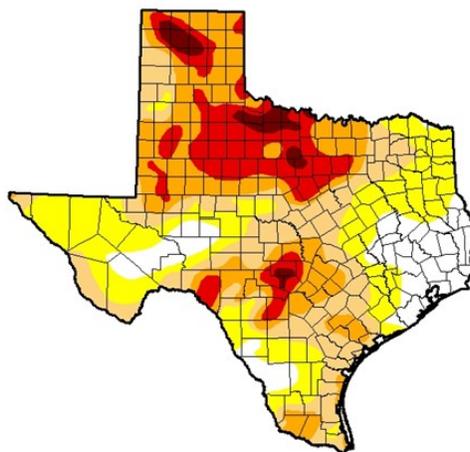


General Status

The early portion of the week exhibited some of the hottest days of the season. Now a cool front is dancing back and forth through the region. Rain chances are up, and it actually feels like September... at least early in the morning and late in the evening. Rain chances look good for this weekend while we will take a short break from accumulating heat units. Heavy rains would likely be a better late than never help to most of our dryland crops, could help top off most of our cotton, and be very timely for our late planted crops. Wheat producers are also looking to the sky to see if there will be any help from rains this season, especially those that need to establish grazing wheat before first frost.

U.S. Drought Monitor
 Texas



September 2, 2014
 (Released Thursday, Sep. 4, 2014)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.26	86.74	61.39	37.92	16.18	2.76
Last Week 8/26/2014	16.83	83.17	61.25	38.21	16.23	2.76
3 Months Ago 6/2/2014	8.65	91.35	68.20	46.31	27.01	8.66
Start of Calendar Year 12/01/2013	28.48	71.52	43.84	21.15	5.82	0.79
Start of Water Year 10/01/2013	6.62	93.38	70.95	25.08	4.01	0.12
One Year Ago 9/2/2013	4.14	95.86	87.09	64.63	18.74	2.94

Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
 David Simeral
 Western Regional Climate Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Cotton

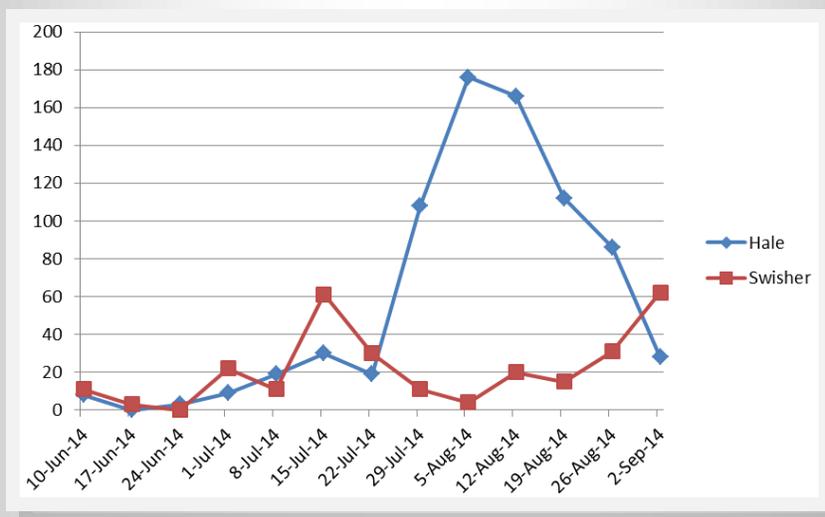
For our program cotton, the first open boll has been spotted this week in northwestern Hale County. All but the latest of our program's cotton fields have reached absolute cut-out (3.5 NAWF). A few irrigated and all dryland developed past economic insect damage this week, potential cotton aphid / open boll issues aside. Our latest cotton field came in at 3.6 NAWF earlier this week and should by now have finally reached cut-out. Boll load and fruit retention continues to

look good. This fact combined with the diminutive nature of the cotton plants this season should produce at least an average per acre yield and an ideal stripping situation. One point of continued concern for me over the quantity of this crop is the missing of the typical plant's 'load lean' brought on by the weight of heavy bolls pulling the stalk over this time of year. Despite high fruit retention and good boll counts, few fields are exhibiting this 'high yield lean' toward the furrows. We will just have to wait and see how much cotton is actually developing in those bolls.

Pests were again light this week. We continue to monitor closely a few fields with higher than average Lygus populations. None of these fields have reached ET. As the top crop of bolls mature, the likely hood that these Lygus will become an economic concern steadily decreases. One independent crop consultant working in southwestern Hale County reported to me this week that two cotton fields in this same situation did experience a sharp increase in Lygus and related crop damage. These fields were not quite in desperate enough shape to warrant treatment, but were definitely worth a double check early next week. We continue to find a few bollworm eggs in spots and a very, very light population of cotton aphids in most fields. Predation in our fields continues to hold these potential pests in check. It is very possible that a non-Bt cotton field, not near a late corn or sorghum field to 'sink' these pests into, could become a hot spot for bollworms, even into September. In the meantime, most of our program cotton acres should be developing past economic pest damage this week.



