ALABAMA MOTH TRAP CATCH REPORT AND INSECT PEST UPDATE FOR JULY 31, 2017

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The cotton bollworm (CBW) moth trap catch for the 4th week of July (7/17 through 7/24) was highest at the Baldwin and Elmore county sites (198 and 197 respectively). The CBW trap catch at the other 3 sites ranged from 3 to 41. Compared to the previous week the CBW moth trap catch increased the most in Baldwin county (+140) and decreased the most in Elmore county (- 118). The CBW moth trap catch for the other 4 sites were similar for the 3rd and 4th weeks of July 2017. CBW moth trap catch numbers for the 4th week of July 2016 were greater at the Baldwin (+ 84), Elmore (+ 415), Autauga (+ 181) and Limestone (+ 31) county sites. The tobacco budworm (TBW) moth trap catch report was highest at the Henry and Elmore county sites (180 and 78 respectively). The TBW moth trap catch number was less than 10 at the other 2 sites. Compared to the previous week the TBW trap catch number declined the most in Henry county (- 74) and Limestone county (- 43), while the number increased the most in Elmore county (+ 62). Compared to the 4th week of July 2016 the TBW moth trap catch increased in 2017 in Elmore county (+ 44) while decreasing at the Autauga (- 44) and Limestone (-39) county sites. The soybean looper (SBL) moth trap catch for the 4th week of July was highest at the Elmore (268) and Autauga (120) sites. The SBL moth catch at the other 3 sites ranged from 56 to 77. Compared to the previous week the SBL moth trap catch declined at the Baldwin (- 25) and Elmore (- 51) county sites and increased at the Escambia (+ 47), Autauga (+ 106), and Limestone (+ 56) county sites. Compared with the 4th week of July 2016 the SBL moth trap catch numbers for the similar period in 2017 were lower at the Baldwin (- 527), Escambia (- 83) and Limestone (- 52) county sites and higher at the Elmore (+ 117) and Autauga (+16) sites.

Tarnished plant bugs continue to puncture sufficient bolls to require treatment in some north AL fields. Also some fields in Lawrence county having dual gene cotton are now infested with cotton bollworms (CBW's) Today (July 31) higher numbers of cotton bollworms are being found in some Phytogen cotton varieties with the regular Widestrike Bt trait (not Widestrike 3) than in Bollgard 2 varieties. Some Bollgard 2 varieties now have CBW larvae in as many as 2% of the blooms

