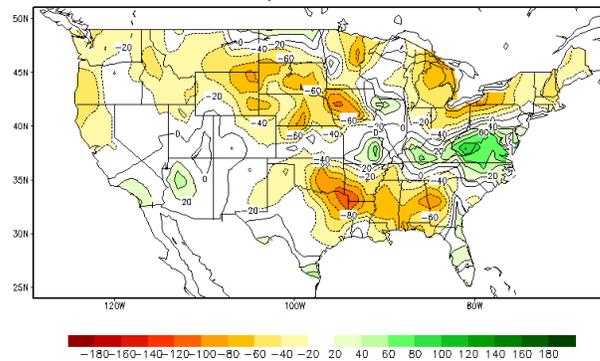


JULY 8, 2016

## General Status

In terms of weather, this week was a carbon copy of last week, with the oven turned up a tad. There were plenty of heat units for fields with decent to good soil moisture to rocket forward in development, and a life sucking amount for those that do not. It was humid and hot enough to generate a few convective showers and, with the best information I have, everyone in the Hale, Swisher, & Floyd area received some moisture. For most of us, the moisture received was not nearly enough to keep pace with the extreme heat and irrigation systems are hard at work or cranking up area wide. There were some 'personalized' rain showers that left some substantial moisture behind and a few others that brought some more damaging hail to chip pockets of our crops up some more. We also have pest reaching economic levels in our area cotton to watch, and in several cases, spray for. In our sorghum and corn, things remain mostly quiet for now, there are several issues that could be just around the corner.

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly Change  
 JUL 07, 2016 from APR.30



Checkout our new videos on fleahopper & Lygus in cotton. Kerry Siders, EA-IPM Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb, did a great job on camera for the fleahopper video : <https://youtu.be/epVctkRkTHs>. Myself and Tyler Mays, EA-IPM Gains, Terry, and Yockam, teamed up for the Lygus video: [https://youtu.be/gfSM8jF\\_Rqs](https://youtu.be/gfSM8jF_Rqs).

## Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management scouting program cotton ranged from 5<sup>th</sup> true leaf stage up to 2/3 grown square with most fields falling between matchhead and 1/2 grown square. We have not seen any blooms yet, but have a chance to find a few in our earliest fields late next week. I have reports from southern Floyd of fields that should be blooming very soon. Our percent fruit drop ranged between 0% and a fleahopper added 22.55%, or conversely, 100% and a 77.45% square retention rate. Most of our fields fell between a 3% and a 16% square loss rate or the 97% and 84% reversed retention rate. Early rough weather, and some continued rough weather, has caused a substantial portion of our square drop, but populations of fleahoppers, some at economic levels, are the cause for any serious increase in fruit loss.

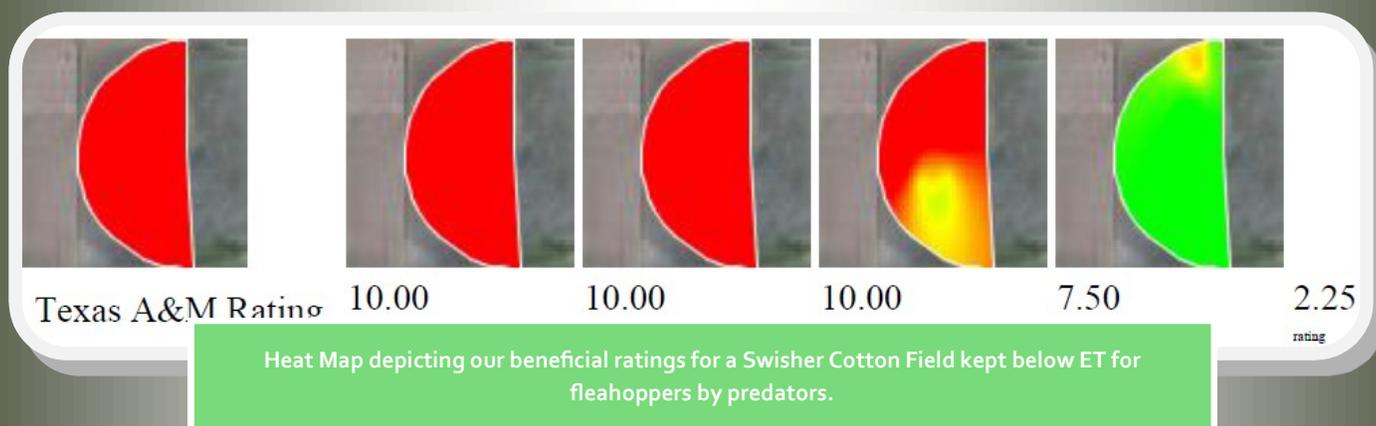


Dropped square missing from its position.

