

JULY 17, 2014

General Situation

It has been mostly wet and busy week across Hale & Swisher Counties with quite a bit of weather, pest, weed, and field activity. Actual rainfall amounts are hard to grasp area wide with most showers through the earlier part of the week being very spotty. As best I can gather, the area received between 0.8" and just over 3" rain with no majorly damaging weather. The rain was certainly timely for most crops but especially so for post tassel corn and booting sorghum. The weather forecast for this next week should bring lots of heat units for our late or replanted crops.

Weeds

What is the value of adding just one additional mode of action (MOA) to your production acres for weed control? Again a picture is worth a thousand words.



This photo was taken in late June 2014. It is of a small 15 acre southwest corner dryland cotton field. The plainly visible boom width, almost weed-less edge of the field was something of a mystery, especially when the other three corners were just as weed free and the early glyphosate treatment did not touch any of the weeds in the 'bad spot.' There were no differences in chemical application between this and the other corners this season. It was good spray records to the rescue when the producer remembered that during August 2013 he had made an application to the other three corners and just this edge. The producers planed three year, no-till rotation is cotton, wheat,

and summer fallow. For the producer's 2013 August summer fallow herbicide application, he had mixed Roundup PowerMax and 2, 4-D amine. He had neglected to make the application to the 'bad spot' because a southwest wind had gotten up and did not want to damage his 2013 irrigated cotton in the pivot. The next day, the producer treated the rest of this corner with Roundup PowerMax along with the irrigated pivot. No major differences in weed population were noted during on this summer fallow ground for the remainder of the 2013 growing season. Our answer is that there must have been some pigweed survivors to the previous year's Roundup application and the 2014 'bad spot' is a result of their offspring. For the 2014 season the producer neglected to apply pre-plant residual to his dryland acres due to the drought conditions and return considerations.

I am certainly not recommending that we apply any 2, 4-D amine to our cotton this season. But I ask the rhetorical question again. What is the value of just one additional MOA for weed control to your production acres?

Loosing so many of our cotton production acres was truly a shame this season. I would also submit that we must take advantage of this replant with an opportunity style mindset with a different crop that gives you differing MOA options to knock these weeds back (if you have not already or still can).

Cotton

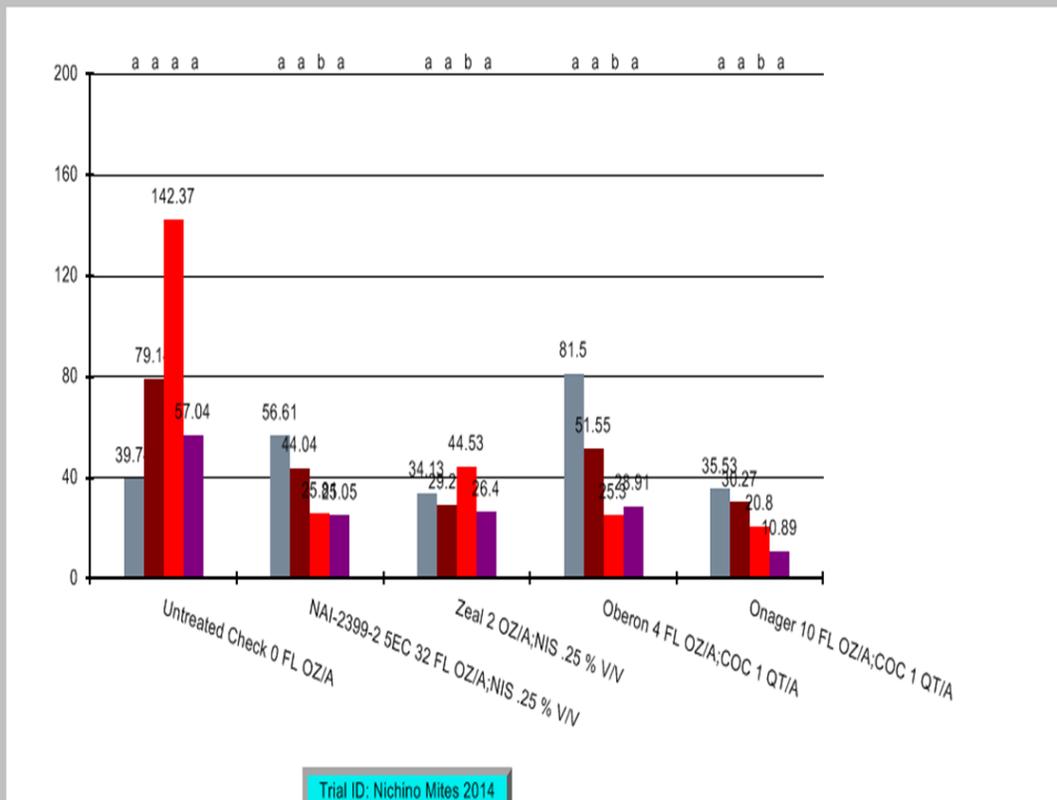
For the release of this newsletter, it is a rain shortened week for our field scouting program. I can report that we had our first bloom sighting! One of our scouts sent me a text photo of the Swisher County cotton bloom about five minutes after I gave a radio report that blooms still looked to be a week away. That bloom was certainly ragged and worn, but was shining a beautiful cream color. Hopefully more will follow suit soon.

