



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 August, buckle up its going to be a long one.

Cotton Ranges in stage from 7 NAWF to 1 NAWF. Main concern right now is the amount of boll retention seen across the three counties. Now is the time growers are seeing shed of these very young bolls that were just being considered a boll then dropped with the heat. It's very likely that this damage is a few weeks old and just hung in there turning yellow but a strong wind hasn't come up yet so it didn't all go on the ground right away.

For this region for the most part anything under 1/3 grown squares aren't going to make it in time. Couple exceptions to this of course, depending on first freeze, what kind of heat we are going to get in August and so on. Last year it seemed we got our heat units made up quickly, this year it looks to be slowing down in heat units and increase in cloud cover as we get a couple light showers here and there.

Entomologically we are mighty light so far, I like to harp on the bollworms, stinkbugs, beneficial insects and other late season cotton stainers. Simply due to the fact that we can keep our eyes out for them as opposed to doing a rain dance!

PGR applications are being considered along with some late season weed suppression, applications this late need to be pretty stout if anything is hoped to be achieved. We turned the corner a bit in the overall health of the crop, looking a bit better. Measure those inner-nodes, take into consideration the stage, remember that the plant is going to grow it simply decreases the gap between cells. If you decide to put a pgr out this late I would recommend not doing anything under 18oz of Mepiquat (Generic). **Always** follow the label and recommended use rate, but make it worth your while if you're going across it this late.

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

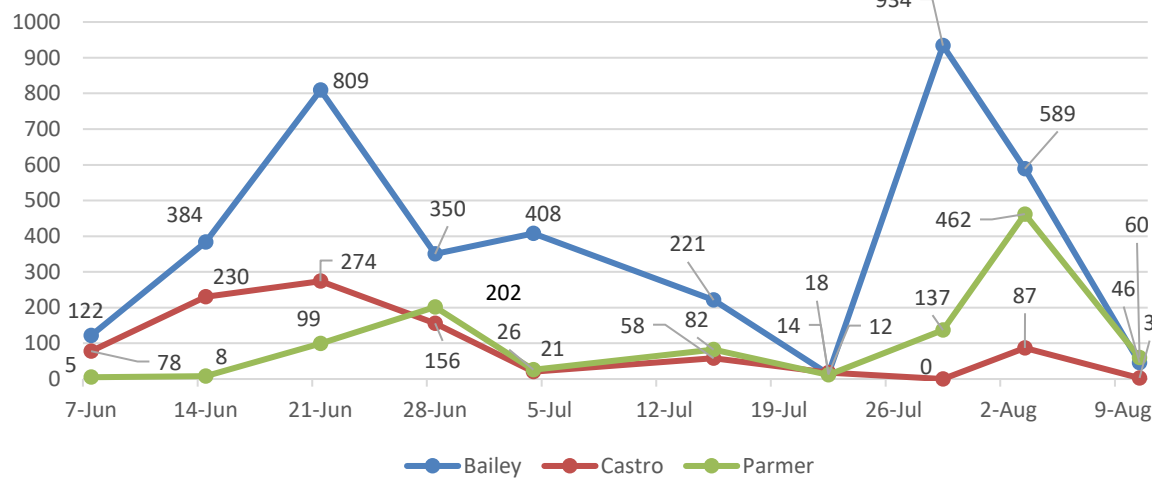
[Bailey](#)

