

# Sugarcane Insects Update: Mexican Rice Borer Blake Wilson

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Louisiana Agricultural Technology and  
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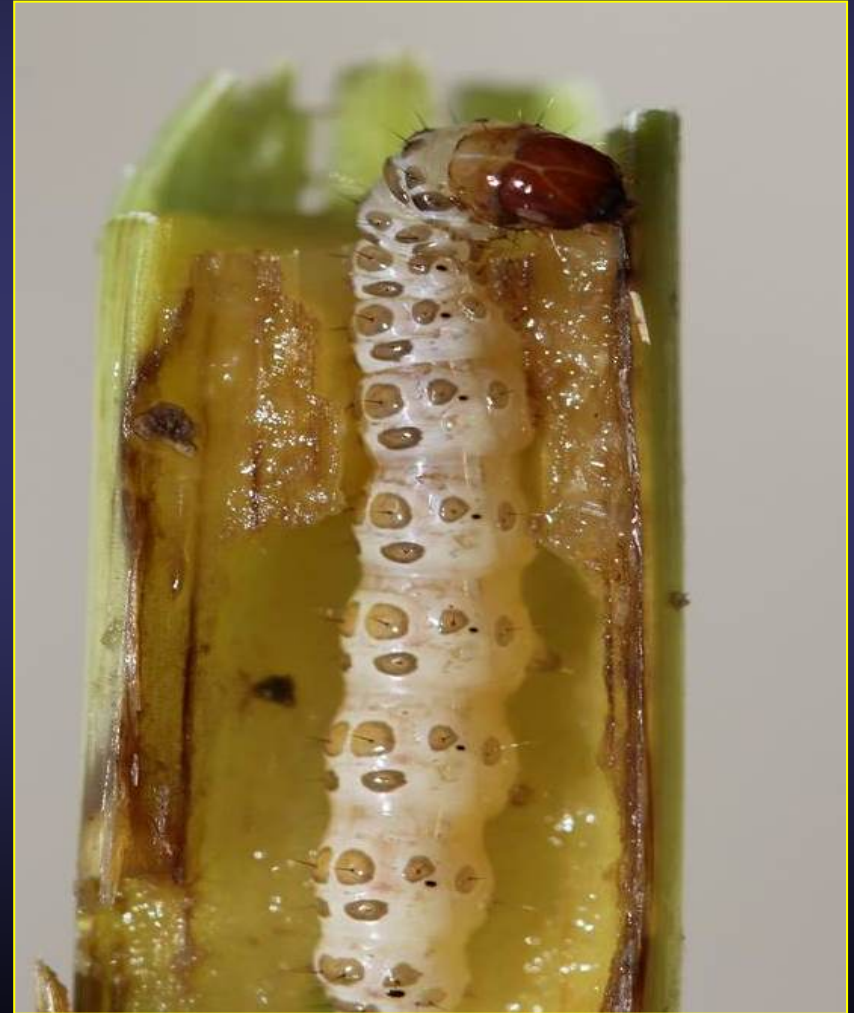


