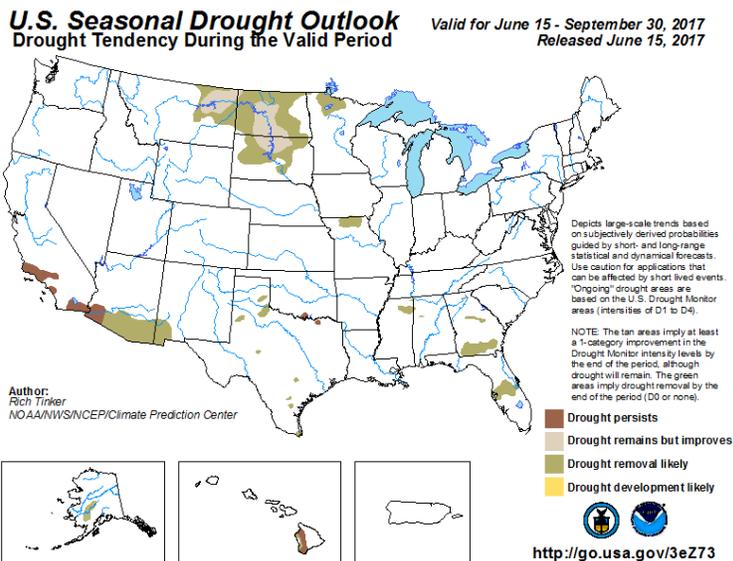


JUNE 23, 2017

General Status

This week has been quiet on the pest front for all three major crops. The near future could be similar, but dark pest clouds could be on the horizon for the long term as hefty populations of Lepidopteran pests might be moving our way from the south soon, our old ‘friend’ the sugarcane aphid is nearby but has not kicked it into ‘high gear’ yet, high heat could flare spider mites in corn at just about any time, and grasshoppers could be of localized concerns again this year. Earlier this week we finally received that much needed, gentle(ish), area wide rainfall event but could already use another. Weed control, herbicide technology, irrigation needs, and replant thoughts and needs in droughted out or hailed out areas seem to be our issues heading into the July 4th Holiday.



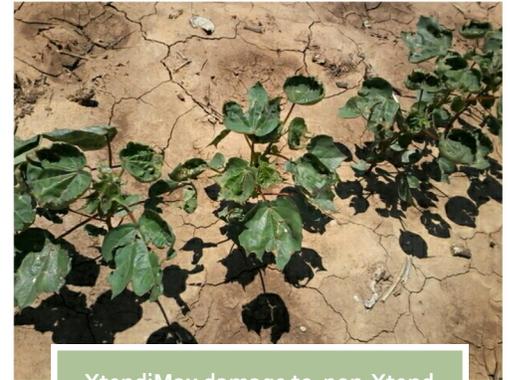
Weeds

Herbicide Hiccups

I believe it is still too early in the use of our new herbicide technology traits and chemistry’s uses to pass judgement for the West Texas environment. As with anything new, there is a learning curve for the end user. So far, we have learned that our weed scientists and specialists did not lie to us. Regardless if we are talking about Enlist or Xtend, they are not a replacement for how effective the Roundup Flex system was 10-15 years ago. We are noting varying levels of weed

survivors behind applications. These surviving weeds do represent an improvement in weed control for most fields, but there are survivors at some level for just about every field so far. We are currently working on plans to control these escapes by the best means possible.

Physical and vitalization drift were big concerns with these new technologies coming into this season. While I am aware of some drift cases out there, my impression is that they are the exception rather than the rule so far. What has been the larger issues so far has been those 'self-inflicted' wounds from 'learning lessons' about how to manage these new herbicides. By this I am referencing numerous issues where custom applicators, hands, or even tank mixes caused unintended and damaging results. I have many references about tanks not being fully cleaned before moving between herbicide technology different fields or some bad mixes with insecticides or foliar feeds that caused issues with cleaning for the next field or the loss of a full sprayer load. Today, I feel most of these issues that I have seen and resulting damage level to be moderate at the highest and any loss recoverable.



XtendiMax damage to non-Xtend cotton via 'dirty' tank carryover in SW Floyd.

As we gain experience with these new herbicides and technologies, the 'land mines' certainly could have been larger. I urge producers to acknowledge they are still out there and avoid any known or recently learned issues while implementing a solid weed IPM plan for the remainder of the season to catch those fewer escaping weeds.



Blue River's new herbicide 'sprayer' on demo in SW Floyd.

