



HIGH PLAINS IPM Update

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

August 15, 2020



High Plains Crop Update

Lot of things to talk about as we enter into the dreaded boll worm scouting season. We have been fortunate believe it or not, that pests have been fairly low across the board with the exception of spider mites.

Cotton is up first, with a range of 2 to 6 NAWF accounting fields close to Maple and Sudan making up our younger cotton in the area. Eastern Castro making up our further along cotton crop. Parmer county falling in the middle with a small range between 3-5.

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 in order to establish control.



Our counties are also subject to a few incidences of stink bug damage, this can be found mainly across Parmer or Bailey. With stink bugs a producer really doesn't see the quantity of the insect but the quality of the damage being done by staining lint before harvest. The harm will be seen at the gin in the form of dockage.

Best way to scout for these if you believe this could be a problem is harvest 100 $\frac{3}{4}$ grown bolls and dissect them. This will find your percent infestation to determine if action needs to be taken.

Eggs will almost always be in clusters and will resemble closely compacted pearls in my opinion. These egg lays come in many different colors and the green stink bug (most predominate) is pictured to the left with its Maroon or dark red egg lays. Eggs are found under leaves and in flowering bolls.





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% - 50% milk line to black layer maturity. I understand bills have to be paid, water isn't plentiful, and we don't live in a perfect world.

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.

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. 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.

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.

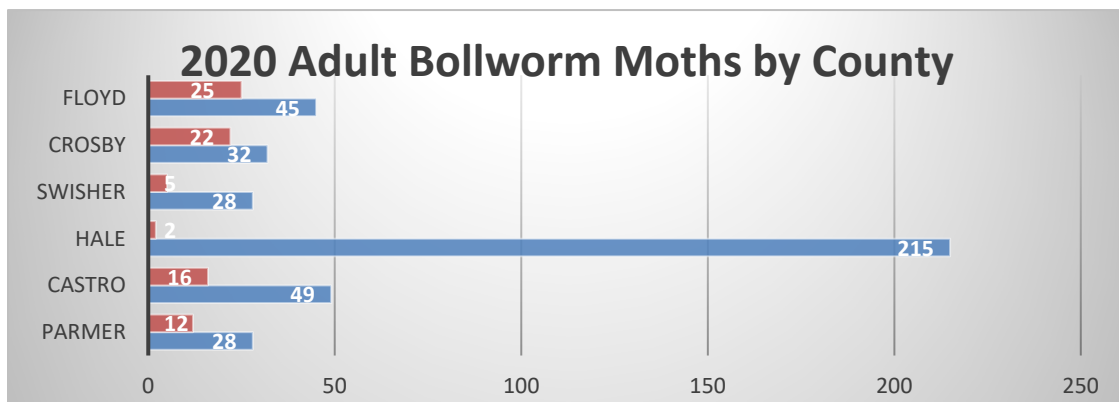
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