

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

Status Report

This week our field situations for crop pest, weed, and disease are somewhat quieter, but to say they are quiet would be a misnomer. We are experiencing our annual fall 'lull' in pest scouting that usually gives entomologist and agronomist a breather but the 'lull' this season seems to only apply to older corn either being harvested or drying down for harvest and cotton in its waning, late season development its ready for harvest aids. In our scouting program we are finding several issues in mid-maturity corn, late corn and sorghum to keep us on alert. Meanwhile we are experiencing some cooler temperatures, a few spotty showers, but nothing to make me concerned about heat unit accumulation yet. In the meantime we will share this headline from NOAA's climate prediction center:

EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION

issued by

CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER/NCEP/NWS
and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society

10 September 2015

ENSO Alert System Status: **El Niño Advisory**

Synopsis: There is an approximately 95% chance that El Niño will continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-16, gradually weakening through spring 2016.

For the full report, please go to http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/index.shtml. This late fall and winter is predicted to be a wet & nasty one that could be a major factor for our harvest and animal care plans.

Cotton

There is very little happening pest wise in our program cotton this week. So much so that we were able to zip past or through most fields and focus on other crops still experiencing serious pest and disease risk. We did note a few bolls finally starting to open in our most mature fields. There are still just a few hard to find cotton aphid colonies that are not causing our fields any problems at this time.

With the lateness of our 2015 crop, this should be a good time to share some results from our 2014 Managed Maturity Cotton Trial / Demonstration Plot. I should state up front that I do not feel this is for every acre of area cotton. There is even a chance that if applied to the wrong acres in the wrong situation, it could do more harm than good. That being said, I feel there will be many more acres in need of this type of management this season than an 'average' season. I also feel that if the field is truly late and likely to run out of developmental time, has a bunch of junk fruit up top, or has a huge amount of regrowth, a treatment of this type can save quite a bit in terms of fiber quality and ensure the field gets out in a timely manner. So, if you feel you have a cotton field or two that is late, lush, rank, is still trying to put on fruit that will never make, or can be considered 'rank' by any other definition, please continue on with this section.

What we are talking about is a very, very light application of Aim at 3/8 of an ounce with COC at 1% v/v as a conditioning treatment (never to be considered as a standalone harvest aid treatment). Our friends at FMC brought this idea to us several years ago. Like most of us, I thought it sounded crazy to apply a kill all herbicide OVT of our cotton but we had a ridiculously rank field the first year I learned about Managed Maturity with Aim. We tried it and really both myself and my producer really liked the results. The next season we conducted a large demonstration

plot type trial and proved its success in the right situation to me. Ever since then, Managed Maturity has been in my harvest aid tool kit for late season management of rank cotton fields. Last season we had more than a fair share of these rank fields. I found that the idea was still new to many of the area producers. So, we conducted a properly replicated public trial to both highlight what this could do for the dollars invested and to properly document the results.

Trial Map Treatment Description		
Trt	Trt Code	Trt Description
1	MM	Prep 32 FL OZ/A;NIS 0.25 % V/V;Aim 0.375 FL OZ/A;COC 1 % V/V
2		Prep 32 FL OZ/A;NIS 0.25 % V/V;Untreated Check not treated
3	MM	Prep 32 FL OZ/A;Aim 1 FL OZ/A;COC 1 % V/V;Aim 0.375 FL OZ/A;COC 1 % V/V
4		Prep 32 FL OZ/A;Aim 1 FL OZ/A;COC 1 % V/V;Untreated Check not treated

401 2 A1 B2	402 1 A1 B1	403 4 A2 B2	404 3 A2 B1
301 1 A1 B1	302 4 A2 B2	303 3 A2 B1	304 2 A1 B2
201 4 A2 B2	202 2 A1 B2	203 1 A1 B1	204 3 A2 B1
101 3 A2 B1	102 1 A1 B1	103 2 A1 B2	104 4 A2 B2

The following is my summary copied from my official Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Result Report of the trial and associated graphs for you to decide if you have a field that this type of treatment can help.