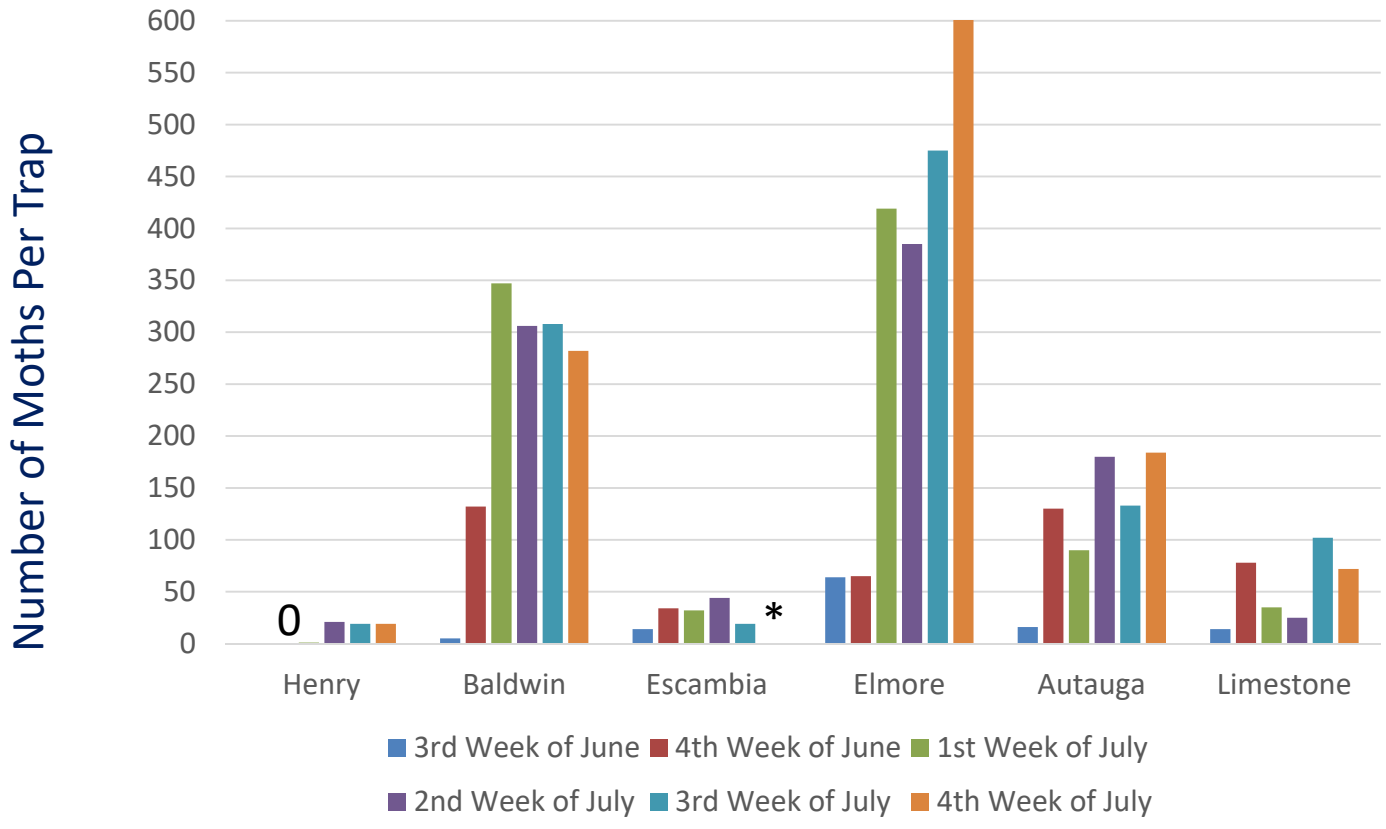
and 2% of the bloom-tagged bolls. Inspection of additional BG2 fields this week could show higher infestation levels. Fields with Phytogen Widestrike varieties are running on average about twice as many CBW's as Bollgard 2 varieties but one Phytogen field had an infestation level of about 8% of the blooms and bloom-tagged bolls. This field was sprayed the previous week with bifenthrin 2EC at 1 gallon to 20 acres and the surviving CBW larvae in the field on July 31 were 2nd instar to 4th instar larvae. Once larvae leave terminals and blooms and move inside boll/square bracts or get underneath bloom tags they are difficult to control. Therefore it is possible that the bifenthrin would have done a better job of controlling the CBW's if the chemical could have reached the worms. Recommended treatment thresholds for CBW larvae in dual-gene cotton in MS where CBW problems have been more common than in AL are 4% infested plants or 2% damaged bolls with worms present. The recommended threshold for 2nd instar CBW larvae in North Carolina is three 2nd instar bollworms (or larger) in 100 fruiting tissues on one scouting trip, two 2nd instar bollworm or larger in 100 fruiting tissues on two consecutive scouting trips, or one 2nd instar bollworm or larger in 100 fruiting tissues on three consecutive scouting trips. A grower can also time treatments when bollworm eggs increase, but some of the eggs could have been laid by tobacco budworm (TBW) moths. TBW larvae have not been able to survive on dual-gene cotton to date. TBW moths have been observed in peanut fields in Lawrence county. These eggs are very difficult to find when they are laid below the terminal as many of the eggs are once cotton begins to bloom. Products labeled for control of CBW larvae in cotton include Prevathon Besiege and Intrepid Edge. Do not expect a clean-up of the embedded CBW's with these chemicals. The application should help control exposed worms in open blooms, and reduce survival of larvae that hatch from recently deposited eggs.

