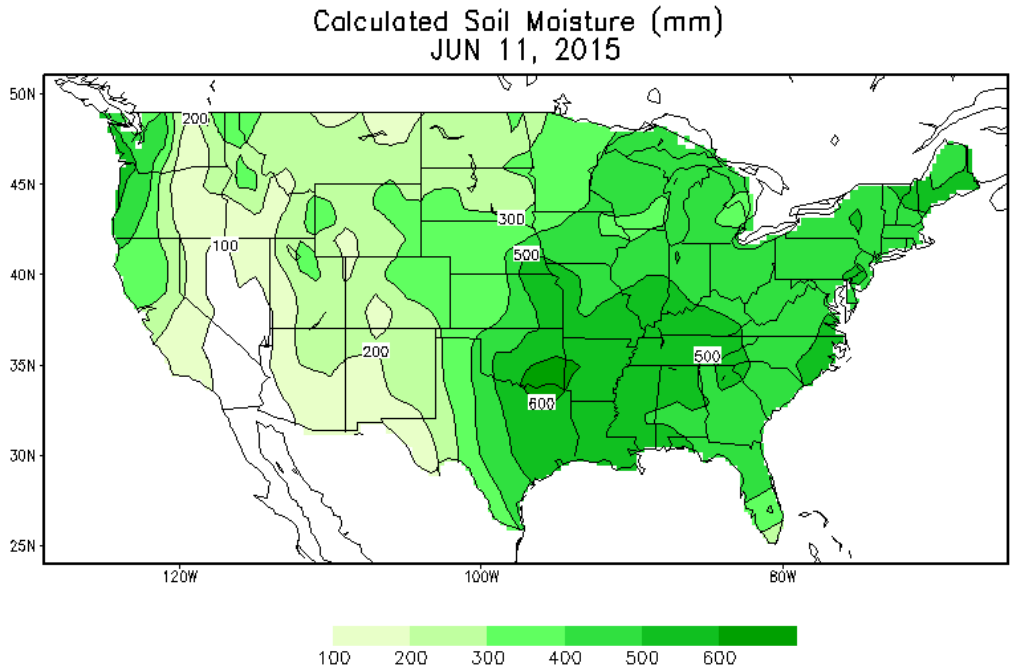
Plains Pest Management

JUNE 12, 2015

General Status

With a few weeks of open weather, producers have made a huge amount of progress toward getting our crops in and off to a decent start. Now rain is again back seriously in the area forecast as the last of our fields move from the bag to the fertile ground. Just about every field is off to a late start this season, but we are underway with good deep soil moisture with the promise of more rain. Hopefully, we can avoid the usual accompaniment of hail and damaging winds that come with the spring storms.



Wheat

Wheat in the Hale, Swisher, and Floyd still looks to be a touch late, much like our 2015 summer crops. To my knowledge, no wheat field in these counties has been harvested for grain yet. That being said, it is maturing and turning well, starting that last critical drying stage before harvest. I would estimate grain yields to be at least 'average' or better on the whole as the rains have helped make and fill grain. There does seem to be a higher occurrence of several pathogens

and fungal disease this season. This has cost us some area fields this season. Although infected most of our intended for grain wheat has come through with minimal loss. Meanwhile the usual viruses we have noted the past few years seem to be substantially less frequent.

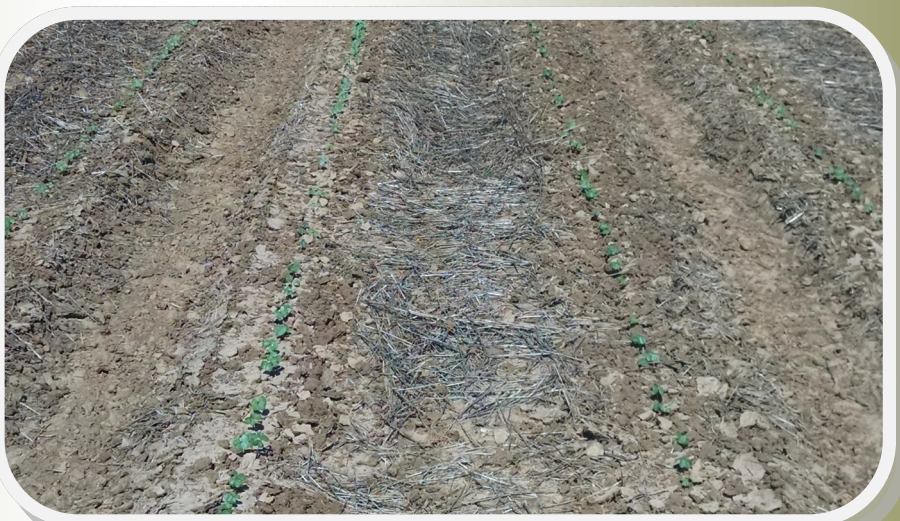
The lower occurrence of the small grain viruses is likely directly linked to the later planting date for much of the area wheat giving the insect vectors less chance to transmit the viruses from other plants last fall. The return of higher occurrences of nearly forgotten plant pathogens and diseases does cause me concern for our future wheat crops. I would suggest to our area wheat producers that we look at reinstituting the tradition of planting fungicide treated seed, especially the catch your own seed situations at least with for our next crop. These treatments are very economical and can save a crop, especially if these pathogens and diseases return as an annual threat again. Despite a few fall armyworms, I note no major pest issues in our drying wheat.

Cotton

This week our scouting program's cotton ranged in stage from pushing to 4th true leaf stage. The oldest fields are very few and far between and were somehow planted earlier in the month of May around the rainstorms. They have been through quite a bit and are plagued by seedling disease but look to be pulling through in survivable shape, ready to sluff of the last of the diseases. The vast majority of our cotton is late in the cotyledon stage about to put on its first true leaves and growing rapidly.