# Stem Borers Attacking Sugarcane

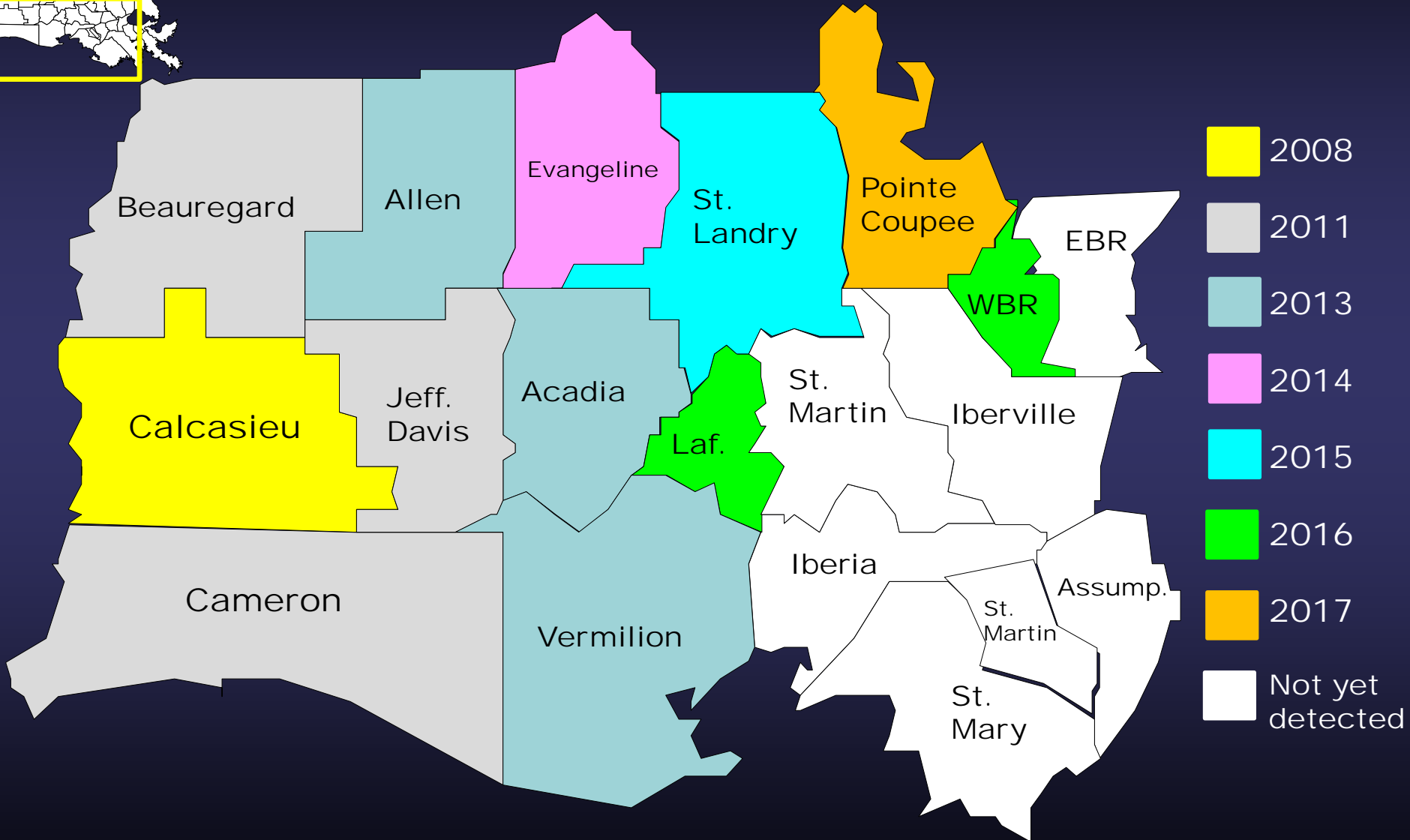
Mexican Rice Borer (MRB)  
*Eoreuma loftini*



Sugarcane Borer (SCB)  
*Diatraea saccharalis*



# MRB Range Expansion



# Stem Borers IPM

## Resistant Varieties

### Susceptible

- HoCP 00-950
- HoCP 96-540
- Ho 05-961
- HoCP 04-838  
(MRB)

### Intermediate

- HoCP 07-613
- L 01-283
- L 03-371

### Resistant

- L 01-299
- HoCP 85-845
- HoCP 04-838  
(SCB)

Susceptible cultivars are often >5X more injured than resistant varieties when not protected.

