

# Plains Pest Management News

September 14, 2012 Volume 2, Issue 8

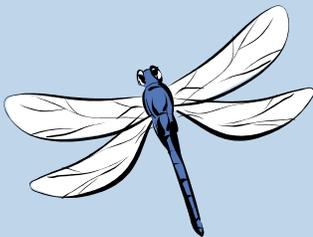


### Inside this issue:

Cotton

Corn & Sorghum

Turn Row meeting



## Cotton

Cotton has made rapid progress over the past two weeks with the warm temperatures. Some early cotton has already been treated with harvest aid products. With the current cold period boll opening will slow.

Harvest aid chemicals are very important for our region to allow early harvest of a mature crop. Often if cotton is left in the field until first freeze, yield losses can occur due to weathering and lint lost on the ground with open boll picker type varieties and less stormproof stripper varieties. I have already observed some lint loss as lower bolls of picker type cotton lose locks on the ground or begin to “string out”.

Harvest aids are well worth the dollars spent, when used with proper timing. Remember that the use of harvest aids including boll openers cannot increase the rate of fiber development.

Defoliant along with boll openers (Ethephon) should be targeted as the field reaches an average of 3 nodes above cracked boll. Dr. Mark Kelly, Extension Cotton Agronomist and others have just released our 2012 Cotton Harvest Aid Guide. It has been posted on the Hale County Agrilife Extension website:

[http://hale.agrilife.org/files/2011/03/2012\\_Harvest\\_Aid\\_Guide.pdf](http://hale.agrilife.org/files/2011/03/2012_Harvest_Aid_Guide.pdf)

On page 3 of the guide it illustrates how to count nodes above cracked boll.

If one prefers to use a desiccant more

bolls must have reached maturity, therefore targeting an average of 2 nodes above cracked boll is suggested.

Another method to determine boll maturity is to select bolls from the upper portion or terminal area of the plant. Slice these bolls with a sharp knife and examine the seed. If the seed coat is tan or turning tan then the boll is mature and harvest aids can be applied with no potential yield loss.

When selecting a defoliant it should be noted that a crop oil concentrate should be added when suggested on the label.

Included with this newsletter are three tables for different yield potentials. There are many selections and combinations to consider. Dr. Mark Kelly, Extension Cotton Agronomist and various County Extension Agents will be conducting tests to evaluate what is working best and this information will be distributed when results are published.

## Corn and Sorghum

When fields dry from recent rainfall harvest will continue for corn and sorghum. Continue to scout late planted sorghum for corn earworm and fall armyworm infestations. Banks grass mites and green bugs are no longer a problem in fields scouted the past two weeks.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

**Turn Row**  
Meeting



Halfway, Texas  
Research Station

**Key Speakers:**

*Wayne Keeling*  
Weed resistance  
Approaches to combat  
weed resistance

*Terry Wheeler*  
Cotton diseases

*Mark Kelly*  
Cotton update & varieties

*Jim Bordovsky*  
Irrigation management

Texas A&M drought  
tolerant corn research.

Tuesday,  
September 18, 2012  
8:30 'til 11:30 a.m.

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**No Fee  
Will be  
Charged**



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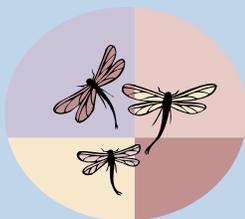
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## **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN HALE & SWISHER COUNTIES**

**Greg Cronholm, Retired**  
**Extension Agent—IPM**  
**Emeritus**



We're on the  
Web  
[http://  
hale.agrilife.org](http://hale.agrilife.org)