



Friday May 10 Rainshowers

Friday's rain showers danced around the outskirts of Gaines County.



You just have to laugh sometimes & shake your head in bewilderment of these crazy weather patterns...Friday afternoon, my neighbor who works in Denver City in the oil industry said that his boss told him to go home that morning because it had rained to much in Denver City. And here we were standing at our houses in Seminole (20 miles from Denver City) and the soil was dry as a bone. It is amazing to see the storms divert around Gaines County. Well as the story always goes...we are one day closer to the next rainfall.

General Situation

Several producers have already finished planting peanuts. Runner peanuts will not dominate Gaines County peanut fields this year. Instead we will see an increase in the acreage of the other market types.

Some producers started planting cotton this week, while others will hold off till next week. I know some producers are still trying to determine which varieties to plant this year. If you are one of those producers, be sure to check out the results from our 2011 and 2012 Gaines

County Cotton Variety Trials. I have posted the results from these trials on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Gaines County website

<http://gaines.agrilife.org/publications/>

The results from these trials should be a good indicator of how individual varieties are likely to preform in 2013, seeing how we are going into a very similar scenario to the 2011 and 2012 season.

Adapting to the Dry Conditions

The dry conditions are on everyone's mind, but producers are pushing forward and making adjustments in their planting plans. Most producers do not want to get caught up in the same scenario that occurred in 2011, where they didn't have enough water to adequately irrigate all their planted acres. Therefore, this year some producers have cut back the number of acres that they are going to plant. Cutting back the number of acres will allow these producers to concentrate their water and inputs on less acres, which will likely benefit the plants and result in higher yields. We all know how important it is to get our plants off to a good start. Because early season stresses (example: lack of water, competition with weeds, nematodes, wind damage, etc...) have longing impacts on plant development and yield.

Managing Resistant Weeds

2012 brought us several unwanted guests...glyphosate resistant pigweeds! And these pigweeds left behind several of their offspring to torment us this year. Therefore, we have to prepare our fields in a manner that will be unwelcoming for these unwanted guests.

Herbicide programs should be well thought-out programs that start with a preplant incorporated herbicides & include overlapping residual herbicides with different modes of action. And always use the recommend rates and properly incorporate (mechanically or with water) residual herbicides. I would highly encourage all farms to not rely solely on glyphosate, even if you didn't find any resistant weeds in your 2012 crops. One of the most frustrating factors with resistance pigweeds is that pollen from resistance weeds can travel in the wind from fields down the road or from the other side of the sand hump.

We have all heard the song and dance that states in the Southeast have been preaching in regards to controlling & preventing resistance weeds. Now it is our turn to take these words of experience to heart and apply them in west Texas. The key is to think prevention. Start out clean and stay clean. And don't let any escapes go to seed!

Wheat

We have seen a mixed bag in regards to freeze damage in our wheat fields. Some fields managed to escape freeze damage.



While other fields did not fair so well. Fields are having to be evaluated on a field by field basis. For more information on freeze damage, see the last couple of editions of the FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture Newsletters

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus-newsletter/>

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