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PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Calhoun, Refugio & Victoria Counties

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Crop Tours

Calhoun County (186 CR 101, Port Lavaca)	4:00 p.m.	17 June	361-552-9747
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Grain Sorghum

Sorghum maturity ranges from boot to soft dough stage. We continue to watch fields for the **sugarcane aphid** but are also watching for **Midge, Stink bugs and headworms**.

A number of fields have been treated for sugarcane aphid in the past week. I am using an Action Threshold of 100 aphids per leaf on upper and lower leaves. However, if a field has more than 100 aphids per leaf, re-check the field in 48 hours to see if the numbers are increasing or decreasing. Then you will have more information to make your management decision.

The results of the insecticide trial we conducted last week for control of sugarcane aphid are in the table below (Table 1). Several of the insecticides showed good control on the upper leaves but nozzle selection proved to be an issue with getting adequate coverage lower in the canopy. I suggest using a spray tip that will push the spray droplets to the lower canopy. Applications I have seen work well have used flat fans, twin jets, and air induction tips. It is also important to use higher spray volumes of 10-15 gallons per acre. A hollow cone nozzle with less than 6 GPA will not provide acceptable control.

We have seen the sugarcane aphid populations rise and fall quickly in some fields. Thus, it is important to check sorghum fields on a 3-4 day schedule once you detect this aphid. And recheck the field in 48 hours after detecting more than an average of 100 aphids per leaf.

Insecticides available for use for sorghum aphid this year are Transform, Chlorpyrifos and Dimethoate. But Chlorpyrifos and Dimethoate have pre harvest intervals of 30 and 28 days and are really not an option on most sorghum fields.

For those who also have haygrazer, this aphid can also cause problems in you hay pastures and should be monitored.

We are finding **sorghum midge and rice stink bugs** in low numbers and have not found many headworms yet. Continue to scout for midge throughout bloom. Stink Bugs and headworms can cause yield losses until hard dough.



Sugarcane Aphids and Lady Beetles



Rice Stink Bug Egg Mass and Adult

Table 1. Effect of insecticide on sugarcane aphid on grain sorghum.

Trt No.	Treatment Name	Rate	Unit	6/9/2014 3 DA-A	6/12/2014 6 DA-A
1	Transform	0.75	oz/a	80.7 bc	0 b
2	Transform	1	oz/a	82.5 bc	0 b
3	Chlorpyrifos	1	qt/a	14.6 c	0 b
4	Dimethoate	1	pt/a	267.8 a	57.5 a
5	Endego	5	oz/a	155.4 ab	13.3 b
6	Centric	2.5	oz/a	72.3 bc	1.2 b
7	Sivanto	8	oz/a	70.4 bc	0 b
8	Untreated Check			206.9 a	24.4 ab

LSD (P=.05)	122.17	36.03
Standard Deviation	83.07	24.49
CV	69.9	203.38
Replicate F	3.754	2.56
Replicate Prob(F)	0.0265	0.0823
Treatment F	4.095	2.777
Treatment Prob(F)	0.0056	0.0328

Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=.05, LSD)



Green Stink Bug



Red-Shouldered Stink Bug

Soybeans

We continue to find brown, southern green, red-banded and red-shouldered stink bugs in area soybean fields. Treat stink bugs when numbers exceed 36/100 sweeps, or 24/100 sweeps for Red-Banded Stink bugs.

Cotton

Cotton fields are blooming and have 7-9 nodes above white flower. We continue finding cotton fleahoppers but I am not concerned about fleahoppers after bloom as we already have most of the harvestable yield on the plant beyond the ability of fleahoppers to damage.

Continue to look for Verde Plant Bugs and Stink Bugs. Treat for Verde plant bugs when populations exceed 15 bugs per 100 plants. Stink bugs economic threshold is when 20% of 1-inch bolls have evidence of internal feeding.

Support for the 2013 IPM Program comes from the following:

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