

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

March 29, 2019

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

WHEAT



A couple of things are evident while driving around the area right now. First, the ten inches of rain that we received last October did not go far enough when it comes to producing a wheat crop. Second, all that rain took a lot of nitrogen with it. I'm sure you noticed how yellow this wheat crop looked when it was getting established and even how yellow some of them still look, this is primarily due to lack of nitrogen.

As this crop enters the boot stage in many cases and with only one month out of the past five having reached our average rainfall for the month, the effects are starting to show. Blue, drought stressed areas are showing up in many fields, and in some cases the whole field is blue. In many instances it coincides with how much the ground was worked prior to sowing and fertility levels. If you have not done so already, I would highly recommend a soil test this year as this could be a common problem everywhere. I have not received the results back on my soil samples yet, but it would not surprise me if we are also short on sulphur, calcium, magnesium, and possibly chloride since many of these nutrients are highly mobile. Also, any field that suffered severe washing may be deficient in any number of nutrients from physical removal.

The one positive about it drying out is that we do not have the rust issues that they are looking at elsewhere around the state. Of course, I have always said a rust year is a generally a good wheat year because you have probably had moisture. The couple of locations where I found leaf rust earlier have dried up. If we get into some weather the spores are out there, especially if you have a susceptible variety. The South Texas Winter Garden has been fighting leaf rust and an increasing level of stripe rust. It would not take much to blow it up here.



I have noticed a few greenbugs in area fields but nothing to get me too concerned. Beneficials are finally starting to build a bit. Just want to keep our eyes open. Currently my greatest concern, and it is not all that great, is that we get through this weekend without any really cold temperatures. Wheat in the boot can handle temps down to around 28° F. We are not forecast to get down that cold.

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COTTON

As I was saying in the wheat section, fertility may be an issue in cotton this year. This might be a year where a starter fertilizer might help or as growers are trying to do a better job of getting phosphorus out early, a little nitrogen at the same time would help. The only way to know exactly how much, or how much was leached out is with a soil test.

There are still a lot of hay grazer and sorghum stalks that have not been plowed that has me curious as to what everyone's intentions are. I know strip-till and no-till acres have increased the last several years, but will all of these acres be strip-till/no-till and how many will be plowed? If anyone is interested in any kind of long term trial, using strip-till, no-till, and conventional tillage, I would be interested in looking at it and weighing the cotton for the next several years.

TEST PLOTS

At this point I still have a few test plots available that I am looking for growers to work with. Of course I don't mind having more trials than I planned originally. I am primarily needing irrigated locations. If anyone is interested give me a call.

2,4-D AND AUXIN TRAININGS

As most everyone should know by now, anyone applying 2,4-D or Dicamba to cotton this summer has to go through an Auxin herbicide training. Also, anyone applying Dicamba has to be a licensed applicator. To date, I have held 3 trainings in the area. If anyone else needs to be trained call the office and we'll see if we can get you taken care of. Also, Reagan Co. is holding a pesticide applicator training on April 22nd and Upton Co. is holding one on April 23rd.

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING REAGAN & UPTON COUNTIES

1st Training :
Monday, April 22, 2019

9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.
Reagan County Extension Office
1430 North Ohio(4-H Building)
Big Lake, TX 76932

RSVP by Monday, April 08, 2019
to 325-884-2335

Please submit payment (cash or check) to:
Reagan County Extension Office
PO Box 945, Big Lake, TX 76932

2nd Training :
Monday, April 23, 2019

9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.
Upton County Extension office
1000 North Hwy 329
Rankin 79778

RSVP by Monday, April 08, 2019
to 432-693-2313

Please submit payment (cash or check) to:
Upton County Extension Office
PO Box 7, Rankin, TX 79778

Individual registration is \$50.00. The fee includes the Private Applicator Manual and a Texas Department of Agriculture Laws and Regulations Manual.

Texas Department of Agriculture is the regulatory agency that administers the actual test and issues the license to individuals meeting all requirements.

“The Training is designed to provide pesticide safety education while preparing individuals for the required private pesticide applicators test. This license will enable private applicators to purchase and apply state limited use and federally restricted chemicals on their property or agricultural lands they manage.”