We have had no reports of problems with CBW's in dual gene cotton from other parts of the state to date but growers need to keep scouting fields closely. Reports from southwest AL indicate low insect pressure in cotton. Many early-planted fields of soybeans have been treated for mixed populations of soybean loopers, podworms, armyworms, and velvetbean caterpillars. These caterpillars as well as stink bugs and 3-cornered alfalfa hoppers are abundant in many peanut fields and many peanut fields have been treated for worms. Check soybeans closely for caterpillars and stink bugs. Soybean loopers especially are likely to

increase over the coming weeks. Looper moth trap catch numbers for 2 sites checked on 7/31 (Autauga and Limestone) indicated looper moth activity was increasing. As more soybeans develop seeds within pods stink bugs will increase movement to the beans.

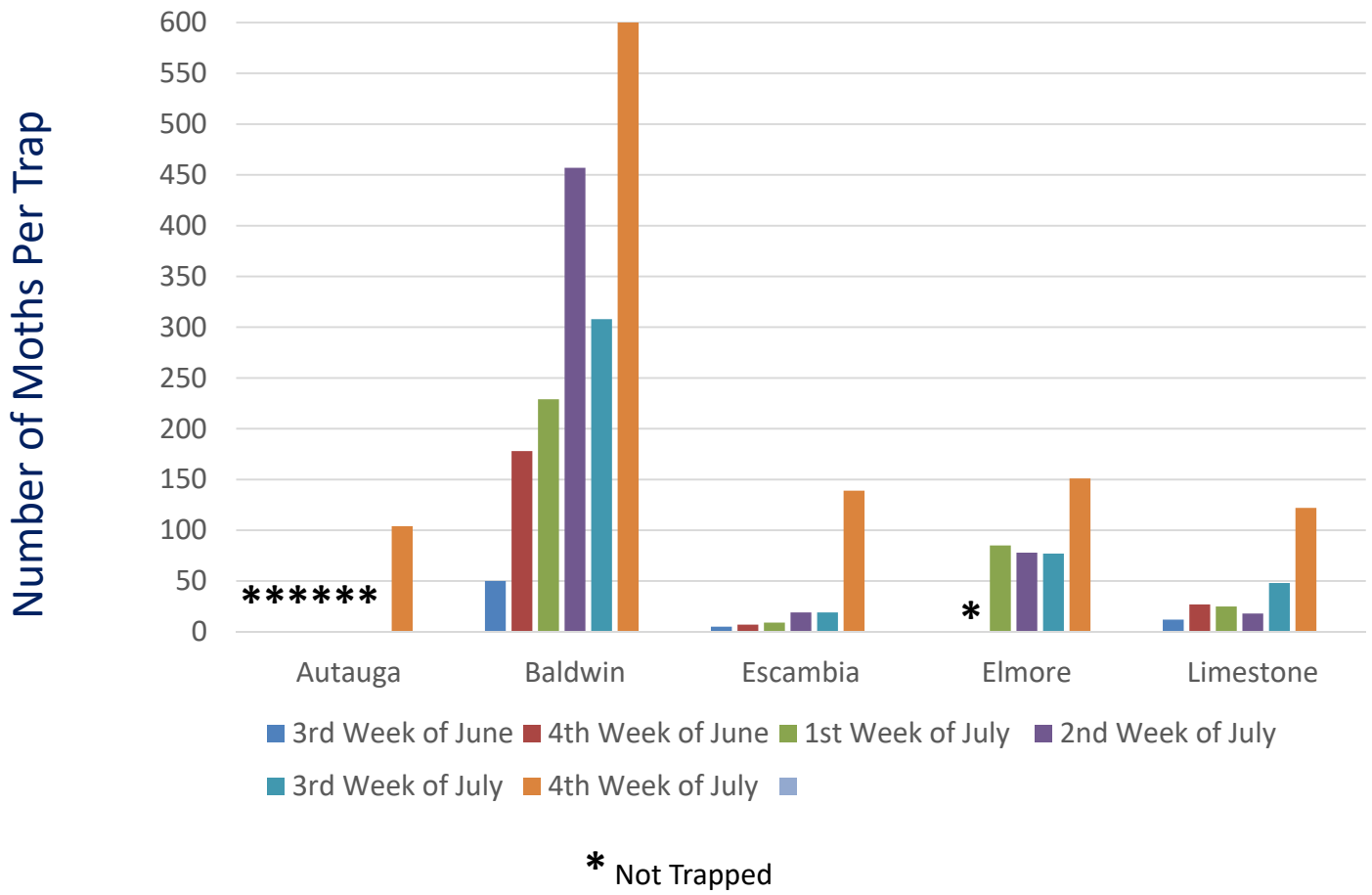
Cursor down to view moth activity for week 4 of July