Our economic fleahopper populations were scattered across our scouting program acres from west of Tulia down to southwest of Cotton Center. The fields that needed treatment were few, but the difference between fields with fleahopper issues and their neighbors without fleahoppers was stark. Our highest fleahopper field population was found to be at 1 fleahopper per 1.2 row feet (using the drop cloth method for scouting), with roughly half the fleahopper population being very small nymphs just emerged, and had an over ET level of square drop at 22.55%. This field was in the second week of squaring. When using the drop cloth method for scouting fleahoppers, the 25-35% infested terminal number loosely translates to 1 fleahopper per 1.8 row feet.

<b>Number of Fleahoppers</b>	<b>Cotton Growth Stage</b>	
<b>25-30 per 100 terminals with:</b>	<b>Week of Squaring</b>	<b>Square Set</b>
	1 <sup>st</sup> week	< 90%
	2 <sup>nd</sup> week	< 85%
	3 <sup>rd</sup> week	< 75%

Beneficials have been holding a pretty good line against the fleahoppers in many fields, or our ET fields could have been triple the number at least. Many of our fields have had healthy fleahoppers that would not be below ET this week without insects such as big-eyed bugs and Nabids predated the pest population. Many of these fields are running 1 fleahopper per 2 to 4 feet and have square drop during the second or third full week of squaring running between 9% and 17%.

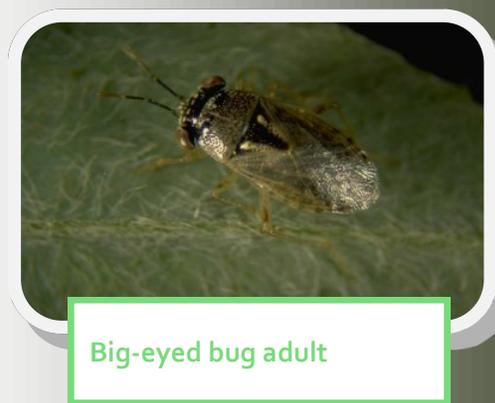


I have reports of some economic populations of Lygus in the Edmonson area, but this pest in our program acres has been a rare find in cotton so far.

The ET for Lygus at these stages of cotton will be 1 Lygus per 2.5 row feet with



the same square drop considerations as fleahoppers.



There are several insecticides available for control of fleahoppers and Lygus, and a few will get quick knockdown. However, it is worth noting that at least half of the fleahoppers we are finding are nymphs. This indicates to me

that we should be seeing emergence of these fleahoppers at potentially economic levels until we reach the second week of bloom, when fleahoppers will no longer be an economic concern in cotton. I would also note the predator and beneficial population and note what they have done for us so far. I would urge anyone forced into treating for fleahoppers take these two factors into consideration and steer toward products and rates that are both easy on beneficials, and have a long residual.



## PGR Use in Cotton Today

We are also seeing quite a bit of PGRs going out on our cotton this week. It does seem odd with the extreme heat we have been having. With irrigation systems running hard to keep up with the heat, and good heat and humidity, our already late crop might just get away from us. I am suggesting to several of our growers to consider getting some PGR out with the next OVT pass. Not all fields can utilize a PGR at this time. My mentioning of the suggestion to our producers are for select fields that are starting to get, or could become growth and will likely need management for maturity through the season. As the season progresses, we will be taking plant measurements, once the plants become mature enough to get them, that will aid us greatly in this decision. Today, there could be several fields that could utilize some earlier PGR. Let's start with a brief description of what PGRs really do.

First off, PGRs certainly do not increase lint yield in and of themselves. PGRs are synthetic plant hormones, period. Gibberellins are the most utilized or targeted plant hormone in most PGRs. Naturally occurring gibberelins regulate vegetative growth and promote cell division and expansion. With larger synthetic applications of PGRs, gibberelins are reduced in the plant for a time,



Healthy Southern Swisher Cotton. 2016

which then prevents the newly developed and developing cells from elongating to their full potential length during rapid growth periods when water is abundant. In essence, PGRs can prevent cotton, a true tree by nature, from rapidly growing and competing to become the tallest tree in the forest. This can leave a more uniform and compact plant that can have a more desirable and uniform balance of vegetative and reproductive growth in cotton. This can focus a cotton plant, who as a tree thinks it has 200 years to live, from getting too tall in vegetative growth for our purposes. This now potentially shorter and humanly desirable plant has the potential of being more efficient in

---

retaining and maturing fruit faster, especially if heat or other stresses occur later in the growing season.