# Scouting for Borers

Leaf sheath injury



"Treatable" larvae



Sugarcane Borer

# Scouting for Borers

**MRB ≠ SCB**

Larvae often feed lower in the canopy

Eggs laid on dry leaves

Larvae move up

Enter into leaf tissues

More rapid stalk entry

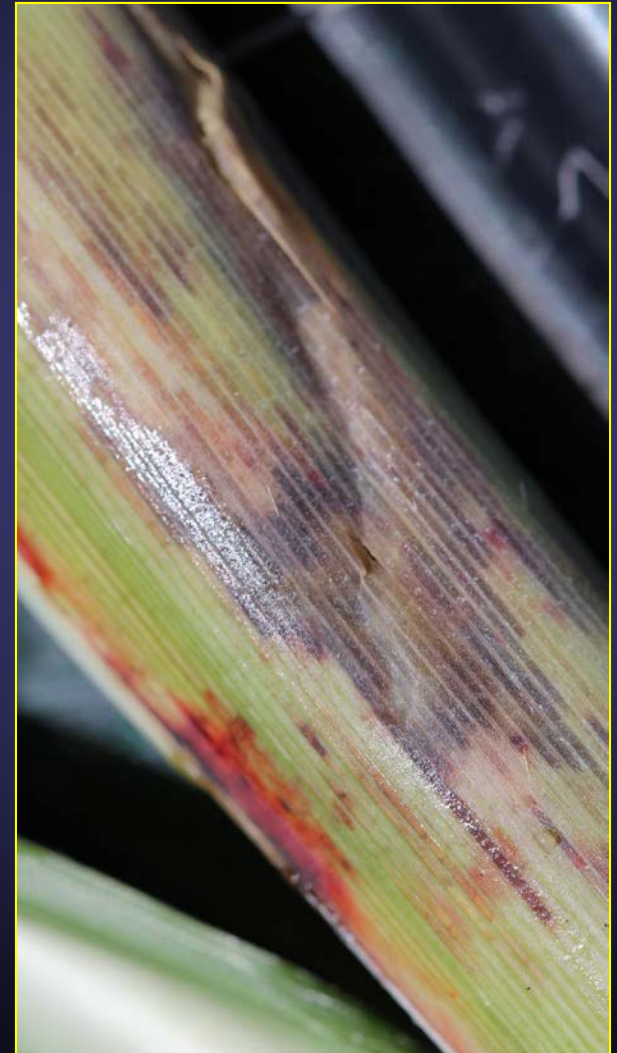
Feeding behavior differs between varieties

Scouting research is ongoing



# Scouting for Borers

## Mexican Rice Borer Injury



# Scouting for Borers

## Mexican rice borer



Larvae enter into leaf mid-ribs.



# Pheromone Trap Assisted Scouting



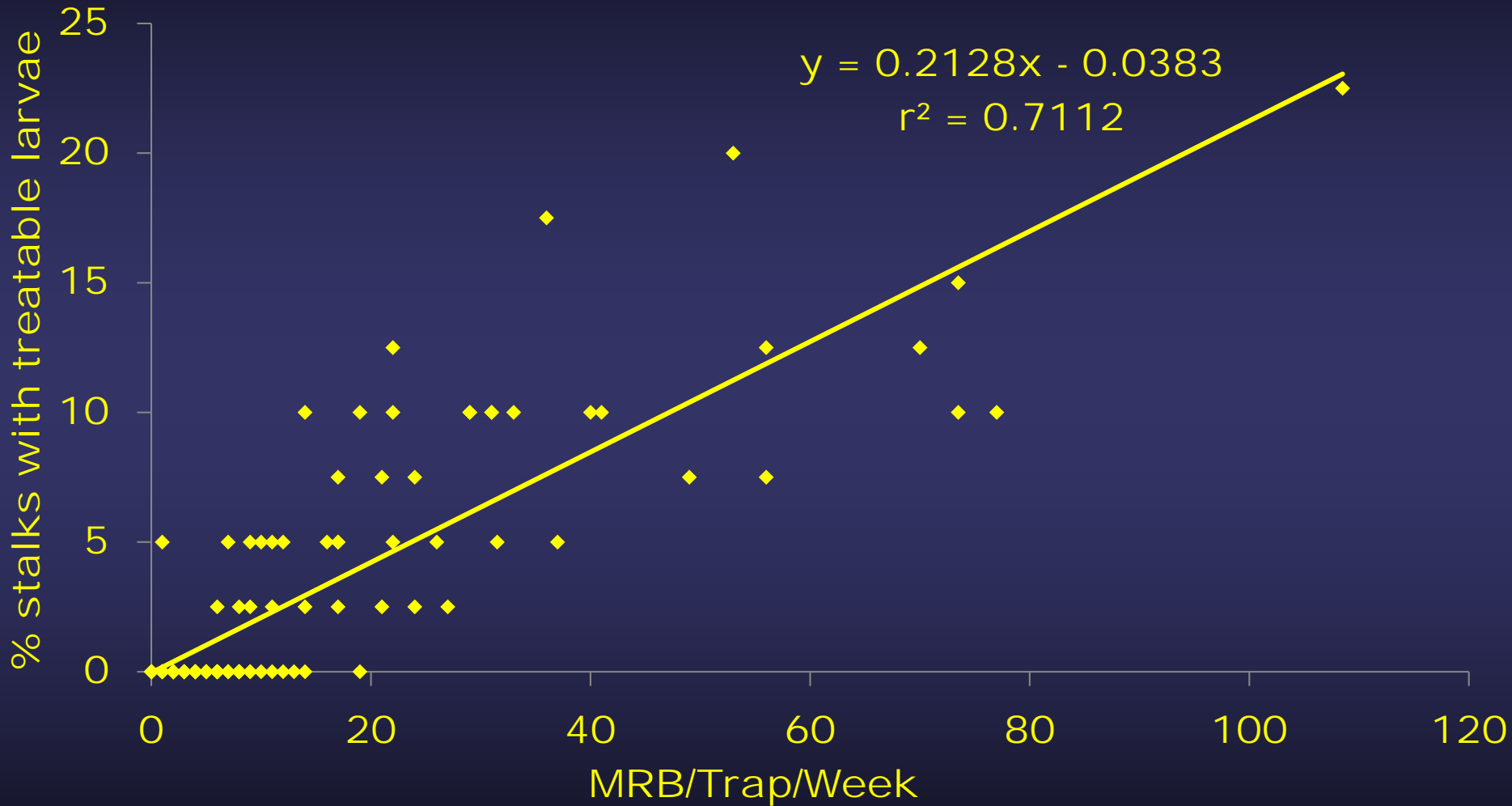
**Attract male moths from  $\approx 100$  yards**

