BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Thursday edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. And today Ed, all about the Western Bean Cutworm

ED: This is an insect that hasn’t been a serious problem but we’ve seen an increase of it over the years and we’ve been doing a survey for the university and looking at it and we’ve been working with Legacy Farmers Cooperative, they have traps out there near their sites and taking counts of these. We’ve been doing it for the last eight years. And I should say this is one of those kind of miss named things we call it the Western Bean Cutworm but the crop it really attacks is corn. Now when it was first identified it was attacking navy and food edible beans out in the west. That’s why it became the Western Bean Cutworm. But our problem it does not attack soybeans it is a corn problem. From this survey, Bill, we got traps in three locations. We got one in the Arlington area, the Arcadia area, then also near McComb. We put a pheromone in there with bait and that’s going to attract the males, the males come to that bait, they get trapped into the trap, and they drop to the bottom, and we can count the male moths in there. The number of male moths is a good correlation to how many females you got out there may lay eggs because the reason why the males are in that area anyway is because there’s females out there so the trap is just basically mimicking a female moth smell and so they come to that and we can get a count. We got estimates on the population when we have greater risk. And so we’ve been doing this like I said for eight years. It hasn’t been a, we’re like on what I call the border areas, where we’re not in the serious attacking zone but we are getting more. You get to the countings that are along the Michigan border and they often times have to spray because they are getting very high counts for several time periods. So we’re kind of a scouting point to see how far this is moving south and will become a problem for us in the future. This particular insect can cause a lot of damage on corn ears. It’s very hard to spray with an insecticide. There are some Bt, well actually there’s only one form of Bt that provides protection for it so most of our Bt hybrids do not work. It’s got damage similar to ear worms but the problem is like I said they can just tunnel in there and they can really cause a lot of feeding damage on the ear. And then the big one is we get fungus that comes into where those feeding areas have been. And a lot of those fungi carry toxins that we have to worry about feeding it to animals with that. So just let people know were doing a survey again and let you know later on how many Western Bean Cutworms we have.

BILL: Well that brings our Ag Talk programs to a close for the week. We will not be here tomorrow, Ed, because of the observance of the Fourth of July so let me wish you and all of our listeners the very best for a happy and safe Fourth of July. Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.