County Agent News Dan Folske August 31, 2015

Good Bugs

Some bugs are so ugly they have to be bad! At least that seems to be a common outlook



on insects. This weeks "Good Bug Corner" from NDSU Extension Entomologist Janet Knodel includes one of those "ugly" bugs I often receive phone calls about. It is the larva of the Lady Beetle. This orange and black alligator appearing bug is one of the "good guys". She also mentions some beneficial fungi explain that not all fungi are bad. Here is her article which refers to a photograph which can be found in the complete Crop & pest

Report online at <u>https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/cpr/pdf-reports/ndsu-crop-and-pest-report-august-27-2015/view</u> or on our Burke County Extension webpage at https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/burkecountyextension

GOOD BUG CORNER

This week's Good Bug Corner features several good bugs and fungal pathogens. I've been getting many questions on what these insects or objects are out in field crops. The white circle

surrounds a harmful aphid infected with beneficial fungi, infections which are common when environmental conditions are damp and cool. Look for fuzzy and puffy aphid bodies which indicate that they are infected with naturally occurring fungi. Unnecessary fungicide applications in field crops could destroy any beneficial fungi. The yellow circle highlights the voracious lady beetle larva predator, which can eat over 200-300 aphids a day. The lady beetle larvae are alligator-like with three pairs of legs and spines coming off of the body. Lady beetles are common in many field crops, especially in soybean aphid infested soybean fields in North Dakota. The red circle surrounds a dead parasitized aphid called a mummy (black body). A tiny wasp lays a single egg inside the aphid body, and the wasp larva will internally feed on the aphid, eventually killing it. These good bugs and parasitic fungi are examples of 'biological control in action' and can control aphid populations. Protecting beneficials is another good reason to scout and use Economic Thresholds for making pest management decisions!



White circle – Fungal-infected aphid; Yellow circle- lady beetle larva; Red circle – parasitized aphid mummy. (Photo courtesy of Evan Twedt)

Monitor Your Grain Bins

Harvest is progressing quickly and a lot of grain is coming off very dry but there has also been some harvested and binned at marginal moisture levels and higher grain temperatures than we've seen for several years. Those higher grain temperatures lower the allowable storage times for given moisture levels. A bin of wheat that might be ok at 13.9% moisture until next spring when harvested at 65F can quickly start to spoil when harvested at 90F. Pockets of green weed seeds and debris will also cause problems much quicker when grain temps are high. Check your stored grain regularly and if you have aeration don't be afraid to use it to cool that grain!