We can find wireworm pressure in all fields we are checking this season. This pressure is light in general and our insecticidal seed treatments seem to be holding the wireworms well enough for a healthy stand to establish.

All indications point to this being a very heavy year for thrips. Thus far the pressure we are finding in our program is light. The highest thrips count our scouting has found this week is 0.17 thrips per plant with more than half the fields returning with zero thrips found for plants checked. The thrips could still be satisfied in our area wheat that is still somewhat green. I urge producers and consultants to stay vigilant in thrips scouting. Their movement could be delayed, just as both of these crops are. Cotton will be susceptible to thrips damage until the field enters a reproductive stage at pin-head to match-head. Until then, our economic threshold remains 1 thrips per true leaf stage. Predator populations for the volume of pest present have been good to excellent thus far.



Two cotton varieties in a Swisher County Cotton Variety Trial, June 9, 2015

Corn & Sorghum

Our program's corn stages ranged from radicle to V7 with the majority coming in between V3 and V5. I would rate overall pest pressure in our corn and sorghum as light with one exception. In our non Bt or refuge corn acres, we are seeing young fall armyworm larva (FAW) damage in about 4 to 10% of the whorls. In this vegetative stage corn, our best estimate is this is a non-economic issue, much like the pressure we noted in vegetative sorghum 2014 that caused nothing but superficial damage. We should be on our toes regarding the FAW again this year. The latest adult trap numbers for adult FAW in Hale and, thanks to Dr. Pat Porter extension entomologist district 2, Lubbock counties, is very high and on the increase again. The adult corn rootworms we were finding in one of our corn fields in northern Swisher seem to have dissipated from that location this week. We need to be on high alert for this pest on any corn on corn ground.

Our sorghum stages this week have progressed from seed in the barn to V2 up to in the planter to V4. We are still not finding any significant pest in sorghum yet, but we do need to be monitoring for FAW very soon, sugarcane aphid IPM planning, and staying aggressive with our weed control as we finish getting this crop started much later than we intended.

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For quicker pest alerts-

Plains Pest Bugoshere:

http://
halecountyipm.blogspot.com/

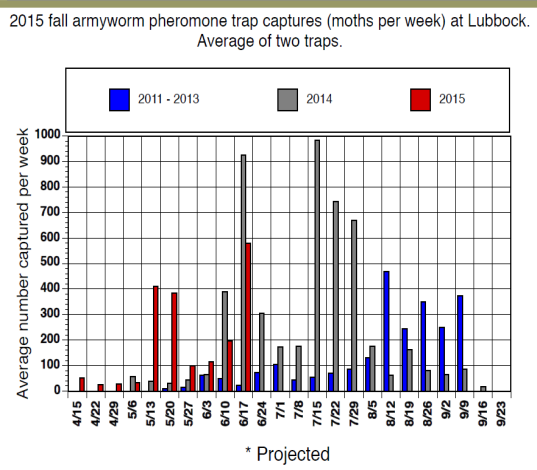
Pest Patrol Hotline, registration at:

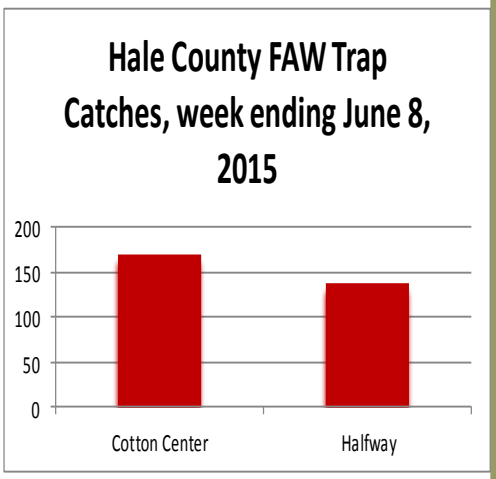
www.syngentapestpatrol.com

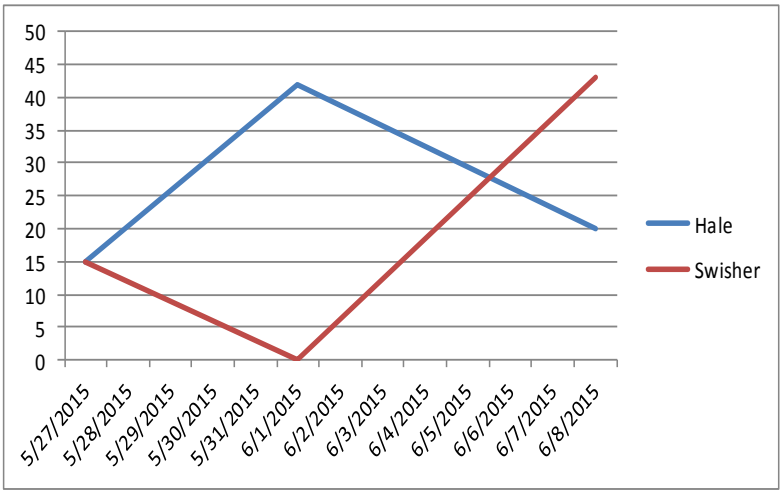
We're on the air…

"Tuesday's with Blayne" from 6:30—7:00 AM 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.







Adult Bollworm Trap Catches 2015

Tomatoes

This week I made note of some whiteflies hovering around and feeding on some of our area tomato production fields and a few tomatoes showing symptoms of virus. Under the worst case scenario, these whiteflies will act as a vector to transmit these tomato killing viruses. A two -day spray schedule with a rotation of labeled pesticides might be called for if you note whiteflies nosing around your tomatoes.

Blayne Reed