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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Slugs Showing Up Yet? Time to Scout

OSU Extension State Specialists Kelley Tilmon and Andy Michel put together this information to scout for slugs as we continue into the wet planting season. I have had a couple of calls concerning options for slugs. There are not a bunch of good options.

As planting wraps up, a reminder is in order about possible slug problems in no-till crops, especially in fields with a history of slug damage. Although we do not know how numerous slugs are in fields, we do know that most crops are being planted later than normal. If you have read our recommendations for slug management, you know that one way a grower can get a head start is to plant early, and get their crop out of the soil and growing before slugs begin their heaviest feeding. However, with the weather conditions over the past month, many fields are just now being planted. Slugs have been hatching and beginning to grow; this will result in many fields just germinating or emerging when slugs start to feed. This combination of feeding slugs and small plants can result in much more plant injury than normal. Slugs can also damage un-germinated seed. Thus, growers with a history of slug problems who are just now planting into those fields should watch their crops closely over the next few weeks. Although all fields should be scouted, focus on those with a history of these pests, where weed control was less than effective, or with a lot of residue left on the field.

Slugs are nocturnal so you may not catch them in the act of feeding unless you inspect plants after dusk. If you see feeding damage on plants, sift through residue and look under stones in the field. An asphalt shingle laid out on the ground, painted white to keep it cooler, is also a good sampling device. Slugs will collect under it during the day. We do not have research-based thresholds for slugs in field crops. However, if the level of damage concerns you, a rescue treatment may be in order. There are few products available, but three of them are Deadline MP, Iron Fist, and Ferrox, which are all baited pellets which must be broadcast and ingested by the slugs.

For more information on slug management, our field crop slug factsheet is located at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-20> or you can go online to see the entire C.O.R.N. newsletter at <http://corn.osu.edu> which has links to a couple videos developed by our recently retired Extension Entomologist, Dr. Ron Hammond.

## U.S. Beef to China Moving Fast

Last week I discussed some of the news concerning U.S. Beef being exported to China by mid-July. This seems to be speeding up as I read this week that all could be finalized by early June. This could be a benefit to U. S. Beef producers with unknown potential.

China quit buying U. S. Beef back in 2003 after the mad cow issue in the state of Washington. Since then the amount of beef eaten in China has grown as the middle class has expanded and their ability to



purchase beef has increased, too. Time will tell how big this might end up being for U. S. Beef exports.

Some of the stipulations for U. S. Beef to China will include the age of the livestock. Nothing over 30 months of age and the place where they were grown and slaughtered will be an issue. Sounds similar to Age and Source verification from recent years. There are also some issues with growth enhancing drugs.

China is the world's fastest growing beef market. There have been some opportunities to get back into China in the past few years, but things always fizzled out. This should be a real shot in the arm for the U. S. Beef Producers in the coming months and beyond.

### **Dates to Remember**

- June 12                      Pesticide Testing at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Must pre-register at <http://pested.osu.edu> or call 800-282-1955. As always, this test is offered on the second Monday of each month.
- June 15                      Hops Field Day at OSU South Centers in Piketon.