



Western  
HIGH  
PLAINS  
IPM  
Update

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



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IPM Podcast Click

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## Western High Plains Crop Update

Welcome to the first official newsletter for the season!

Not a great deal of things to cover in this first newsletter of the season I promise, just a bit of light reading.

Start off with **Wheat** in the area, many of you are hanging onto the wheat as it hangs on to life in these arid conditions to say the least. Russian wheat aphid and brown mite have been a major player this year on top of this drought. Weed pressure is an ever-persistent problem and control costs aren't getting any lower. If you would like to speak on specifics give me a call for discussion!

Pictured below is an image from Bula Tx. (SE of Muleshoe) depicting just how dry it is out there. This Rattlesnake is dead and this is the pose he chose to go out in. Thanks to **Larry Clawson** for taking the picture and his brother **Michael** for sharing it.

Moving right along with **Corn** in the area, acres are slowly starting to accumulate as we progress closer and closer to June. I would estimate only 30% of acres have been planted in the tri-county area most of these acres in Castro county. Many acres have been cut back due to this drought. Plans have been changed and many acres have been replanned to either holding on to wheat, planted to cotton or are being put off to be later planted to sorghum.



**I would like to invite everyone to check out their County's Facebook pages for updates on local events and actives!**

[Bailey](#)

[Castro](#)

[Parmer](#)

**Sorghum** in the area is very slowly being looked at, mainly as a “Well I booked some seed this year but I can always return it if it doesn’t rain” standpoint. Acres should slowly begin to trickle in as contracts are still a fair price for silage as well as for grain.

**Cotton** in the area, across the three counties is an ever pressing issue, as it is every year. Where to plant first, variety selection is still a huge issue with producers, and I have been asked my opinion on many varieties. From what I can tell about 60% of acres have been planted with some slight lack in optimism in the result of it making anything, or even coming up for that matter. That being said, producers have been pre-irrigating and have seen fair stands despite the extreme lack of environmental moisture.

I would like to give everyone a quick look at what I will be a part of this year on the research side of things!

- Two brown mite trials in Wheat (finished)
- Russian Wheat Aphid Trial (on-going)
- Red Spidermite trial (prospective)
- Moth trapping & monitoring trial with Texas Corn Producers (prospective)
- Pyrethroid resistance study (prospective)
- Spray tip study on efficiency of Auxin tips (prospective)
- PGR study with Stance (Bayer) on benefits of application timing (prospective)
- Assisting on In-furrow treatments for SCA halfway experiment station (on-going)
- Parmer County Cotton Race Trial (on-going)
- Headworm efficiency in sorghum, testing Spear Lep (Vesteron) (prospective)
- Phytogen variety trial Parmer county (on-going)
- Banks grassmites product efficacy trial (prospective)
- Sorghum Variety trial 30 varieties (prospective)



Russian Wheat Aphids, Wheat, Bushland Tx.



Blayne Reed and Myself counting brown mites, Picture taken by Brandy Reed

Let me know if you have any questions about anything! Y’all stay safe out there and keep praying for rain. Look forward to seeing many of you this year as I make my way around!

I want to say a huge Thank-you to all of my sponsors this year, great to see the support in both my program but also in their local community!



Tyson Schulte (Bayer)



Jorge Moreno (Vestaron)



Sam Rustom (FMC)



Kevin Harris (Gowan)



Adam Hixon (BASF)



Ben Benton & Michelle Harre  
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Craig Rohrbach & Colten Bison  
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