

# Blacklands IPM Newsletter

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## Status

Rain hit hard earlier this week and drenched the county once again. Wheat is in grain fill to soft dough. Corn is growing well but may be experiencing some nitrogen deficiencies in low areas.

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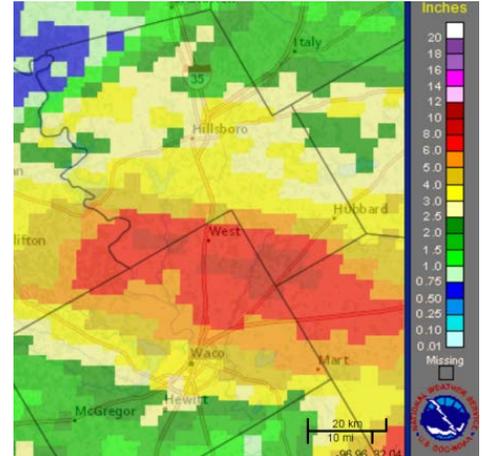
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## Weather

According to the National Weather Service, some places in Hill and McLennan Counties got over 6" of rain from the storm that hit Tuesday night and rained into Wednesday. This excess rain will have effects on pest populations and nitrogen management this year, but how severe the effects are remain to be seen. Hopefully we can dry out a little, but rain is predicted to come both this weekend and next weekend as well. Photo from the National Weather Service.



## Wheat

Some fields may be experiencing damage from fall armyworm, but populations will vary greatly by location. We also still have a huge abundance of natural enemies that could be helping keep them in check, as well as the scattered aphid populations. Ladybugs, lacewings, and spiders can be found readily in most fields and will hopefully persist to aid us in other crops. Leaf rust continues to spread in most fields, but wheat is past the flowering stage and is less vulnerable to yield losses. In fields that were not treated at Feekes 10, pockets of rust can be seen covering the flag leaves (top right).



All species of stinkbugs can be found feeding occasionally on wheat heads. Seeing a few is not a cause for alarm, and generally they do not reach threshold levels. Pictured below are: a concheula stink bug (right), a brown stink bug (middle), and an eastern leaf-footed bug (left).



## From the Field



Corn ranges from V1 to V4 across the county. Wet bottoms in fields are already showing signs of nitrogen deficiency. Denitrification due to the excess moisture may become a problem again this year.



We have a few acres of soybeans that are coming up nicely in even stands.



Ladybugs continue to reproduce in wheat fields.



A perfect line of stink bug eggs placed very carefully on a single wheat awn.