

Section I
Surveys of Invasive & Emerging Pests

IDAHO CEREAL LEAF BEETLE (*Oulema melanopus*) BIOCONTROL PROJECT UPDATE

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Cereal Leaf Beetle (CLB) is established in 42 of 44 Idaho counties. The species has spread to a wide variety of environments within the state since the first record of the pest in Franklin County, ID in 1992. Economic impact of the species has varied over the diverse small grain production environments found in Idaho. Generally CLB has the status of an occasional pest problem in most counties where it occurs, with declining crop damage or economic impact being reported in recent years. Shoshone and Clearwater county sweep net surveys remain negative for CLB.

CLB larval parasite (*Tetrastichus julis*) surveys were conducted in grain fields at the University of Idaho, Parma Experiment Station on May 18, June 8, and on June 22. On each date, 30 larvae were collected and dissected. *T. julis* parasite levels were 50% on May 18. 0% on June 8 and 100% on June 22 of the CLB larval dissected. If *T. julis* parasite levels remain above 50% at the Parma site, the fields will be used as a source for collection and distribution of parasitized CLB to introduce larval parasites at other locations in the state during 2007.

A field insectary for the egg parasite, *Anaphes flavipes*, was initiated in the spring of 2004 at the University of Idaho, Southwest Idaho Research and Extension Center in Parma, in cooperation with Dr. Brad Brown. Several parasite releases have been made during the 2004 and 2005 field seasons. *Anaphes flavipes* egg parasite recovery surveys were conducted on May 11, 18, 25, and June 1, 2006. A total of 490 CLB eggs were collected and rear out. No *A. flavipes* were recovered and no evidence of overwintering and establishment of this biological control agent have been observed thus far. ISDA received one shipment of egg parasites from the Colorado Department of Agriculture Insectary in Palisades, CO and released them on June 8. The shipment contained 1,200 CLB eggs at an average of 83% *A. flavipes* parasite levels. Follow up surveys and biocontrol agent releases are planned for 2007.