Improving Herbicide Application Technology in Testing

Exciting things are in the works for weed IPM, and it is not just in trait technology this time. Blue River Technologies is in the Lubbock area conducting beta testing / demonstrating their new herbicide sprayer technology this month. If this sprayer is not too cost prohibitive, I could consider this type of application technology an answer to many of our weed and herbicide trait issues we, and mostly other areas, are seeing so far while bringing an unprecedented level of herbicide application precision, reducing drift, cutting herbicide cost, and with the potential to

increase weed efficacy. This sprayer, already working under a 'hood,' makes use of cameras near the front of the implement that run images of the field through a unique learning or updatable program designed to differentiate between weed and crop (in this case cotton) very quickly. The CPU running this program will then make precision herbicide treatments to existing weeds only that more resemble precise inkjet printer blots than spray from nozzles. Then a second set of cameras take after images to identify how the application went so the program can improve precision and weed control with experience. Blue River representative, working with our Texas A&M AgriLife Research weed specialists, calculated that their equipment only treated 6% of the area within the treated field while treating 98% of the weeds in that field. That seems an impressive mark with more improvement ideas flowing with each demo and test.

I will leave the fine details to the folks from Blue River, but I wish them (or anyone else working on improvements like this) all Kind Providence in successfully bringing

this type of improving and still evolving technology to market for us successfully and I thank them for letting us 'peek under the hood.' I hope many of you will be able to take the time to catch one of the upcoming Blue River demonstrations in the days to

come. If you are interested in catching a demo your contact information is:

Mac Keely

Vice President - Commercial Operations

Blue River Technology

mobile [+1 831 970 0016](tel:+18319700016)

office +1 [408 733 2583](tel:+14087332583)

mac.k@bluerivert.com



Weeds precisely treated by the Blue River herbicide 'sprayer' leaving all non weed containing areas untreated with no herbicide waste or chemical drift.



Under the 'hood' of the Blue River Machine.

Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management cotton ranged in stage from 2nd true leaf to ½ grown squares. At a time when we would like to see our cotton growing, i.e. developing its root system and fruiting sites, most of our fields seem to be moving slowly, having been through quite a bit of adverse conditions since planting. There are exceptions, some in such an extreme to already be showing a need for PGRs. Our fruit retention, or conversely, fruit drop shows similar rough treatment. Most fields exhibited between 2-9% fruit drop

with no major pest issues adding to the deviation from near square retention perfection we have been privy to the past few seasons.

Fleahoppers remained our pest of note, but 80% of our cotton fields or so had no detectable plant bug population and they did little to add to the fruit drop situation this week. Our highest fleahopper field this week was 1 fleahopper per 19.2 row feet. Lygus are yet to make an appearance in any of our program fields to date. With plant bugs in cotton, the situation can change rapidly with the mowing of a bar ditch, cutting of alfalfa, or dying / drying of other preferred hosts. With natural drop still running high, we will be watching our program fields and square drop percent closely for plant bugs.

Here is a link to access the new Texas A&M AgriLife Extension fact sheet for more information on the management of cotton fleahopper.

http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2017/06/Cotton-fleahopper_ENTO073.pdf

And here is a link to our how to scout for fleahopper video released in 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epVctkRkTHs>

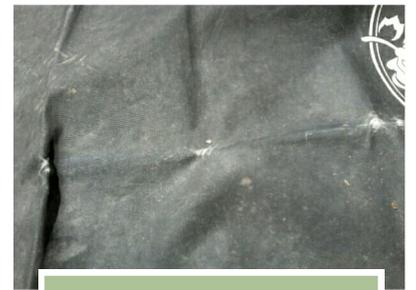
And here is the link to our Lygus scouting video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfSM8jF_Rqs

With cotton only at the younger stages we have seen this week, it would be unlikely to find many first blooms before July 4th, but I do not feel this crop is too far outside a 'normal' window yet.



One of our older cotton fields this week. SE Swisher.



One of the few fleahoppers we found this week on our drop cloth.



One of our younger fields, Central Hale.

Sorghum and Corn

Our older corn and sorghum fields have reached a VX stage, but have not booted or tasseled yet. Our younger sorghum is ranging from V1 to V3 and expect at least some additional replanting yet to come in failed cotton acres of sorghum and corn. I do note several area corn fields that have tasseled and even some at early dough. We are still finding very light populations of spider mites in both crops and few mite specific predators to hold them in check. The cooler conditions for the better part of the week helped prevent flares and gave natural mite attacking fungi a chance to hold for now. Mite populations tend to increase rapidly post tassel and in high temperatures.