Cotton Bollworm Moths per Trap by Location, 2016



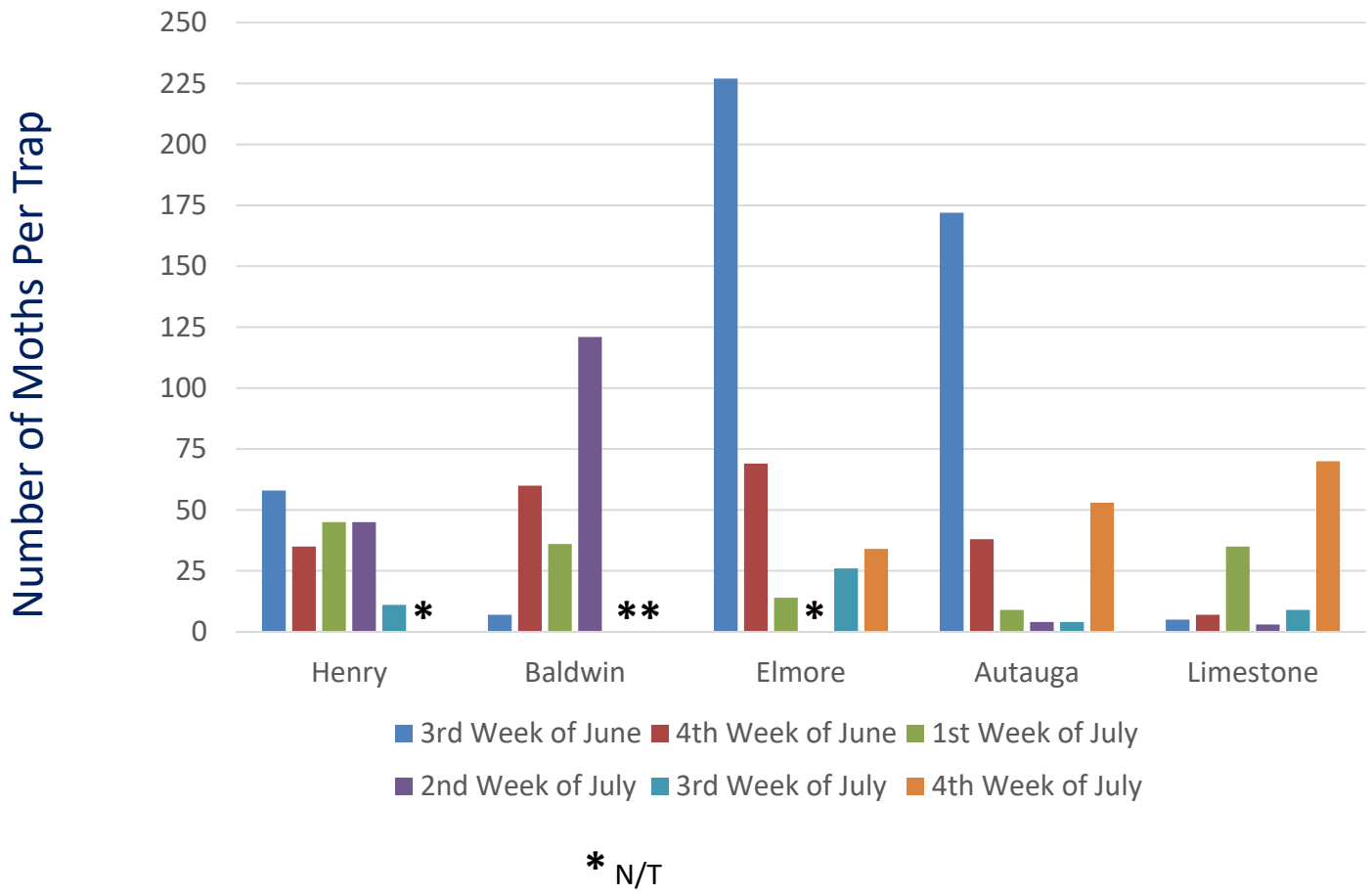
* Not Trapped

Soybean Looper Moths