

Kudzu Bug Monitoring Summary

Amy Raudenbush, J.T. Benitez, Ed Brown, Chris Bruynis, Mary Griffith, Marcus McCartney, Andy Michel and Kelley Tilmon

The kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria* is a serious invasive pest of soybean causing a reduction to yield when heavily infested (Figure 1). In addition to soybean, the kudzu bug also uses the plant kudzu, an invasive weed, as a host. The most recent monitoring efforts indicated that the kudzu bug was not yet reported in Ohio; however, monitoring efforts remain important as the pest expands its host region. The monitoring protocol was designed by Virginia Tech and used a PVC pipe and sticky card. Traps were deployed between May through the beginning of June and were monitored weekly until the end of June.

Kudzu bug monitoring in Ohio is now complete with zero kudzu bugs found in Ohio (Figure 2). Overall, 6 PVC traps were monitored in five counties including, Athens, Butler, Madison, Ross and Washington. Although the kudzu bug has yet to be found in Ohio; it is important to continue monitoring efforts to make the best management decisions for our growers. If you suspect kudzu bug in your county please contact your local extension office.



Figure 1. From left to right: left: adult image of kudzu bug (Emilie Bess, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org); right: adult kudzu bugs on underside of leaf with dime for size comparison (Jeremy Greene, Clemson University, Bugwood.org).

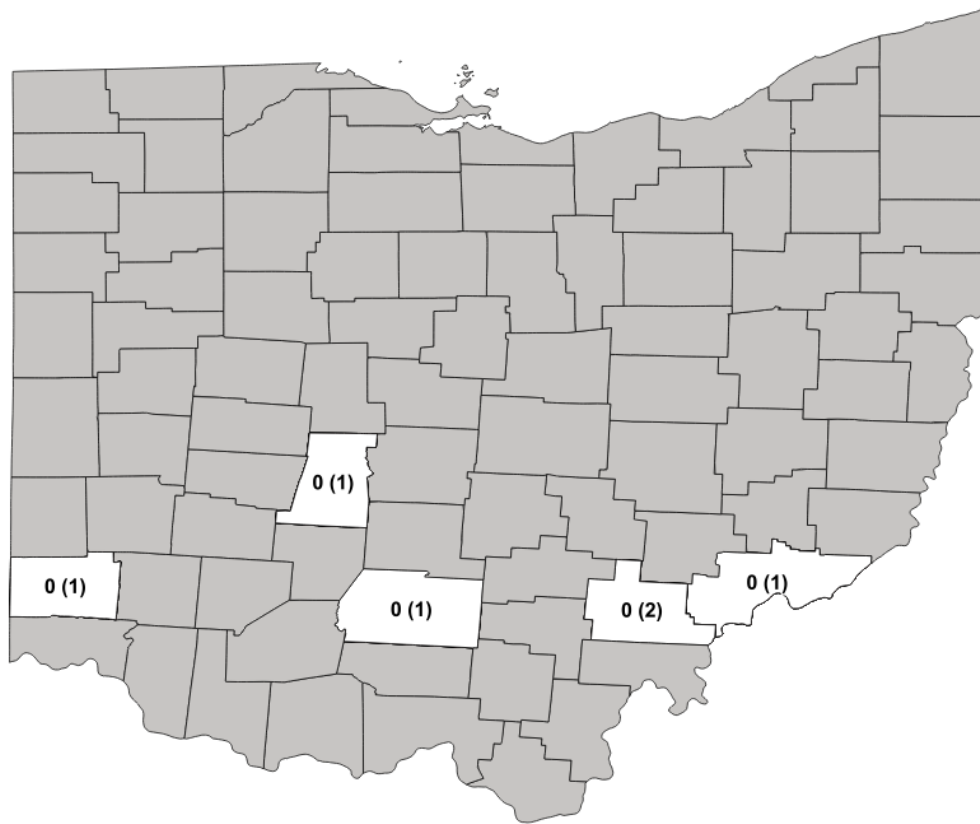


Figure 2. Average number of kudzu bug followed by the total number of traps located in each county in parentheses for the kudzu bug monitoring program in 2019.