# Pheromone Trap Assisted Scouting

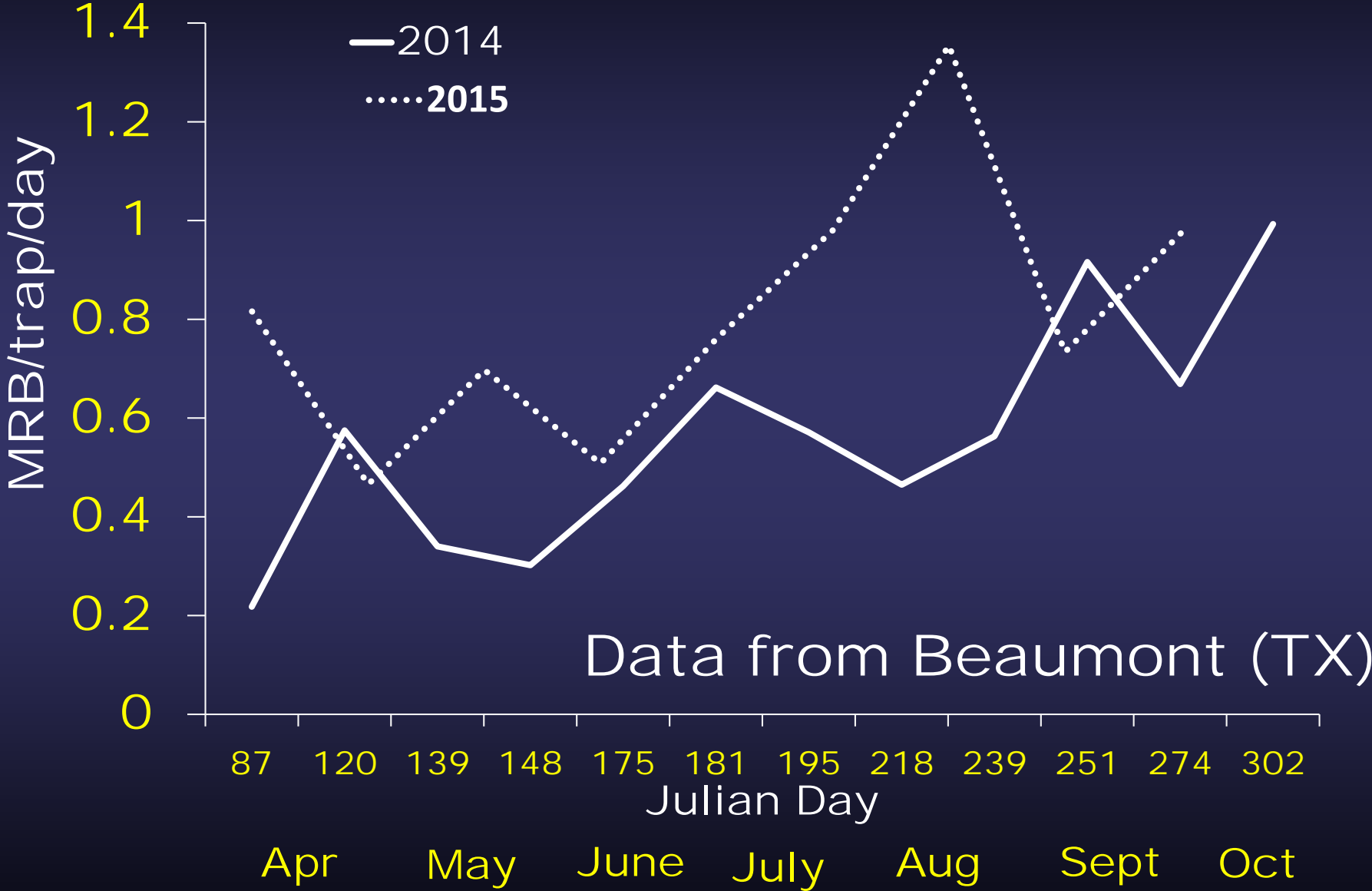


Efficiently detect population spikes

# Adult Density vs Larval Infestation



# Seasonal