There were quite a bit of 'potentials' and 'cans' in that previous paragraph (just in case you didn't notice). The bottom line is this. Cotton plants left to themselves in 'good' conditions will grow away and become 'rank.' Cotton plants will always be quite

selfish. Cotton will sacrifice its fruit to save its self every time there is stress because it is a tree that thinks it has years of fruit production a head, not the few months we know it has. A shorter cotton plant has more potential to be more efficient in fruit retention and maturation than a taller, 'rank' plant does. PGRs, with over 30 years of research trials and use on High Plains cotton, have proven to keep developing cells (primarily in the forming stalk at the growing point terminal) from elongating to their full potential length. Once the synthetic hormone (PGR) runs out, any new cell development is not affected. To affect additional cells developing later, additional PGR treatments would be required. If applied at the right time, rate, and conditions, PGRs can keep plants shorter. If PGRs are applied to already stressed cotton plants, it can be disastrous.

The right time to apply PGRs to cotton (if needed) is when growing conditions are good for young cotton or cotton with plenty of vegetative growth potential with ample available soil moisture and fertility. Remember, PGRs cannot shrink a plant that is already taller than we would like and never apply PGRs to cotton at or nearing cut-out or currently or nearing stress of any sort.

## Corn & Sorghum

Pests remain quiet in our program corn and sorghum still. There are plenty to watch out for now that some of these fields are tasseling or starting to boot. Our program corn ranged in stage from a replanted V4 up to green silk. Again for this season, we have two groups of corn stages. Our older corn is all at VX and at or near tasseling. Our younger fields are grouped around a V5 to V9 stage. Our sorghum ranged in stage from V3 to flag.

We did have an increase in disease in corn, and some corn at tassel is being treated for fungicides, although I do not think much of this is for economic disease pressure, but other factors. Our increase in disease pressure is almost exclusively from common rust.

We also picked up a few more fall armyworms in non-Bt corn and sorghum, but nothing nearing economic levels.



Western Hale Re-plant corn.



Southwestern Hale Corn.



225 Broadway, Suite 6  
Plainview, TX 79072

Tel: 806.291.5267

Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail: [Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu](mailto: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](http://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.*

Concerning the sugarcane aphid, please note these pieces written by Dr. Pat Porter, and Dr. Ed Bynum.

### Reports of Sugarcane Aphid in Oklahoma

I received a call this morning from a County Extension Agent from Lipscomb County in the Texas Panhandle. He had seen on Facebook that sugarcane aphids were found near Clinton, OK. As a crow flies this about 175 miles east of Amarillo, TX on interstate 40. I contacted Dr. Tom Royer, Oklahoma State University entomologist, to see if this could be confirmed. He stated that low numbers of sugarcane aphids were beginning to be found in several Oklahoma counties. So, this is just another report of an increase in sugarcane aphid activity.

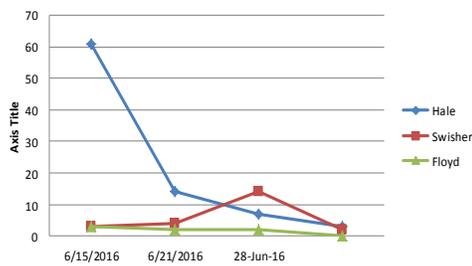
Posted by Dr. Ed Bynum

### Aphids Found in Mills County, Reported in Comanche, Hamilton Counties and More

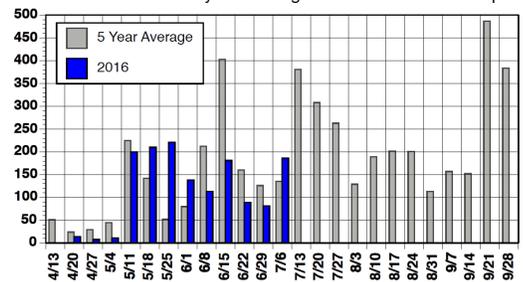
Tom Guthrie, County Extension Agent Ag, in Mills County is reporting building populations of sugarcane aphid on sorghum in **Mills County**. Some fields have exceeded the economic threshold. He has credible reports of sugarcane aphids in **Comanche and Hamilton counties**. Additionally, a private consultant has reported finding aphids in **Nolan, Fisher and Jones counties** at treatable levels.

Posted by Dr. Pat Porter

2016 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches



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



*Blayne Reed*