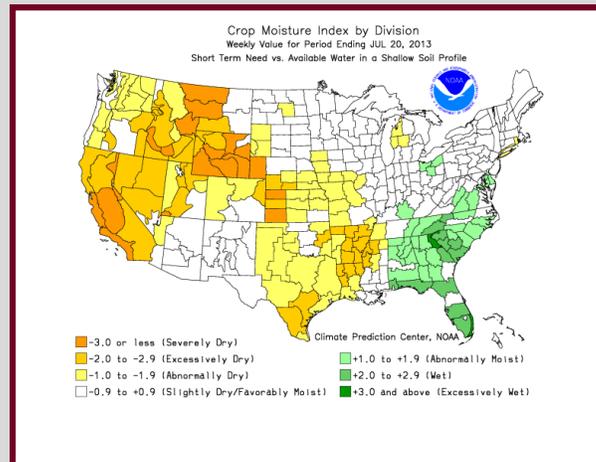


JULY 26, 2013

General Situation

Our problematic pests have remained quiet in our program fields for another week, but we are beginning to sense the under pings of what could turn into a pest busy August. There are rumblings along the IPM network about some possibly large moth flights coming soon for both fall army worms (FAW) and bollworms, Lygus populations seem to be increasing, and we are consistently finding sub-threshold midge on blooming sorghum. Meanwhile weeds continue their relentless pressure. Hale and Swisher Counties have caught some additional rains this week. Amounts varied from a trace up to almost 2". Any amount was welcome and I am not aware of any fields lost due to weather despite some reports of spotty hail. I would urge producers to not expect these rains to carry their crops farther than they truly will. Prior to last week's large rain events our sub-soil moisture was painfully short. For the most part, these rains have given our crops a good shot at good yields, but they have not made the crop yet.



Weeds

The fight to achieve weed control continues, quite desperately in some situations. Producers should not feel discouraged by the occasional weed patch this season. I feel our control measures are working acceptably well as a whole, but the pressure has been phenomenal and I do not feel we have faced weeds like this before. That is not to say we should not continue the attack. Some escapes from any one control method are inevitable and highlight the need for an integrated approach, preferably with three or more modes of action and two or more methods of control. Even with multiple control measures, some weeds are stubbornly hanging on causing us to reach ever deeper into our control bag. Most cotton fields are nearing an acceptable stage for layby treatments if this is an option for you.

The following photos were taken by me in the field this year and depict some control option's levels of weed control success.



A 2013 harvested wheat field without any residual applied post harvest. This could be the total weed population in our summer fields if we tried growing crops with no residual applied.



A 2013 cotton field margin. Both sides of the photo had "yellow" applied pre-plant in March. "Yellow" worked well until it played out in early July. The right half of the photo had glyphosate and S-metolachlor applied over-the-top in late June. July rain events flushed weeds in both sides, the right side was greatly reduced.