Populations in Sugarcane

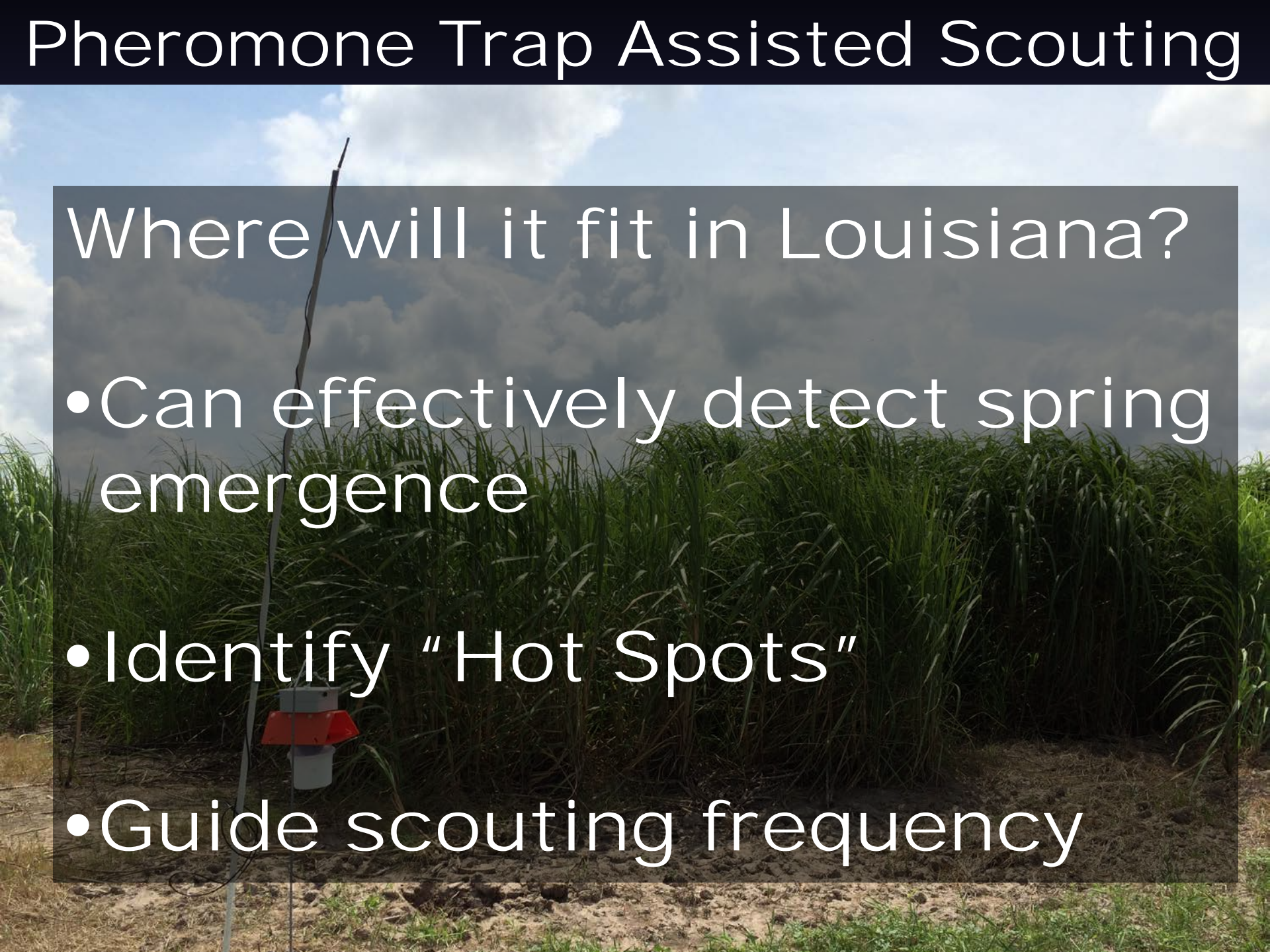


Data from Beaumont (TX)

# Pheromone Trap Assisted Scouting

Where will it fit in Louisiana?

