

Gentlemen's Agreement for Establishing and Maintaining Insectaries for Cereal Leaf Beetle Biological Control in Washington State

Partners: *Farmer Cooperators, WSU Extension, USDA-APHIS, WSU, WSDA*

The goal of the Cereal Leaf Beetle (CLB) Biocontrol Project is to establish CLB parasitoids throughout the cereal-growing areas of Washington state in order to keep CLB populations below economic thresholds. The model is to establish managed insectaries in farm fields at CLB hotspots, and to release parasitoid wasps at these sites. Once the parasitoids are established in one area, we will move the insectary to another site.

While we intend to compensate the farmer cooperators fairly for their work and contribution to the project, we cannot guarantee that participation will be profitable. Part of the intrinsic value to the grower partners will be being the first farmer in an area to have the parasitoids, and in the long term, being able to reduce/eliminate chemical control costs for CLB on their farms.

In the following statements, "partners" refers to all the participating groups, "farmer" refers to the farmer cooperator/s, and "researchers" refers to the participating groups responsible for managing the project.

Farmer commitments:

- The farmer agrees to select an appropriate insectary site, in cooperation with the researchers, and following the project guidelines.
- The farmer agrees to maintain the insectary at that site as prescribed for a period of five years, unless;
 - CLB populations never establish further in the area and the partners deem it unnecessary to continue,
 - Parasitoids establish really quickly and are self-sustaining before five years has passed, and the partners agree to move the insectary,
 - There are no further funds for the project, and the partners agree to terminate it.
- The farmer agrees to manage the insectary in accordance with the project guidelines, including;
 - Follow the planting plan of winter wheat strips and three sequential seedings of spring oats (crop varieties are the grower's choice, but should be suitable for the area).
 - Maintain the harvested portion in non-tillage/chemical fallow from harvest until the fall a year later (to avoid destroying parasitized CLB pupae).
 - Seed and fertilize at optimum levels to produce a normal stand and grain yield for the area.
 - Irrigate (at irrigated sites) at normal levels and intervals for cereal crops.
 - Apply appropriate herbicides/weed management treatments in a timely manner to maintain a healthy crop and site.
 - Avoid field burning of the insectary.

- The farmer agrees not to apply insecticides or allow drift in the insectary during the project.
- The farmer agrees, after consultation with the researchers, to reduce/cease insecticide applications on cereal ground beyond the insectary once the parasitoid populations have reached an expansion level.
- The farmer agrees to provide the land for the insectary and to be responsible for seed purchase, land preparation and seeding, fertilizer, pest control, harvest, and marketing. He/she may keep the income from the grain sales.
- The farmer agrees to allow the researchers access to the insectary for all operations relating to the project, including parasitoid releases, and to collect parasitoids for release elsewhere.
- The farmer agrees to work with the researchers to facilitate tours of the insectaries.
- If it becomes necessary for the grower to reseed or terminate the crop or the insectary, he/she agrees to communicate with the project leader before doing so.

Researcher commitments:

1. The researchers are responsible to procure the funds to run the project and to compensate the farmers.
2. The researchers are responsible for hiring and supervising the project technician/workers.
3. The researchers are responsible for obtaining and releasing parasitoids.
4. The researchers are responsible for conducting CLB surveys and collecting relevant data
5. The researchers are responsible for analyzing and publishing data and writing research/grant reports.
6. The researchers are responsible for organizing and coordinating field tours to the trial sites.
7. The researchers agree to maintain a high level of communication with the farmer cooperators.

Signed _____ this _____ day of _____, _____
 (Farmer)

Diana Roberts (WSU Extension, Project Leader) _____

Terry Miller (Manager NWBIQ) _____