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PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

Calhoun, Refugio & Victoria Counties

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Current Conditions

Rainfall totals for the month of June range from 0 to 4+ inches. Moisture conditions vary greatly across Calhoun, Refugio and Victoria Counties but most of the area is still below average rainfall. The crop could use another couple of inches of rain in the next week.

Temperatures have been close to average for the month.

Field Meetings

I will hold Scouting / Crop Management Meetings at the locations of my field trials when I plan to be there for data collection or treatment applications. One CEU in IPM are available at these meeting. Meeting will be as follows:

Calhoun County - Monday, June 24 at 9:00 a.m., FM 1679 and Sweetwater Rd. in cotton field at north.

Refugio County - Wednesday, June 26 at 9:00 a.m., Levein Rd., north of Boenig Rd.

Grain Sorghum

Most of the sorghum fields are past bloom with some at hard dough. Continue to scout fields for **stink bugs** and **headworms** until the majority of the field has reached hard dough. We are finding stink bugs and headworm in most sorghum fields and some of these fields are above threshold. **Decide to treat on a field by field basis.** I have found adjacent fields where one is well below threshold and the other needs treatment. Treating sub-threshold fields is a waste of insecticide and money.

The Economic Threshold for sorghum insects is dependent of the cost of control, crop value and number of heads per acre. See the economic threshold calculators on the internet here: <https://insects.tamu.edu/extension/apps/>

Sorghum Insect Research Locations Needed

I am looking for a sorghum field with high numbers of either stink bugs or headworms for an insecticide trial. We tried earlier this week and the insect population crashed.

These trials require nothing on your part except to leave a small part of the field untreated.

If you are spraying with a ground rig, please remember to call me if you have a field with more than 1 stink bug per head or 0.5 headworms per head. 361-920-1138

New Sorghum Scouting Video

A new demonstration on how to scout sorghum after bloom was completed this week!

You can view the video at the IPM newsletter site at: <http://calhoun.agrilife.org/newsletters/ipm-newsletter/>



Rice Stink Bug



Cotton

Cotton fields range from squaring to later bloom. Cotton has from 6-9 nodes above white flower (NAWF). **Watch for the date your cotton fields reach 5 NAWF.** From this point we can determine when your crop is “safe” from insect yield losses.

I am planning on spraying my second attempt at a cotton fleahopper trial Tuesday. The insects don't always cooperate and last time they left my research plots so we will try again.

We are finding **cotton fleahoppers, stink bugs** and **Verde plant bugs** in cotton fields and I am beginning to crack bolls looking for evidence of stink bug feeding.

- Monitor squaring cotton for cotton fleahopper and Verde plant bug. Treat when numbers exceed 15 per 100 plants.
- Begin looking for evidence of **stink bug and Verde plant bug** feeding in cotton 10 days after first bloom using an economic threshold of 20% bolls with evidence of feeding.

Soybeans

Soybean fields range from bloom to pod fill.

- Fields should be checked for stink bugs with either a drop cloth or sweep net.
- Treat soybeans when they exceed 36 stink bugs per 100 sweeps or 1 per foot of row with drop cloth.
- Reduce the threshold to 24 per 100 sweeps or 2 per 3 feet if red-banded stink bug is a majority of species found.

Cotton Bolls, Fruit and Squares

It's interesting to listen to someone not connected to cotton production talk about a cotton plant. Often they refer to open bolls containing seed cotton as “cotton balls.”

We have some peculiar names for the fruiting structures of the cotton plant. Floral buds are called “squares”, but not because they are square, which they are not. I was once told they are “squares” because this was the shape given them when agronomists were plant mapping.

There is approximately three days difference in age in first position fruit as you move up the plant and six days difference from first to second position on a branch.

Research Projects

Current field projects include:

- Sorghum planting rate in Refugio and Calhoun Counties
- AflaGuard use in corn for reducing aflatoxin in Refugio County
- Thrips control with foliar insecticides in Victoria County
- Fungicide use in grain sorghum in Victoria County
- Cotton Fleahopper control with foliar insecticides in Calhoun County
- Stink bug and headworm control in Sorghum

Looking for locations for the following trials:

- Stink bug and/or headworm control in Sorghum (Still needed!)
- Fall armyworm control in bermudagrass pastures

I am interested in conducting research to solve pest management issues on your farm. Call me if you have something I should look into. 361-920-1138

Support for the 2013 IPM Program comes from the following:

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Numerous Producers