per Trap by Location, 2016



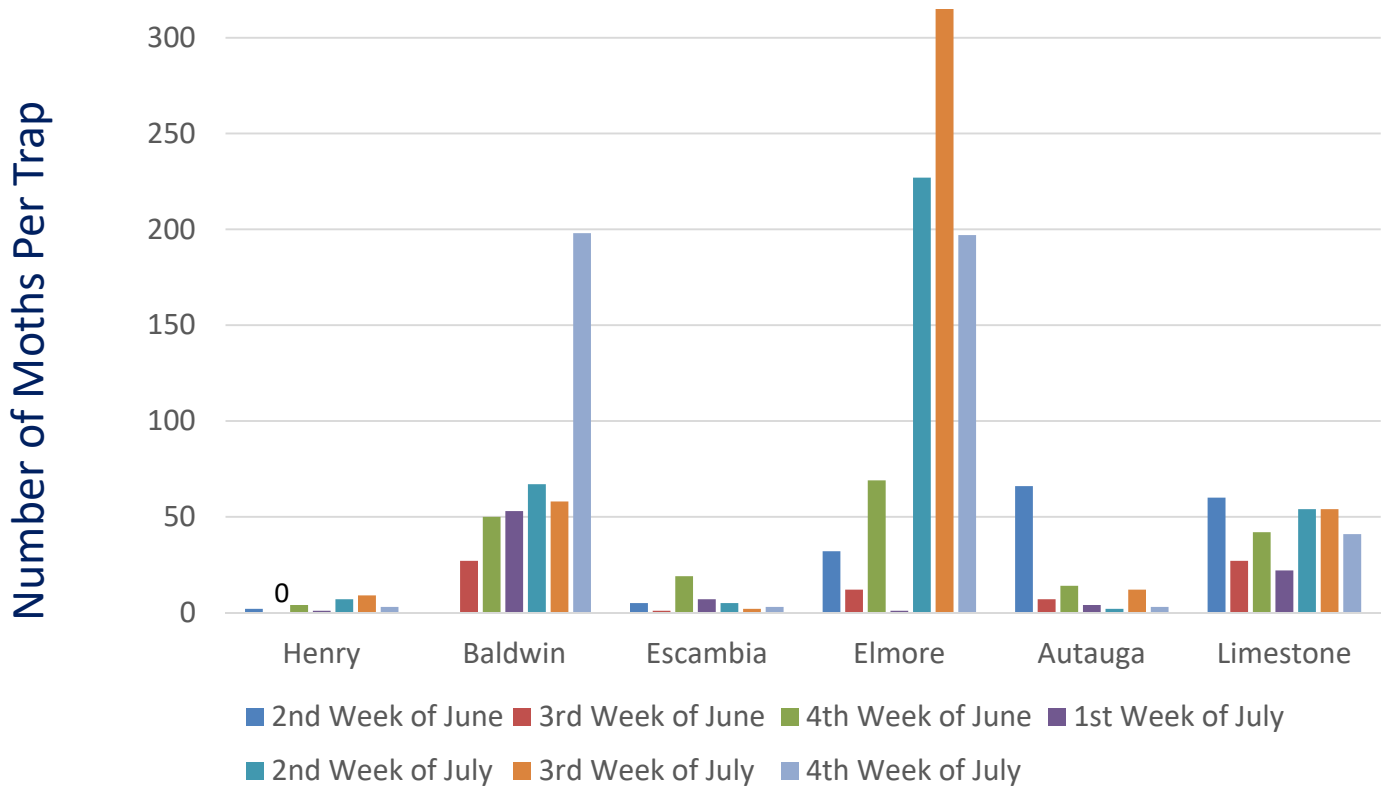
* Not Trapped

Tobacco Budworm Moths per Trap by Location, 2016