Summary

Trial was established as a RBD factorial with Aim at 0.375 oz. /ac. (Aim Managed Maturity) as the added factor applied ten days ahead of two harvest aid treatments, Prep at 32 oz. /ac. and Prep at 32 oz. /ac. plus Aim at 1 oz. /ac., which were to be applied as a lone treatment harvest aid treatment. All treatments for this trial totaled of four. Plots were 4 40 inch rows wide X 38 feet long and were arranged in an RBD design. Data on percent open boll, percent attached green boll, percent defoliated, percent stuck leaves, and a regrowth rating were taken seventeen days following the final harvest aid treatment and were statistically compared using ARM utilizing AOV and LSD ($P=0.05$).

In terms of percent open boll the Aim Managed Maturity factorial treatments numerically, but not significantly, outperformed the standard harvest aid treatments alone. In percent green leaf, the Aim Managed Maturity followed by Prep alone outperformed all other treatments. In percent defoliated leaves, the Aim Managed Maturity followed by Prep treatment outperformed both harvest aid treatments alone, and the Aim Managed Maturity followed by Prep and Aim and the Prep and Aim treatment outperformed the Prep alone treatment. In percent 'stuck' leaves there were no significant differences found. All numeric differences in plant regrowth rating on the standard 0-10 scale were very small but the Prep alone harvest aid treatment did show an increase in regrowth potential compared to all other treatments.

These results indicate that under the right conditions, such as late, growthy, or otherwise considered 'rank' cotton can receive good benefit from an Aim Managed Maturity treatment making the cotton more harvest aid and harvest ready sooner.

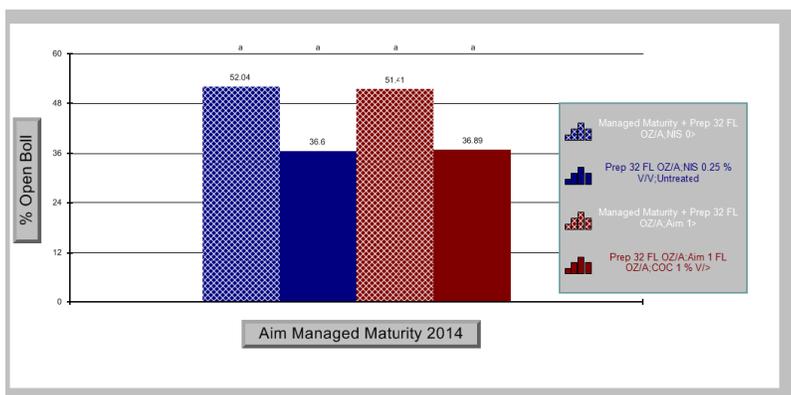


Figure 1. Percent open boll by treatment at 15 DAT from harvest aid treatment. ($P=0.1555$)

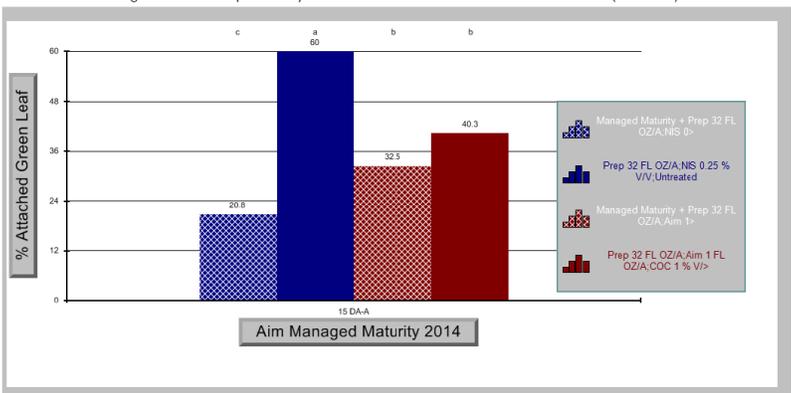


Figure 2. Percent Attached and Green Leaves by treatment 15 DAT from the harvest aid treatment. ($P=0.0001$, $LSD=9.54$)

