

# WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about  
Integrated Pest  
Management in  
Hockley,  
Cochran, and  
Lamb Counties  
from  
Kerry Sidors

August 17, 2017

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## Current Situation

**Cotton** ranges from just starting to bloom to hard cut-out (0 nodes above white flower). Ideally cotton will be blooming out-the-top by now; because we have reached that point when the odds of a bloom developing into a quality/yield contributing boll will drop considerably over the next several days. In fact, the scouts and I noticed fields beginning to shed squares and some small bolls this week. We can see this a bit earlier some years. This is a normal process of the plant making a final adjustment in what the plant can naturally hold and mature out. Be sure though that this fruit shed is natural and not being induced by Lygus or particularly cotton bollworm in the case of conventional cotton. We are picking up bollworms activity in many fields, even very light activity in Bt cotton. We have sprayed some conventional cotton acres. We are also finding cotton aphids. Most of these aphids are in mostly small clusters with many aphids, with good beneficial activity. Be careful to not get too aggressive with these cotton aphids, but do not hesitate if they are consistent and reach 40-70 aphids per leaf. Here is the cotton aphid guide which discusses threshold, chemical control and other considerations: [http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2017/07/Cotton-aphid\\_ENTO074.pdf](http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2017/07/Cotton-aphid_ENTO074.pdf). Continue to scout for another 21 days or so. By September 7<sup>th</sup> majority of cotton acres should have well over 400 heat units accumulated since 5 nodes above white flower stage. This gauge of time tells us that a crop is safe from most insect damage.

Irrigation has been where most questions are being posed. I will admit I get fairly conservative with irrigation as we move into the last days of August, and would rather err on the side of being too dry than too wet going into September. We have already had our chance of making quantity, now it is a matter of achieving quality through maturity. The last bolls set during this time need to be relatively stress free for 20 days (approximately September 10<sup>th</sup>). So as long as the plant recovers quickly from any wilting during a +90 degree day then those last bolls formed should mature properly. After 40-45 days (approximately September 30<sup>th</sup>) the plant can nearly go into permanent wilt and it should not have an impact on yield or quality. So bottom line – be very careful watering over the next few weeks. Call if questions.

**Grain sorghum** must be scouted on a weekly basis now, checking for the sugarcane aphid. Here is the guide: [http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2016/05/ENTO-035\\_Sugarcane\\_Aphid-Management\\_2016.pdf](http://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2016/05/ENTO-035_Sugarcane_Aphid-Management_2016.pdf).

## Private Pesticide Applicators Training 2017 Cochran, Hockley and Lamb Counties

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Morton, Levelland and Littlefield throughout 2017. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in a training individuals must call 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the trainings in Levelland; 806-385-4222 ext 235 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the trainings in Littlefield; or 806-266-5215 by 3pm the day prior to any trainings in Morton. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Offices (see addresses below). There is a \$60 fee for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location. Future PAT Trainings:

- August 28 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- September TBA Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5
- October 19 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- November 6 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- December TBA Littlefield Extension Office, Courthouse, Room B-5

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of training.*

### See You On The Radio



Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.

**West Plains IPM Update** is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

# West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference



The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute will host their annual conference on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock.

This year represents the 65th meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources.

A detailed list of presentations and speakers can be found at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.

Seven CEUs for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and 7 CEUs for the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program will be available. CEUs for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) are pending.

Pre-registration is available online at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu/Registration.html>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees. Booth sponsors have various levels available. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Opportunities also exist to contribute to the WTACI Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships to students majoring in agricultural fields at many Texas universities.

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute (WTACI) is an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources. For more information visit <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.

# COCHRAN COUNTY

BIENNIAL FARM FAIR

SEPT 13TH



COUNTY  
AG BARN

9:00 AM

LUNCH PROVIDED BY  
RIVER SMITH'S

DOOR  
PRIZES

FOR BOOTH RESERVATIONS, CONTACT  
NATALIE SILHAN, 806-266-5215