Northern Hail sorghum showing light YSCA and no whorl damage this week.

Yellow sugarcane aphid populations seem steady across all three counties, but I have reports from consultants that in Floyd the population is on the increase and could reach ET soon. I would remind producers to conserve beneficials with any needed treatments as the sugarcane aphid looks to be very close to our area. Even though the SCA populations are light, inconsistent, plus not even confirmed in our counties, we know from experience how important the natural predators are in SCA control. The SCA labeled products have both shown to be effective against the YSCA and greenbugs in our local efficacy trials in 2015.

We have not noted any whorl feeding from any of our usual Lepidopteran pests in our program fields to date. That looks likely to change. We have had reports of healthy and troublesome fall armyworms and bollworms farther south. This week fall armyworm populations rising remarkably fast in Lubbock and should be heading our way soon. The ET for whorl stage sorghum or corn is 30% foliage damage, but with fields about to boot or tassel, the exposed and developing seed would be the primary concern. Bollworm trap levels for our area remain low, but it remains comparatively early.



Mites tend to start on the lower leaves of corn and sorghum. Very few mites are here, but very light and hard to see.



225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, TX 79072

Tel: 806.291.5267
Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail:

WEB

<http://hale.agrilife.org>

Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

For quicker pest alerts-

*Plains Pest
Bugshere:*

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

*Pest Patrol Hotline,
registration at:*
www.syngentapestpatrol.com

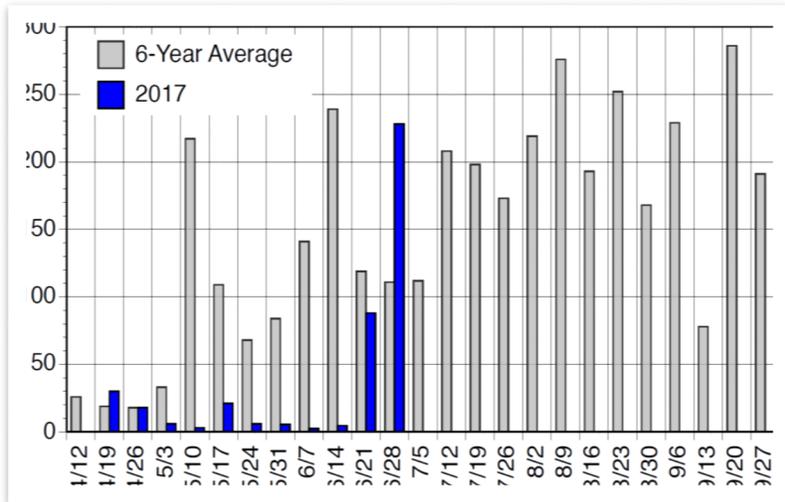
Educational programs by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, sex, disability or national origin.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.

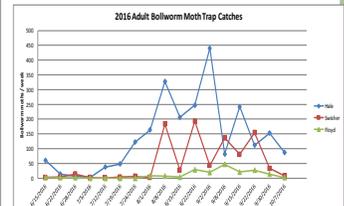
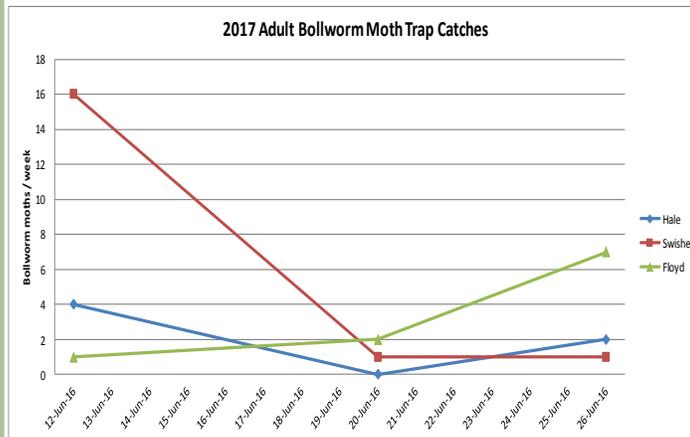
We're on the air...

"Tuesday's with Blayne"
from 6:30—7:00 AM
on the HPRN net-
work on 1090 AM
KVOP-Plainview.

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



Lubbock FAW moth trap catches for 2017.



Blayne Reed