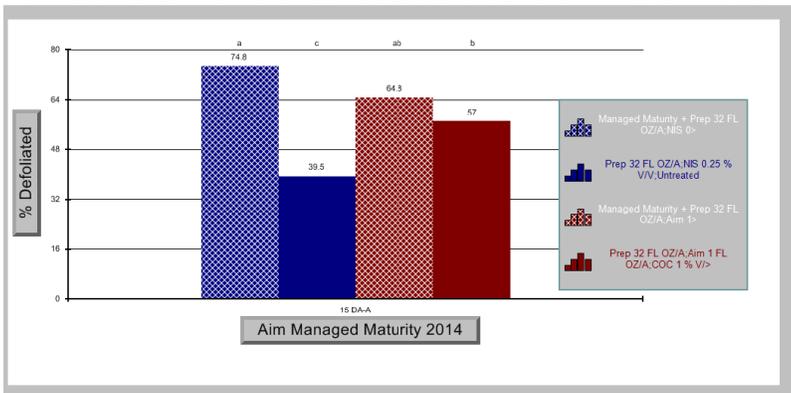


Figure 3. Percent Defoliated Leaves by treatment 15 DAT from the harvest aid treatment. ($P=0.0002$, $LSD=10.15$)

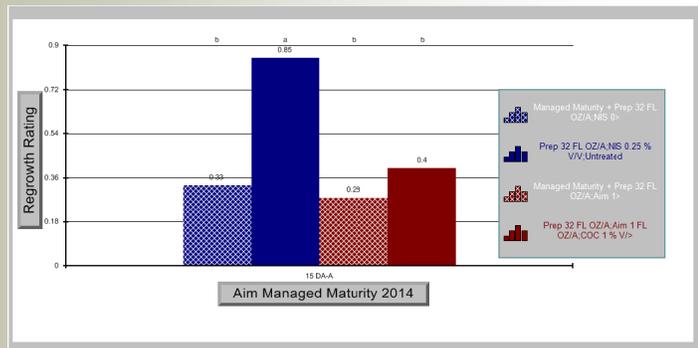


Figure 5. Average Regrowth Rating by treatment 15 DAT from the harvest aid treatment. ($P=0.0005$, $LSD=0.208$)

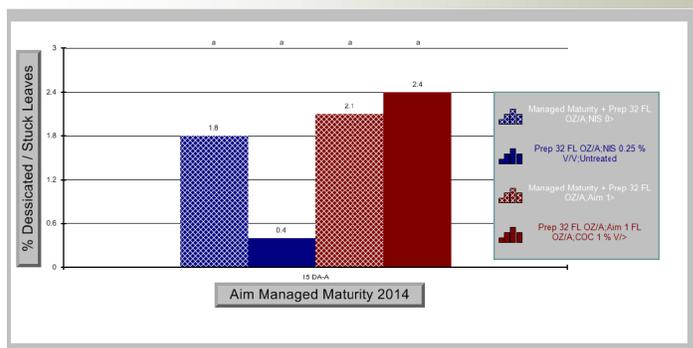
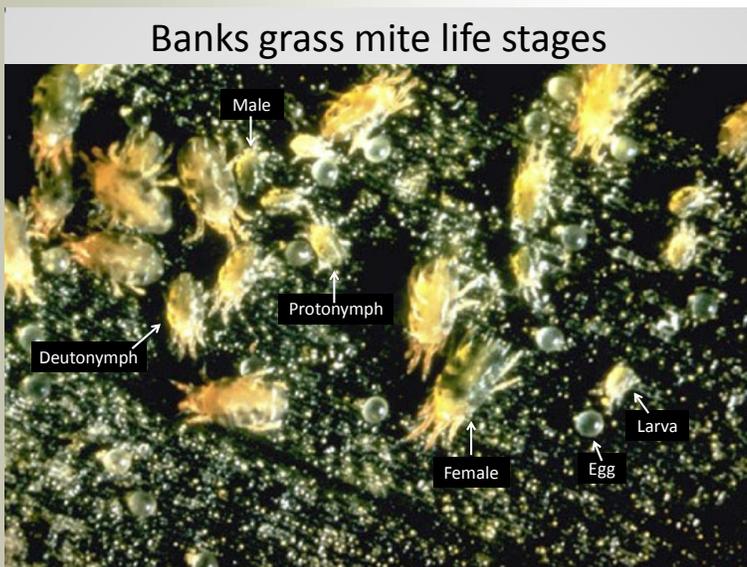


