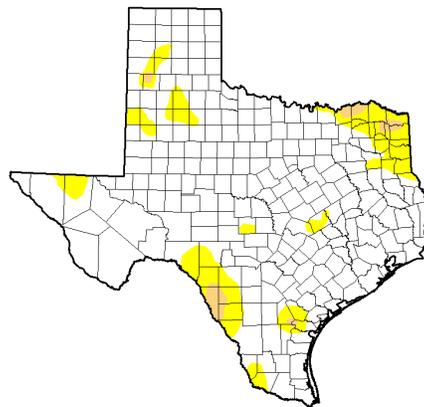


JULY 29, 2016

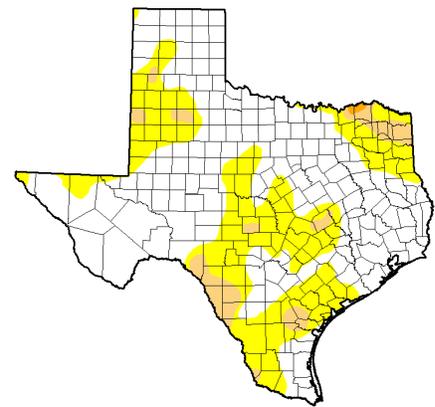
General Status

I heard the weatherman state this morning that next week we should see a return to high temperatures. I hate to tell him this, but they never really went anywhere, we just added some humidity to the mix and pulled a few degrees off the top. That humidity kicked off some spotty and personal showers again this week. I have a report of some heavy rains between Kress and Silverton, but unless you hit that jackpot, if you received any rainfall at all this week, it was not likely to keep up with a few hours of daylight evapotranspiration. More and more dryland fields fade past the point of no return daily. Our irrigated and lightly irrigated fields continue to hang on, keeping the irrigated fields yield potential up for as long as the irrigation capacity can keep up. Cotton fruit retention looks really good, sorghum is developing well, and corn is either setting ear size or filling grain. The weed battle continues and we remain watchful for economic pest pressure just as our most key weeks for pest scouting and summer field crop agronomy get rolling this year.

July 19, 2016



July 26, 2016



A 2016 Swisher weed battleground.

Cotton

I should state that 100% of our scouting program cotton this year is irrigated to some level and that I am well aware of many area dryland cotton fields having already reached absolute cut-out, finishing the year, and likely any hope of profitable yield, before August even starts. This week our program fields ranged from $\frac{3}{4}$ grown square to 4 NAWF (nodes above white flower). The majority of the cotton fell in between 6 NAWF and 9 NAWF with many in their second or third week of bloom. Despite a good boll from weeks of blooming and high square load in the continued high heat, a surprising amount of

fields were still coming in at growthy 7 or 8 NAWF with several plant measurement indicators showing a need for PGRs (plant growth regulators). While we are making recommendations for PGRs in these fields, I do urge caution in making these decisions in this heat and with the early fruit load our plants are setting. We need to make doubly certain the field truly needs PRGs before inadvertently shutting down a field's growth, development, and thusly cutting short the field's yield potential. If the field needs a treatment, the potential gains will be well worth the treatment, but if the field does not we risk damaging the field more than helping. I

would not consider treating any field below 6 NAWF at this time.

All of our cotton pests were quiet this week. We still have one late field that has not entered bloom yet and is still at risk for fleahoppers. All other fields show a very light, if present at all, Lygus population and we have started bollworm scouting procedures. What few bollworms are in the area so far seem much more attracted to corn at this time.



A Swisher 'row-watered' field feeling the heat at 4 NAWF this week.



A growthy Swisher field at 8 NAWF during third week of bloom jumping to be the tallest tree in the forest under high heat and solid irrigation.

Corn

Our program corn still has two stage groupings, an older group and younger one. Our oldest corn field is currently in late dough while the youngest field is at V7. We found nothing that required treatment in our corn this week but the spider mites continue to increase. I can make no guarantees, especially in this heat, but I do not feel the mites will be as wide spread as last season. That being said, we are very likely to have fields reach ET for mites by next week. Much like the fleahoppers were in cotton this year, the mites and predator relationships, with an extra irrigation capacity factor added, are likely to determine which field will reach threshold and which fields will be safe in the end. Bollworms, or corn earworms if you prefer, and fall armyworms are finding their way into the corn fields and ears but usually not at a very concerning level. For bollworms in corn, even high numbers are rarely, if ever, an economic problem in West Texas and Panhandle corn production.



Our oldest PPM corn field



Our youngest PPM corn field



BGM colony that has increased up to the -2 leaf this week and nearing ET.



225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, TX 79072

Tel: 806.291.5267

Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail: Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

WEB

[http://
hale.agrilife.org](http://hale.agrilife.org)

For quicker pest alerts-

*Plains Pest
Bugshere:*

[http://
halecountyipm.blogspot.com/](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...

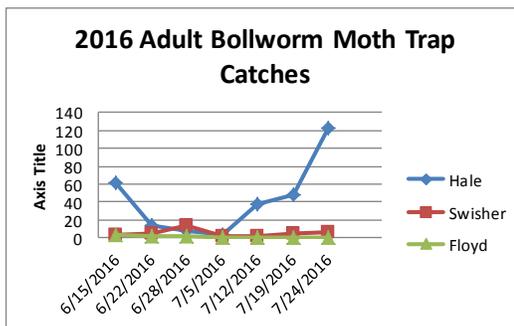
*"Tuesday's with Blayne" from
6:30—7:00 AM on the
HPRN network on 1090
AM KVOP-Plainview.*

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

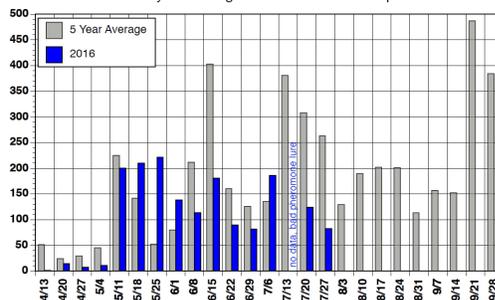
*"IPM Report with the Bruiser"
from 7:06-7:15 PM on
1470 AM KDHN -
Dimmit.*

Sorghum

Our program sorghum ranged in stage from a young V9 to a slow developing 50% bloom. All sorghum pests except yellow sugarcane aphids remained hard to find in our program sorghum this week. This includes the sugarcane aphid (SCA). While the sugarcane aphid populations did increase in our fields, it still takes some effort to find their colonies. Our heaviest SCA field only had about 1% of the plants infested with an average colony size of 8. I now have reports from Floyd that indicate that some of the fields where the SCA were first found 3 weeks ago are now reaching our newly established Texas High Plains sugarcane aphid thresholds requiring treatment. We will have to watch fields closely as the SCA population increases. We have good predator populations in sorghum, but the SCA is very likely to outpace the predators for a time due to their reproductive capabilities. For pre bloom sorghum, our ET is 20% plants infested with sizable colonies (50 or so) while post boot sorghum the SCA threshold is 30% plants infested. We found no sorghum midge, FAW, or head worms in our fields this week. Our highest yellow sugarcane aphid damage rating was a 3 on the 0-10 scale with 3.5-4 being threshold.



Average number of fall armyworm moths per trap, Lubbock, Texas 2016. Current year averages are based on two traps.



Jason Miller, CEA-Hale, stated this week that southwestern corn borer trap numbers for the Halfway area were up, but that his traps still had not caught any moths in the Cotton Center area. FAW trap numbers in Hale remain light to moderate.

Blayne Reed