung from the milk jug lid mimics the female WBC scent, attracting male moths to the trap as they fly at night. Field scouting can begin as trap catch increases, usually by mid-July.

## **Begin trapping the first week of July**

### **Making a trap**

- ❖ Cut square windows in each side of a **clean 1-gallon milk jug**. Leave 2-inches at the base of the jug as a reservoir.
- ❖ Bend a **paperclip** into an S-shape . Puncture the rubber pheromone lure with one end of the paperclip and push the other end through the **milk jug cap**. Put the cap back on the jug, so the lure hangs inside the container.
- ❖ Hang the trap from a **post** near the edge of a corn or dry bean field. Place the trap in a location that is convenient, but not in the way of tillage or spray equipment. If using multiple traps, space them so that they don't interfere with one another (for example, hang at opposite ends of a field)
- ❖ To preserve moths caught in the trap, fill the bottom of the jug with a 4:1 solution of water: **antifreeze** and a few drops of dish soap to break surface tension. Ethylene glycol antifreeze is toxic to animals, including pets. An alternative is to use propylene glycol antifreeze.
- ❖ If possible, check traps daily, otherwise - once per week. Keep track of the number of moths. As trap catch peaks, target scouting in pre-tassel and newly tasseled corn, and in dry bean fields.
- ❖ Change the lure once, the third week of July.

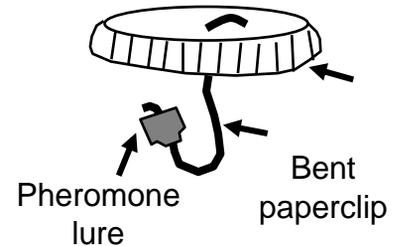
### **Source for Pheromone lures:**

Great Lakes IPM, Vestaburg, MI  
1-800-235-0285

[www.greatlakesipm.com](http://www.greatlakesipm.com)

*You will need 2 lures per trap.*

*Pheromone lure on paperclip*



## **End trapping the third week of August**