- Can effectively detect spring emergence
- Identify "Hot Spots"
- Guide scouting frequency



# Scouting for Borers

## Mexican Rice Borer Injury



# Scouting for Borers

## Mexican Rice Borer Injury



# Scouting for Borers

## Mexican Rice Borer Injury

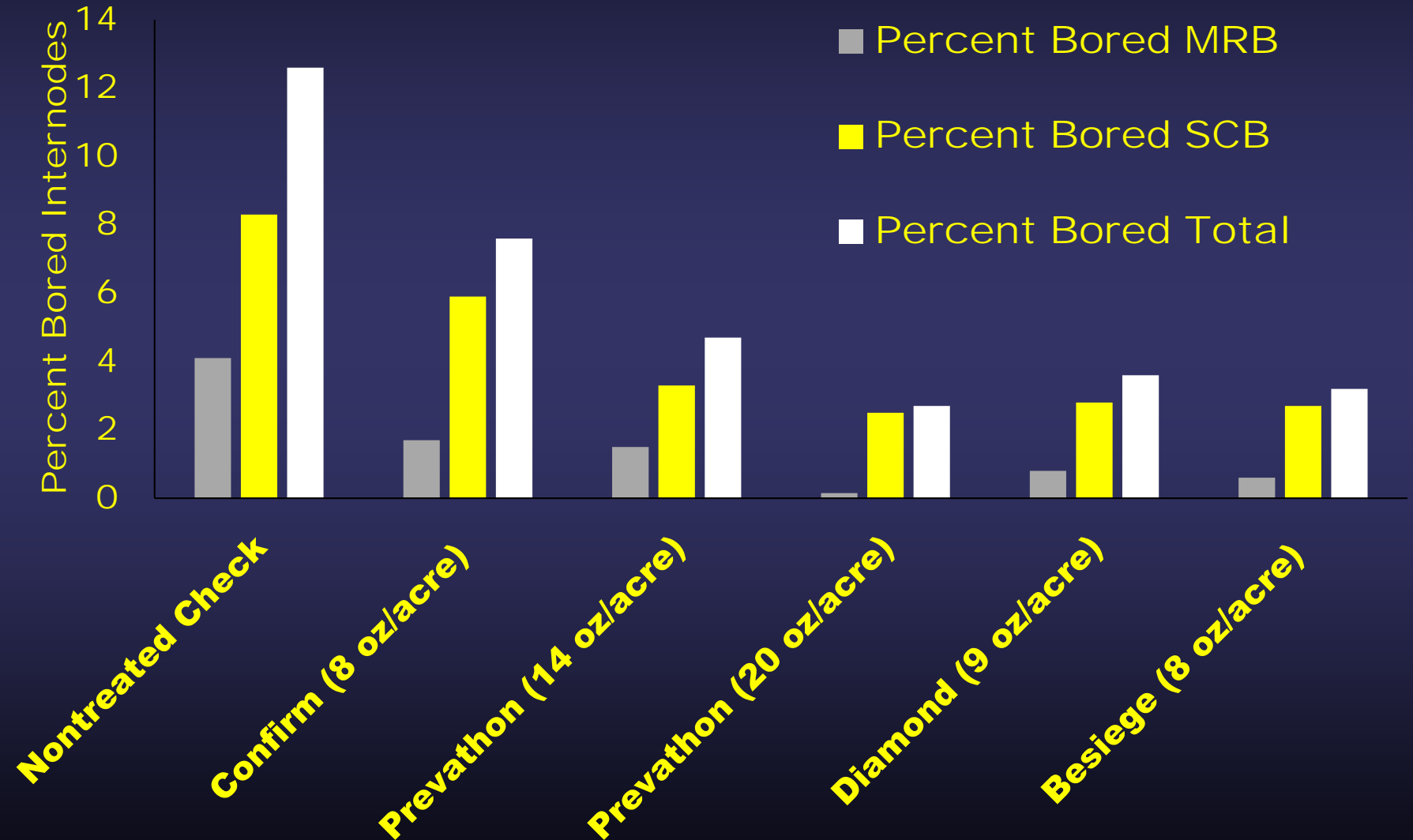




# Small-plot Back Pack Trials



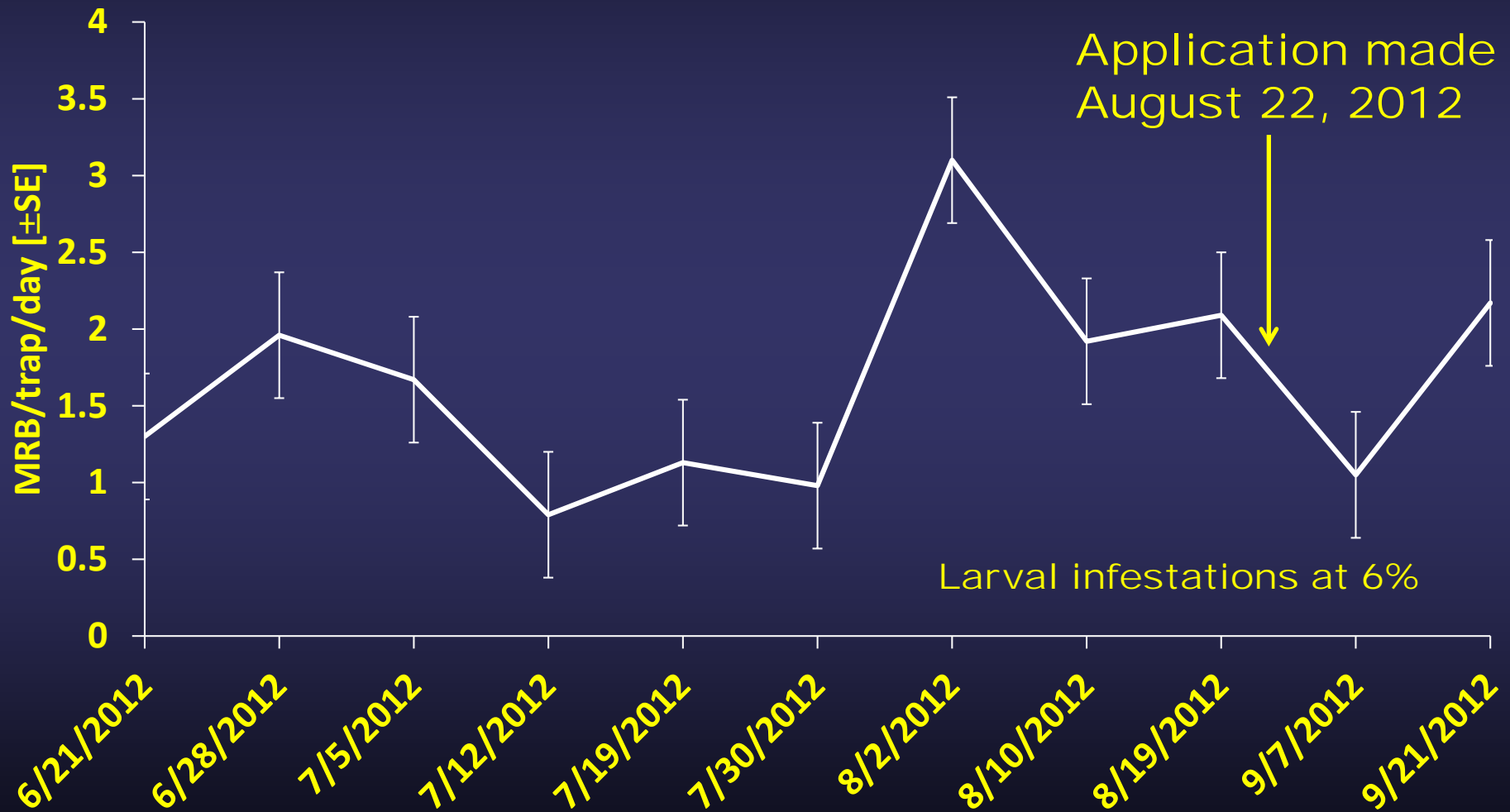
# Insecticides for SCB+MRB Control Vermilion Parish, 2017