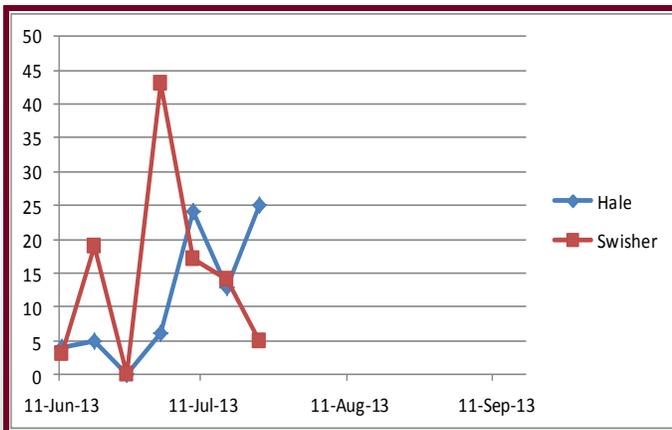
Cotton



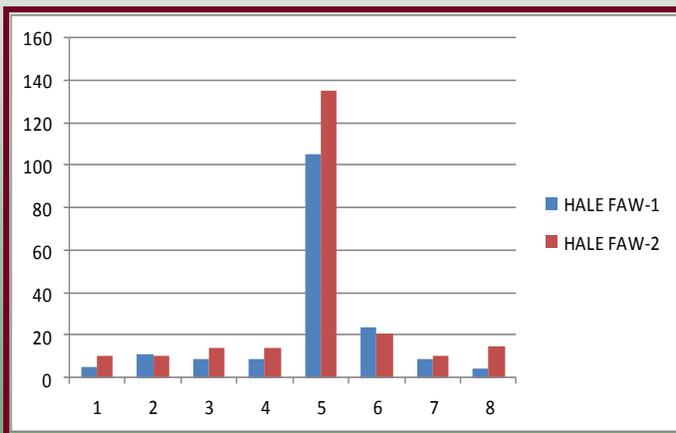
Most of our program cotton fields are or have started blooming. Those that have not were damaged by weather during June. At least 75% of our fields' stages could be measured by nodes above white flower (NAWF). This stage varied from a lush and growthy 9.2 NAWF to a still thirsty 4.5 NAWF. Our latest field had just reached $\frac{3}{4}$ grown square stage and should be blooming soon. Boll set and / or square retention still looked good across all fields no matter stage, ranging from 88.7% to 98.4% fruit retention. As cotton progresses into peak bloom we should experience an increase in natural fruit shed as the plant decides just what it can realistically mature and what it needs to let go of. This makes decisions about plant growth regulators important and judgment calls about plant bug damage difficult.

As I reviewed my old Reed Consulting field notes this week, I noted that my peak Lygus season usually started in Hale and Swisher counties the last week of July and continued until around August 10th. There are numerous factors involved in this timing, but we did note an upward trend for our Lygus populations this week. At this time, Lygus have remained below ET (economic threshold) in all our fields. Fleahoppers have also increased this week, but most fields reached a NAWF stage and thus developed passed economic fleahopper damage. Today, I would consider a good Lygus ET to be 1 Lygus / 3 to 4 ft. if the Lygus have caused a 10 to 20% increase in fruit drop. Any natural fruit drop should not be considered as Lygus caused drop.

We did find one 1st instar bollworm in a Swisher County field this week. It was in a area with little corn or sorghum for worms to ‘sink’ into. In other areas the worms are infesting our program corn at a rate of one worm per ear. This indicates a fairly high population of worms in the region. Amanda Anderson, EA-IPM Gains County, reported treatable levels of bollworms in cotton in Gains County this week. These facts combined with FAW trapping data from Dr. Pat Porter, District 2 Entomologist, in Lubbock County, Gary Cross’, CEA – Hale, FAW trapping in Hale County, and what we are seeing in sorghum this week, we should be expecting a large moth flight of multiple species next month. We will see what eggs and worms make it into our fields at that time. Our Hale and Swisher bollworm moth trap catch numbers remained fairly low, indicating that the worms were still in the field as larva.



2013 Hale & Swisher bollworm trap data.



2013 Hale County FAW trap data.



225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, TX 79072

Tel: 806.291.5267

Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail:

Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

Blog:

<http://halecountyipm.blogspot.com/>

WEB

<http://hale.agrilife.org>

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We're on the air...

"Tuesday's with Blayne"
from 6:00—7:00 AM
& from 12:30—1:00
PM on the 1090 Agri
-Plex Report on 1090
AM KVOP-
Plainview.

"IPM Wednesdays" from
1:00-2:30 PM on The
Fox Talk 950 Ag
Show. Fox Talk 950
AM - Lubbock.

Corn

Our program corn continues to develop well. Our oldest fields are entering dough stage while our youngest are at V8. Spider mites have established themselves in a few area fields around the ear leaf, but the colonies are small, ravaged by predation, and the lower leaves are almost mite free. We need to watch these colonies for economic situations carefully. FAW can be found in the youngest corn fields whorls, but only in worrisome levels if the field is refuge or non Bt.

Sorghum

Sorghum remains as varied in stage as the corn. Our oldest program field is at 75% bloom while our youngest is at V6-7. We are steadily finding midge in blooming sorghum, but still below ET. Infestation levels ranged from 0 to 0.4 per blooming head. A good ET for midge should hover near 1 per blooming head, depending on crop value. Sub-economic FAW 'ragging' up fields are a common find as well.

Please call or come by if we can help! Thanks,

Blayne