Figure 4. Percent Desiccated Leaves by treatment 15 DAT from the harvest aid treatment. ($P=0.1068$)

Corn

Our older corn is either in the bin (some possibly already at the mill), has the combine on them, or the ground is shaking from approaching equipment. The reports so far I have on yield from our program acres indicate some pretty good yields, although much of it was hard fought against mites and disease. Our scouting program's mid-maturity group of fields ranges in stage from early dent to late dent. These fields should be on the down hill side of problem issues. Seemingly just to prove we need to stay on our scouting toes we had one of these fields that experienced a serious spidermite rebound this week. This particular field was treated for mites 24 days ago and good control was achieved. Despite cooler temperatures, good control, and an increase in mite predators,



the mites are still finding a way to rebuild near ET again in this lone field. Treatment was not yet required for this field, but the race between ET mites and maturity has restarted there. The rest of our program fields had no notable mite issues whether previously treated or not. We also did not have any issues with mites in our younger or late maturity group of corn fields just now entering dough stage. We will need to remain vigilant just in case and it is possible to have late mite issues.

Southern rust spiked again in all of our remaining at risk fields from both the mid-maturity group and our late group. Susceptible varieties and / or thus far untreated with fungicide corn fields were certainly hit harder as the heavy morning dews of late aided tremendously in the rapid disease increase this week. We were forced into treating one of our latest fields with fungicides to combat the rapid increase in Southern rust. We are much less concerned about dent stage corn for these diseases as the amount of 'feeding' that needs to go into the ear to keep yields and quality up diminishes as the grain naturally dries. For both the late and dent stage corn, we need to keep the leaves above the ear leaf functioning and healthy (whether it is from mites or disease) until 15% starch line.



Sorghum

This week our program sorghum ranged in stage from dough to late dough with most fields showing good color. For these fields, harvest is still several weeks out but I am aware of a few fields that have already been harvested and I am aware of a few area fields yet to bloom. With the exception of those area fields already harvested, our area sorghum remains at risk for multiple issues, the most infamous is the sugarcane aphid.

For those few fields yet to bloom, congratulations on surviving the arrival of the sugarcane aphid during the vegetative stages but sorghum midge are going a serious concern during bloom. Based upon the area midge population I found as the last of our 'edge' and last of our program's 'late' in field heads and these late fields about to bloom are as near to a guarantee ET situation as I dare to imagine. This season the midge population distributed themselves across all fields, but their concentration was light enough few area fields required treatment. If that population is still surviving, they will concentrate on the latest fields. The last in-bloom sorghum head I checked nearly two weeks ago, an edge plant out of curiosity and as a demonstration, held 14 midge. That head now has no seed development whatsoever. The ET for midge should remain about 1 per head.

Headworms should be an issue in sorghum based upon our moth catches but nothing has materialized. The tremendously high predator population, fresh from sugarcane aphid feasts, seem to be moving to the head and cleaning up headworms before they can establish. That combined with the 'sink' affect of the late planted corn where the bollworms / headworm / earworm is of no economic impact and our highest program sorghum field had only 0.12 small headworms per head this week. This is a trend I hope continues, although we really need to get an efficacy trial out for headworms soon.

