

The corn root worm in Bavaria – local relevance and the economic impact on single farms

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The western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* LeConte) was observed in Southern Bavaria for the first time in 2007. The aim of this project is to assess the possible regional significance of the pest and to determinate the economic impact of eradication and containment measures at farm level using a case study approach.

Farms in regions with a high portion of maize grown (>50%) and a strong area-related increase of maize production in recent years (2005 - 2009) have been selected. In addition to the portion of maize grown on the single farm and in the specific region also the farm types (dairy cattle, cashcrop production, bull fattening, pig production, ect.) and the willingness of the manager to participate in the survey were determinig faktors for the selection of case study farms.

For the evaluation of the economic implications a whole-farm simulation has been used to include indirect effects.

Results show the economic impact of the containment measures seem to be small at farm level but with the exception of one region, the Rottal. The specific situation of the maize farmers in Rottal does result in substantial compliance costs. Nevertheless, most farmers assessed the adaptation measure 2/3 crop rotation to be of a minor problem.