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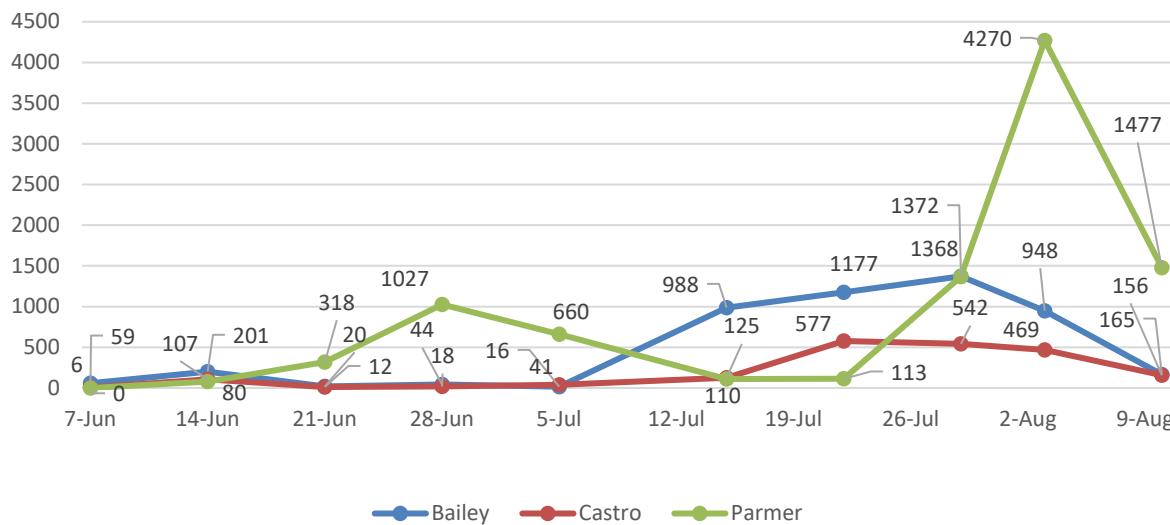
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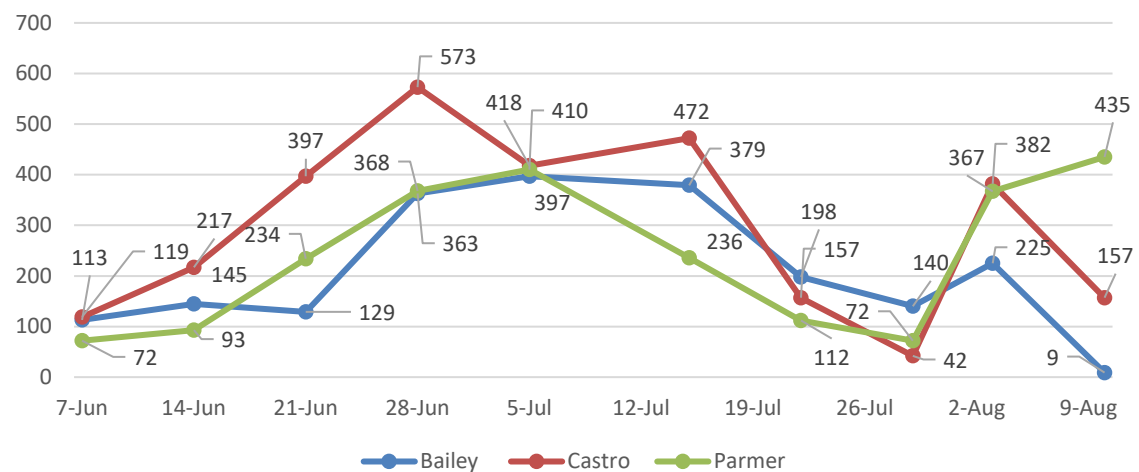
Fall Armyworm Counts



Southwestern Corn Borer Counts



Corn Ear Worm Moth Counts



Populations for the most part are dropping but hey, they could be up again next week. Like the weather it doesn't look to be setting a trend. As I spoke about above I believe these populations are following a bit of the nearest non-bt field they are located to. It would be interesting to see the population variance next year if I put a trap in a pasture a couple miles from a field. This population decrease could suggest that as the crops progress through this season some of these moths are coming to their final flight and egg lay. I will say, based on previous years we are still in for another flush CEW, as the insect is starting to appear in later planted corn. Stay tuned, doing this till September.



Sorghum in the area ranges greatly from V-8 to soft dough out across the tri-county area. Populations are all over the place but I haven't caught them in anything that hasn't thrown out a head yet. As I said last week you are going to catch them in the more dense canopy covered areas. Once that shading starts they like to get in there. In the picture you'll see the adults, immatures, and mummified sorghum aphids. Keep an eye on how far up the plant they get based on V-stages and where that predator population is in correlation with them. **You may get away with not treating! If you need to treat do not treat on a cooler day ie <75 degrees. Shouldn't be to hard to avoid that!!**

Corn in the area is hot, to say the least! Starting to see a turning the corner a bit with the input on investment in irrigation that producers have put down. Sun Scalding and that white papering of the leaves still an issue as it was beat up with the harsher dryer conditions opens an invitation Spidermite activity has been fairly active with this hot and dry weather. Roughly 60% of fields have been sprayed so far. Mainly in the "corn country" over there in Castro County. **Threshold is 30% of the leaf on 30% of plants.** Miticides typically take **10 days to work.** Keep that in the back of your mind. When using a miticide know the population, the stage of the insect and the severity of the pest. Not all miticides are made equal. They all have what they are good at and when used correctly work very effectively! Got an instance of the red mite in the field last week. The redmite isn't as widespread as the banks or two spot but



Picture credit to Dr. Patrick Porter

can do the same damage due to the fact that it IS a two-spotted mite.

Y'all sign up for the podcast if you'd like to hear regional findings, catch me on KDHN 102.7FM or 1470AM out of Dimmitt Wednesday mornings at 7:15 check your county Facebook pages for more information.

Stay classy high plains.