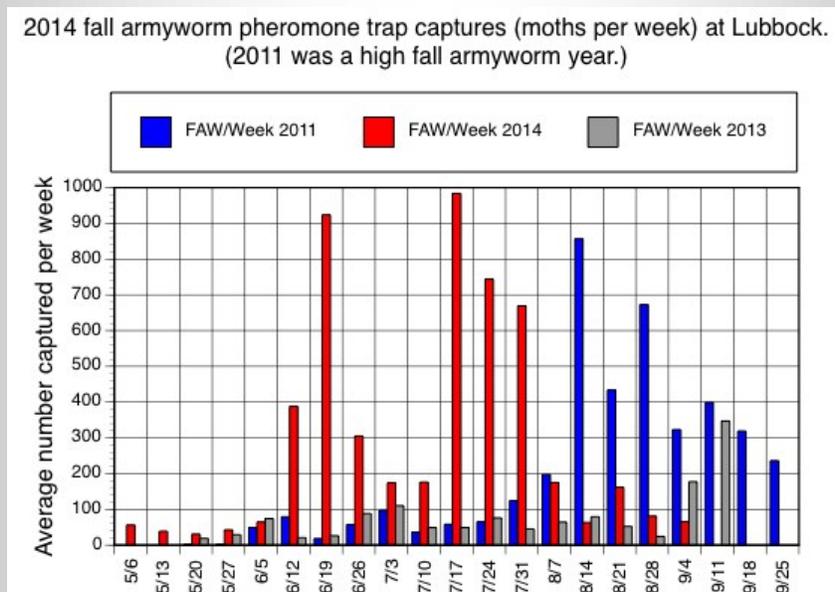
Our bollworm moth trap in Swisher County is showing a notable increase for the first time in a long while, while Hale County is finally slumping down after a busy month.



Corn & Sorghum

All of our earlier planted corn is now past economic pest damage and is drying down for harvest. A few of our early sorghum fields have done the same and I expect the majority to reach that point of late hard dough this week or soon after. In one field of seed milo, we are noting a lodging issue brought on by drought conditions during graining (when irrigation capacity just could not keep up) and the spindly nature of the female hybrid. Lygus continue to be found in our earlier sorghum in notable numbers. Most fields ranged from 0.6 to 5.4 Lygus per head. Our best estimate (for lack of multi-year ET trials) places the economic threshold for Lygus around 12-14 per head.

Our program's late corn ranged from blister to early dent. The latest of these fields could certainly utilize a good rain shower soon to bolster yield potential. Many of these latest fields were planted in marginal irrigation capacities for corn due to cotton failures and a hope that rain would continue throughout the season. Corn earworms, aka bollworms, continue to thankfully make this crop their primary home whenever possible. Here in this corn they are not an economic threat. Our spider mite damage ratings in this corn continued to range from 0 to 2, but more fields stretched toward the 2 damage rating with mites continuing to make a late play for our late crop. Key mite predators remain in decent to good quantities in field and are the primary preventive reason the mites are not a larger issue. If the predators can hold the mites around this level a few more weeks, the mites should not become a major problem in this late corn either.





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Our program's late planted sorghum ranged in stage from 35% bloom to dough this week. Most fell between 95% bloom and soft dough. Fields with a significant amount of blooming heads are still at risk of economic sorghum midge damage. We had no sorghum reach ET for midge this week. Our midge counts ranged from 0 to 0.48 per blooming head with most fields averaging between 0.08 and 0.27 midge per head. We are on the tail end of midge season. With more and more fields moving out of bloom and into dough, it is very likely the latest straggling fields could become a focus point for a pretty high population of midge to swarm upon. Daily midge scouting in these fields remains our first line of defense against these midge.

Our program's headworm counts, both fall armyworm and bollworm, gradually increased again this week. Still none of our program fields have reached ET. Gary Cross' FAW traps at Halfway shown another increase in moth activity this week but is nowhere near the population we expected to see emerge following the whorl stage infestations we witnessed earlier this season. There are reports from around the district of some fairly serious but pocketed FAW and / or general headworm problems in corn and sorghum. I have reports of a couple of Hale County fields that required treatment for headworms this week. In no shape or form can we claim to be past headworm / FAW damage for our late sorghum and corn. I continue to recommend vigilance.

Yellow sugarcane aphids also continue to be problematic area wide. We still have not treated any of our program fields for this native aphid pest, but I have a growing number of reports from the area of fields that did require treatment.

Blayne Reed