The sugarcane aphid finally seems to be losing steam. That is not to say it is not a cause for major concern. The statement made here last week that, "In sorghum fields where we have gotten really good control from our treatments, whether it be first or second, the predators have finally reached a high enough level to have a major impact..." is holding true. Where we have good control, the predators are finally high enough to clean the aphid up or at least holding them steady. We did have a few fields this week where the first round of control was later than the rest of the fields and that control was marginal. In these fields we were forced into retreatment before any more serious damage was done to the field. I am very leery of this aphid and its capabilities and intend to remain vigilant until the combine leaves the fields.



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<http://hale.agrilife.org>

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.

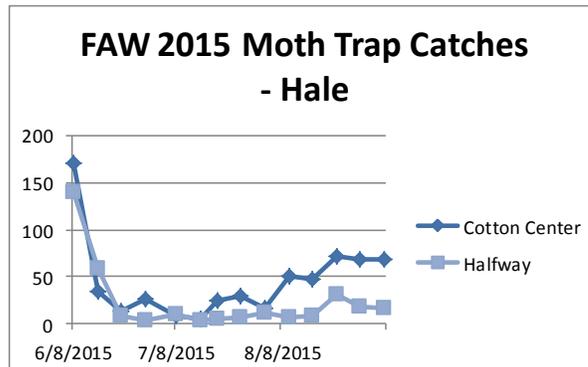
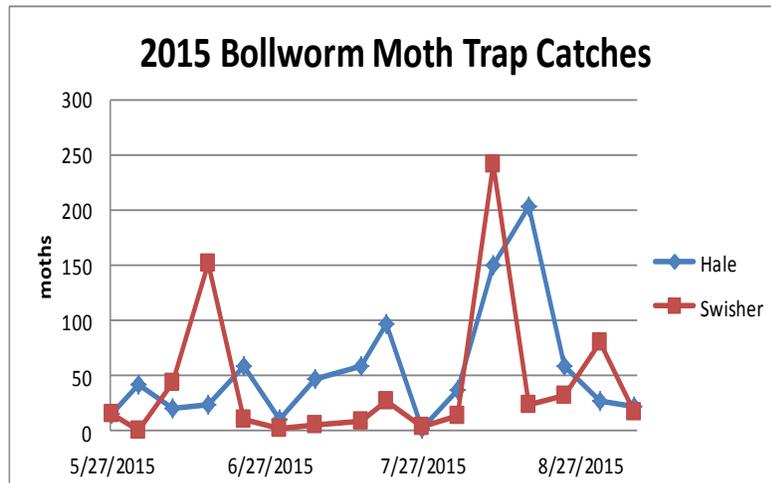
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We're on the air...

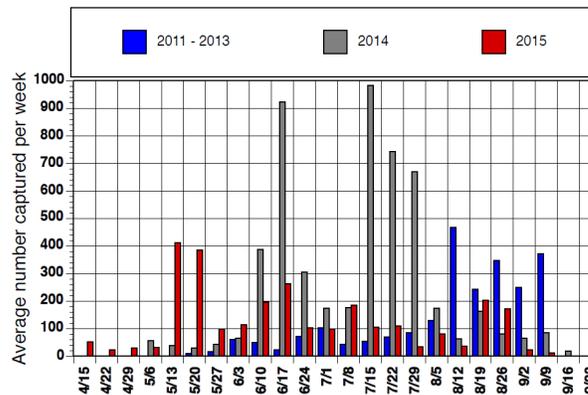
*"Tuesday's with Blayne"
from 6:30—7:00 AM
on the HPRN on
1090 AM KVOP-
Plainview.*

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

We will be sharing additional research trial results dealing with SCA control and IPM as the results are finalized. This should include Tommy Doederline's, EA-IPM Dawson & Lynn, Sorghum Harvest Aid/SCA Insecticide Trial, Ed Bynum and Pat Porter's, District 1 & 2 Entomology Specialists, second product efficacy trial from Bushland, our SCA Host Plant Resistance Trial at Halfway, and our Sivanto Chemigation Trial near Hale Center. These will likely be first released at the Plains Pest Bugshere, <http://halecountyipm.blogspot.com/>.



2015 fall armyworm pheromone trap captures (moths per week) at Lubbock
Average of two traps.



Blayne Reed