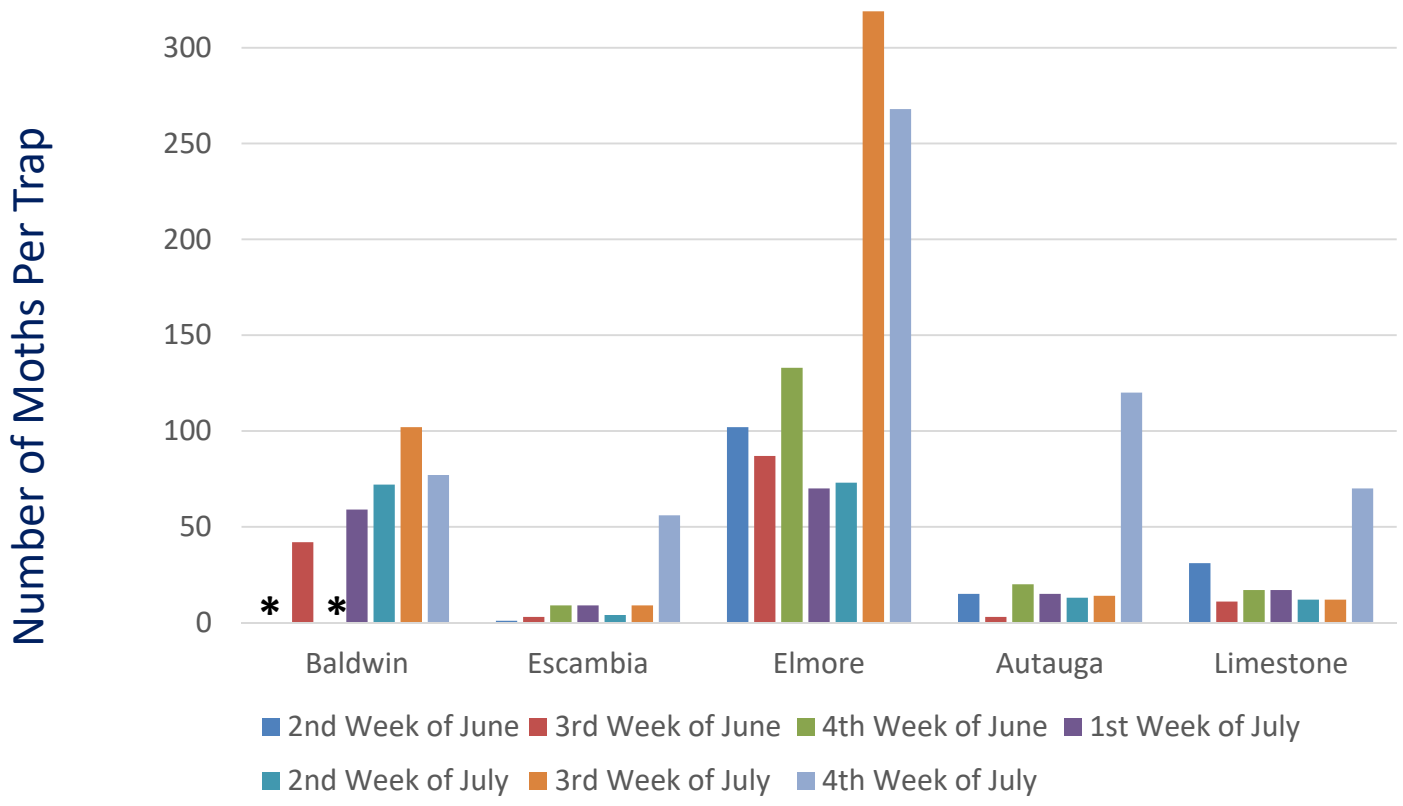


* N/T

Cotton Bollworm Moths per Trap by Location, 2017

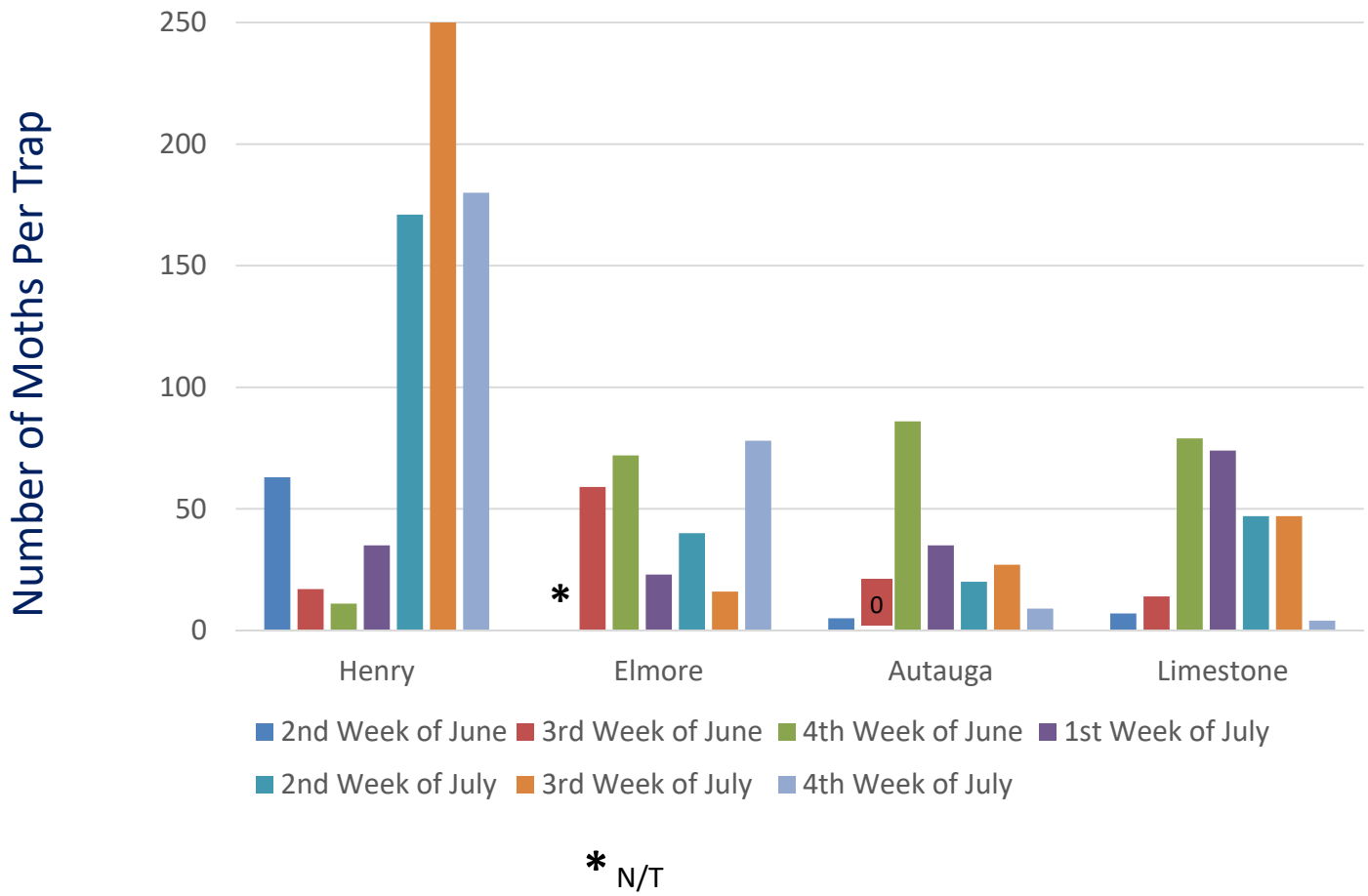


Soybean Looper Moths per Trap by Location, 2017



* N/T

Tobacco Budworm Moths per Trap by Location, 2017



* N/T