



HIGH PLAINS IPM Update

News about
Integrated Pest
Management in
Bailey, Castro,
and Parmer
Counties, from
John Thobe

August 21, 2020

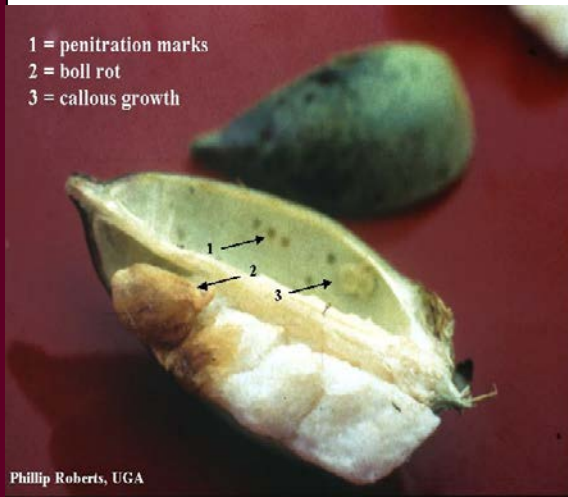


High Plains Crop Update

Hang in there everyone, seems like everyone wants to get the crops out and forget about this year. Still are needing to stay vigilant on problems that could catch us late.

We do have many producers who have non-BT cotton depending on close inspection and accurate scouting to fall back on. This is not a bad idea at all, but don't give up now as we inch closer and closer peak egg lay for this pest.

Threshold for boll worm is going to be 6% damage of harvestable bolls or 8,000 worms per acre. It is best to catch this pest early of course to establish control.



Caught my first crack boll in Southern Parmer county while conducting a routine check of the area for pests. I hope we don't have anymore pest problems as we finish out this season but in Bailey county we are going to be watching for stink bugs as well as the boll worm. Talked about these just a bit last week but the picture above to the left is going to be a great example of what we are going to see. Sometimes on larger bolls we will see signs of penetration of the carpel wall as stink bug mouth parts stick and target seeds within the boll effecting the lint inside.

Look for signs of distress, more than just bloom tags on the ground. Small bolls, as well as heavy developing boll (bolls with candle flower on it) shed could be associated with insect pressure. This could also be limited water in the area, check the drop to determine what is really going on. Cut bolls open to determine natural shed from pressure.

If you have any samples of suspected verticillium or fusarium wilt contact me and I will sample your field. On page 2 you will find some examples of Fusarium wilt. It's a good time to catch this disease as we get closer to harvest aid application in the area.

Keep your ears open on a harvest aid demo date to occur in the next thirty days.



Fusarium wilt

As you can see the tell tale sign is going to be this yellowing (halo) that has this dark brown crispy center as it bleeds through the foliage. Its important to catch this, know what you have, and variety select around it.

Onto **corn**, we are seeing much of our corn go to silage of course and we are in full swing in this silage harvest. One thing to keep in mind is your moisture associated with that field. Ideally, we are looking to have 75% - 65% moisture line. I understand

bills have to be paid, water isn't plentiful, and we don't live in a perfect world. Be careful out there as these silage trucks fill our county roads.

Spider mites tried to make a small comeback in the corn behind many of the already sprayed fields. The first occurrence of spider mites started early and was quickly beaten back by awaiting predators. The resurgence overtook the predators and were then sprayed for. The residual did its job and gave the predators time to build their numbers even more and take on this third occurrence with ease. Stay tuned for some important findings on trials conducted this season.



Picture By: Drew Higgins

Sorghum in the area has also fallen victim to these impressive spider mite numbers as they rolled across our counties. Fields have been sprayed here and there but not to the extent of our corn. Still very important to Sugar cane aphid (SCA) has been put on the back burner up until now. Along with the boll worm they could become our major pest for the area in the coming weeks.

Here to the right we can see hedgehog grain aphids. Not an invasive species but certainly a rare sight here on the Western High Plains. Found North of Texico on grain sorghum. These guys are going to be very hyperactive in comparison to other aphids found in sorghum.

Assessed on a case by case basis, based on population per leaf, and plants per acre.



Picture By: Eddie Meeks



In previous news letters we talked about control methods and thresholds to prevent a serious problem. If you do not have this information please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to share this with you.

Seems like the SCA is trying to creep up on us a bit, the picture above is taken in Hart as only the first two towers were effected. Where water is plentiful and the crop flourished. Reports are coming in South of Black as they make their way from SE to NW.

For those of you with millet this SCA could effect you as well if their primary crop is not readily available.

Grain Sorghum Action Threshold	
Growth Stage	Decision Threshold Specific to the Sugarcane Aphid
Pre-Boot	20% of plants with presence of aphids
Boot	20% of plants infested with 50 aphids per leaf
Flowering-Milk	30% of plants infested with 50 aphids per leaf
Soft Dough	30% of plants infested, localized areas with heavy honeydew, and established aphid colonies
Dough	30% of plants infested, localized areas with heavy honeydew, and established aphid colonies
Black Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy honeydew and established aphid colonies • Treatment only for preventing harvest problems • Important to observe preharvest intervals

Sugarcane Aphid in an UTC at Halfway experiment station.

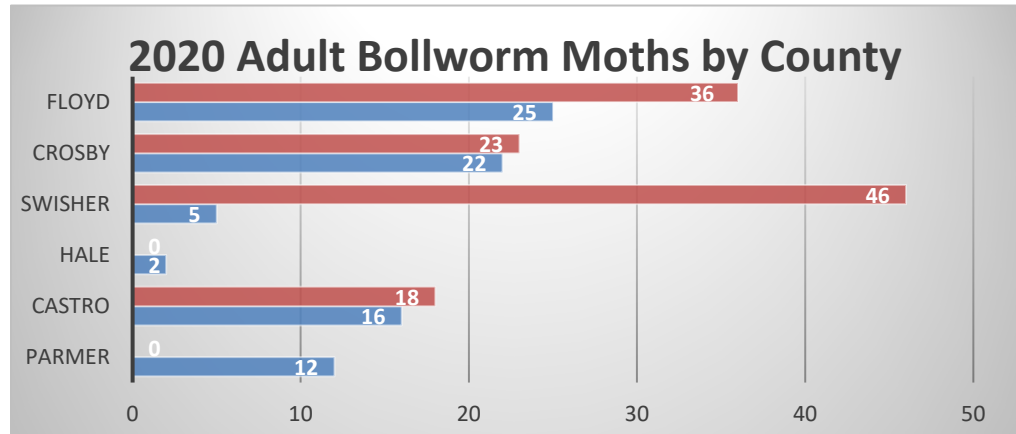
Caught an isolated insodence of a hail just South of Stegall. After speaking with the producer after the event. The decision was to keep the crop till grain harvest. The question was great if you have a hail out, whats the move? The answer is it's a case by case choice. This could have gone either way, I believe given the circumstances that the correct dicision was made.

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Red is this week Blue is last week

Parmer, and Hale County trap got blown over so the number was not caught. Numbers for the area this year are very low but could change very quickly if we lax on the scouting as we wrap up potential problems for the year.



A message from Allstar Fuel, offering competitive rates, give Mark True a call at (940) 229-1976 Mobile mtrue@allstarfuel.com Office (806) 296 6353



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