Thus far, the stages for our program cotton fields ranged from just larger than match-head to that first bloom with most fields ranging between 1/4 grown square to 2/3 grown square. Fruit retention remained very good again this week at 92 – 100% retention unless fleahoppers were an economic issue. Our predator counts looked pretty good and I estimate that in several fields predation kept the fleahoppers from reaching the economic threshold (ET). Fleahoppers were a common find again this week in most cotton fields and a few acres did reach ET. In our problem field's fruit retention had fallen to 82 to 88%. We also found a few Lygus sneaking into fields, but nothing nearing problem levels.

Corn

Our corn acres remain highly varied in stage with the youngest fields coming in a V4 and our oldest at dough. As usual, once fields reached the tassel stage, both agronomic and pest activity drastically increased.

Spider mites continued to increase in all post-tasseled corn and reached economic levels in a few more fields. There was an up-tick in our key spider mite predators, but these were among some of the first we had seen in some time. Hopefully, they will continue to increase and offer some protection from the threatening mites. Evaluating corn fields infested with spider mites for economic problems will be vital over the next few weeks. As fields reach ET for these mites the best recommendation for control options is data from one of our 2013 miticide efficacy trials.



NAI-2399-2 5EC is the new formulation of Portal.



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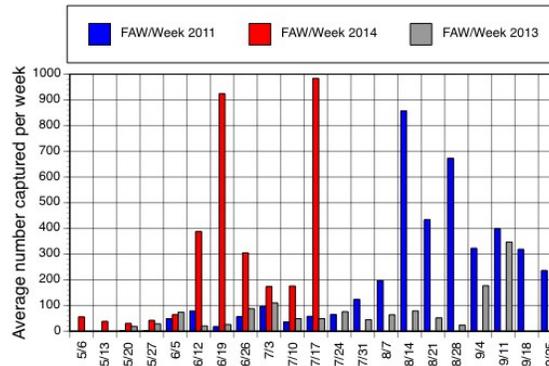
We're on the air...

"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.

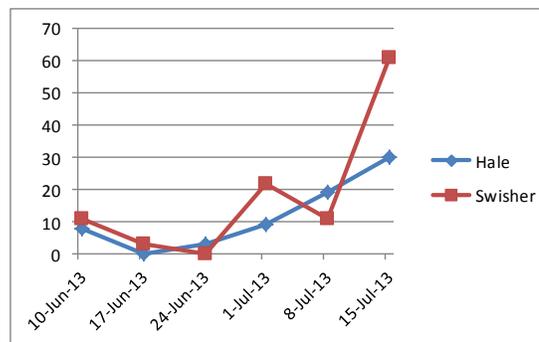
Dr. Pat Porter reports another very large fall armyworm (FAW) moth flight starting this week in Lubbock County. I can confirm that we are finding FAW egg masses in corn at a pretty high rate. We certainly need to be on the lookout for this pest, especially in non Bt corn or sorghum.

2014 fall armyworm pheromone trap captures (moths per week) at Lubbock. 2011 was a high fall armyworm year.



Sorghum

Our program sorghum ranged in stage from V4 to boot. At this time, we are not seeing very many of the usual aphid pest species yet. These aphid species would be the greenbugs, yellow sugar can aphids, and corn leaf aphids. Spider mite populations in sorghum seemed very static this week with little change from last week with many fields hovering watchfully under ET. Sub-economic whorl feeding from the FAW and bollworms are very common. The FAW have become the dominant species we are identifying this week. This information combined with the FAW trap numbers being so high, I have been very concerned about many of our youngest fields with very small plants being consumed by a high FAW population. So far, this concern has not materialized.



2014 bollworm moth trap counts

Please call or come by with any questions,

Blayne Reed