CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

August 4, 2017

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If you would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list please email tara.johnson@ag.tamu.edu THANK YOU

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Benefit for Felipe	Aug. 26
Tri– Co. Crop Tour	Sept.12
Nexgen Field Day	Sept. 19
Dove Hunt	Sept. 20

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COTTON

Well it looks like we missed out on the monsoon that was being predicted for the entire week, we will just have to keep praying and dancing. This rain would have been extremely welcomed and timely as fields are stressing more in the heat of the day and the increasing boll load will add to the stress. There is not a whole lot going on right now, but several things on my radar. As many of you heard, a couple of fields in Region 1 were treated for bollworms one week ago. This is basically the same scenario we saw last season, the moths are attracted to this lush tall cotton. In my opinion, the moth flight, egg lay, and number of surviving worms is not as high as last year. I would also mention I have been seeing bollworm eggs in other fields around the area. Fields with 1.25-1.75 gpm/a have had eggs in the terminals this past week. This does not mean you need to go treat your fields, it just means you need to keep an eye out, especially under bloom tags.

Another reason to be scouting fields and not just spraying for pests is because of the aphids. Aphids have been hanging out in low numbers all summer long and all they need now is something new to trigger a flare-up. Kill off some beneficials, disrupt their ecosystem and we are out spraying again. Combine this with reports of spider mites in the Concho Valley and there is plenty to spray for. Stink bugs have been few and far between up to this point, hopefully it will stay that way. As more cotton sets bolls that are now susceptible to feeding damage.

Aside from needing a good drink, most of this crop is holding on fairly well. I have started to see just a little boll shed in places which was inevitable, most fields checked are still holding about 67% of their fruit on the plant. Earlier planted fields, most of the dryland and short water is now down to around 3-6 NAWF. The late planted fields and ones with a little better water are running 5-8 NAWF. Last week this crop progressed quite a bit. Fortunately, we still have time to set fruit and add to our yields.

TURNROW MEETINGS	
Tuesday, August 8	9:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, August 9	9:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop
Tuesday, August 15	9:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, August 16	9:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop

CORN/SORGHUM

For all practical purposes, both of these crops are finished. In fact, a little is being cut right now. Sugarcane aphid has still not shown up in the 3 counties this year, but is making a slow march northward. I know of several blocks of late planted sorghum and haygrazer, but if you have something tucked away let me know so I can keep an eye on it for SCA.

WEED CONTROL

Overall, our cotton looks pretty clean this year. I guess that is what happens when you do not get much rain in the summer. On the other hand, some of this wheat stubble that is laying out is starting to get away. An application now will help prevent those weeds from going to seed and you having to fight them next year as well as saving some soil moisture.

PECAN WEEVIL

Pecan weevils will be emerging in couple of weeks. The pecans are nearing the gel or dough stage now when treatments should be initiated. Sevin or a synthetic pyrethroid such as Brigade, Warrior, Karate, Mustang Max, and Hero are the products of choice on pecan weevils. Check your earliest developing nuts and treat if the gel stage has been reached.

Research shows that the pecan weevil adults typically emerge from their soil cells (4”-10” beneath the surface) from mid-August to mid-September to mate and oviposit in pecan nut (emergence can be monitored by using a number of different emergence cages, checking dropped nuts in August for feeding punctures, etc.) Successful management strives to prevent adult females from successfully laying eggs in the developing kernels (nuts still in the water stage are not yet susceptible to oviposition, but as they transition through the gel stage, kernel development beginning at the tip allows eggs to be placed in them.) There is a 3-5 day period from when the adult emerges from the soil to when they can successfully begin to lay eggs in susceptible nuts. Emerging weevils should be killed before oviposition begins and Carbaryl or a pyrethroid are the standard pesticides used for this purpose. Pecan varieties like ‘Pawnee’ begin kernel formation in early August and should be protected based on when the first emerging weevils are found; other varieties, like ‘Stuart’, may not begin kernel formation until early September, and pecan weevils emerging earlier can be allowed to accumulate until ‘Stuart’ reaches the gel stage, when treatment must be made to prevent successful oviposition in them. The residual of Carbaryl is about 10-14 days and, if pecan weevils continue to emerge from their soil cells following an initial treatment, a second or even a third treatment may be needed to prevent economic damage from occurring.

	May 10	May 20	June 1	June 10
Daily ET	.231 in/day	.231 in/day	.231 in/day	.0924 in/day
Total water use	9.635 in	7.874 in	4.03 in	2.37 in

HEAT UNITS

Heat units since 5/10, 5/20, 6/1, and 6/10 are compared with last year and the five year average in the table below. Cotton grows best at temperatures between 65 and 90 degrees. As both the high and low temperatures climb, it puts more stress on the plant.

DATE	5/10	5/20	6/1	6/10
2017	1672	1529	1383	1234
2016	1718	1624	1418	1300
5 Year AVG	1610	1492	1096	1157