

Pest Management News
News About integrated pest management for
producers in Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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GENERAL SITUATION

Hope everyone has had a Blessed and Happy New Year.

It is estimated about 98% of the 2014 cotton crop is harvested and lint yields are much better than expected. Dryland cotton yields of 2 bales per acre have been reported in some areas of Runnels County and irrigated cotton lint yields turned out much better as well. It's amazing what timely rains and a warm open fall can do for cotton

Wheat is progressing well with little to no insect pressure at this time. We have received phone calls from growers concerned with yellowing of leaves in some wheat fields. Leaves of wheat seedlings are productive for about 45 days and then the productivity drops off. As the plant continues to grow and new leaves are formed, the nutrients are put into new plant growth. Older leaves turn yellow as these nutrients are moved to younger more productive leaves.

Area wheat has done well with good soil moisture conditions. With that said, so has the winter weeds. Remember, major yield loss can occur from weed infestations during tiller formation as weeds compete for light, water, and nutrients. 2, 4-D and similar phenoxy herbicides should not be applied until wheat is fully tillered. Wheat planted Sept.-Oct. has tillered and can handle 2, 4-D. Wheat planted in mid Nov.-Dec. is still susceptible to phenoxy herbicide damage.

Nitrogen is generally the most limiting nutrient for optimum wheat production. Top dressing wheat with nitrogen during January thru February can have an positive impact on yield. There can be a number of advantages of combining herbicide and top-dress nitrogen applications but remember that sometimes it can cause severe foliar burn. It is well known that UAN applications can cause considerable foliar burn under certain conditions, but numerous studies have shown that this foliar burn is temporary and seldom causes yield loss.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- * Applying nitrogen fertilizer with herbicides may improve weed control, but low nitrogen rates are not adequate substitutes for surfactant or crop oil adjuvants.
- * To reduce the potential of foliar nitrogen burn, limit the amount of nitrogen fertilizer in the spray solution to no more than 50 percent by volume when applying herbicides with surfactant or crop oil adjuvant.
- * Unless required on the herbicide label, consider not using a surfactant or crop oil adjuvant with herbicides when liquid nitrogen in the spray solution exceeds 50 percent by volume, but be aware that significant foliar burn may still occur and weed control may be reduced. However, if the herbicide label specifies that adjuvant is required, weed control likely will be decreased if it is not included in the spray solution.
- * Avoid making weed-and-feed applications during warm, humid conditions and before expected periods of freezing temperatures that may limit the crop's ability to metabolize the applied herbicide (s).
- * Liquid formulated herbicides, especially emulsifiable concentrates, are more likely to increase foliar nitrogen burn than dry formulated herbicides.
- * Foliar burn from nitrogen fertilizer is temporary and rarely causes yield loss when applied to low fertility fields under favorable environmental conditions before crop jointing

2014 Farm Bill Decision Aid Workshop

The 2014 Farm Bill eliminated many of the commodity programs area agricultural producers were familiar with and had participated in for many years. The new Farm Bill gives producers the ability to choose between three distinctly different commodity programs in addition to possibly reallocating crop base acres and updating program yields. The details of these programs can be complex to comprehend, and very difficult to work through in determining which program addresses the risk management needs of each farm.

Starting with the 2014 crop year, producers can choose between the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program, and two distinctly different Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs. It is the intent of congress and the USDA that local FSA offices are not to be the main source of producer education efforts. The Agriculture and Food Policy Center (AFPC) in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University has developed an on-line producer Decision Aid specifically for helping producers with these multiple decisions. Producers can find the decision aid at <https://usda.afpc.tamu.edu/>.

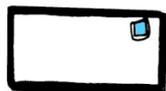
The decision aid requires a lot of historical data. For each FSA farm, producers should have 5 to 10 years of production data (acres planted and yields) readily available from their crop insurance agent, and Base Acre and Program Yield data from their FSA office. The data entry process is relatively simple and the results are displayed almost instantly, allowing producers to run multiple scenarios in a short period of time.

For those producers that do not have internet access, or are uncomfortable with the data entry process or with interpreting the generated results, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting a day long Decision Aid workshop at the **Region 15 Education Service Center, 612 S. Irene in San Angelo, on Wednesday January 21, 2015.** Extension Economist Bill Thompson will be onsite throughout the day to assist with data entry and interpretation. **Please RSVP at the Tom Green County Extension office, 325-659-6524.**



CALENDAR INFORMATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE CONCHO VALLEY COTTON CONFERENCE, TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2015 AT THE CONVENTION CENTER IN SAN ANGELO, TX. This program is co-sponsored by the Tom Green County Ag & Natural Resources Committee, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association. A complimentary noon meal will be provided by local growers, and booth exhibits will be displayed by agribusinesses. Registration begins at 8:00 am.



PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS NEWSLETTER RENEWAL

“Pest Management News” is a newsletter which provides timely, accurate and pertinent information in the areas of crop production within the Southern Rolling Plains. Newsletters are written weekly during the growing season and a total of seventeen were issued in 2014. This newsletter will keep you abreast of current insect pest populations, natural enemies, biological and cultural control tactics and chemical control options. It will also provide the user with economic thresholds and other management tools to assist the farm operator in making management decisions. **NOTE: The subscription fee will be \$15 to cover the cost of postage.** If you are interested in receiving this newsletter during 2014, please fill out subscription form and return along with \$15.00 to “Pest Management News,” 613 Hutchins Ave., Room 302, Ballinger, Tx 76821, payable to “Pest Management News” by April 15, 2015.

Last Chance CEU Training Course

Texas A&M Research & Extension Center

7887 US Hwy 87 North

San Angelo, Texas

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

12:30 - 12:50 Registration

12:50 - 1:00 Welcome & Introductions - Josh Blaneck, CEA

1:00 - 2:00 Pest Control Around the Home and Barn (1-IPM)

Dr. Charles Allen, Extension Specialist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-San Angelo

Dr. Charles Allen will review home and barn insect pests in our particular area and region. He will cover identification and the life cycle of those pests. He will also cover the recommended IPM control methods and how each method works.

2:00 - 3:00 Herbicide Modes of Action (1-Gen)

James Jackson, Extension Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Stephenville

James Jackson will review What Determines Mode of Action, the 7 Modes of Action and how different herbicides and their MoA effect the plant. He will also cover IPM of local problem plants.

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:15 - 4:15 Pesticide Laws & Regulations (1-L&R)

Cory Pence, Texas Dept of Agriculture Rep., San Angelo

Cory Pence will review current Pesticide Laws and Regulations.

4:15 - 5:15 Reducing Pesticide use Through EarthKind Practices (1-Gen)

Allison Watkins, CEA - Horticulturist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Tom Green County

Allison Watkins will review EarthKind Landscape management strategies to help reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides in the home landscape and garden. Topics will include proper plant selection and cultural practices.

5:15 - 6:15 Drift Minimization & Equipment Calibration (1-Drift)

Dr. Billy Warrick, Retired Extension Agronomist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Water Valley

Dr Billy Warrick will review proper Drift Minimization techniques and equipment calibration.

6:15 Wrap Up, Evaluation & Issue Certificates