# Aerial Insecticidal Control of MRB in the Rio Grande Valley

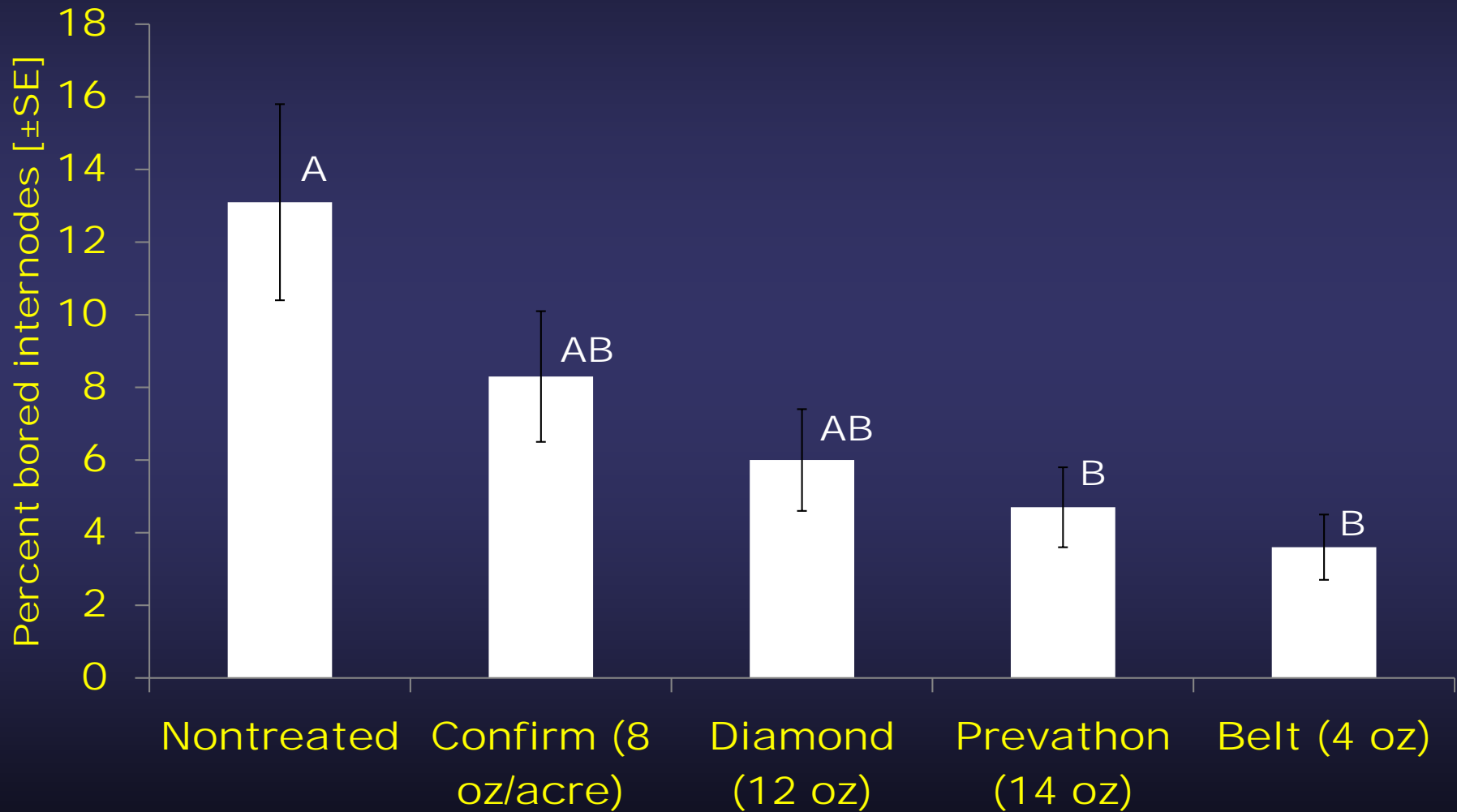


# Insecticidal Management of MRB in the RGV



Larval infestations on 8/21/2012 exceeded 5% of stalks with larvae on plant surfaces.

# Insecticidal Management of MRB in the RGV



$F = 5.0, df = 4, 15.6, P = 0.009$   
Larval infestations on 6/21/2012 exceeded 5% of stalks with larvae on plant surfaces.

# Conclusions and Ongoing Work

Situation is *developing*

Currently appears manageable

Management of mixed infestations as a complex should be effective

Pheromone traps can provide useful data

Scouting research needed

Variety research in Louisiana

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# Questions?



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