



Integrated Pest Management
Runnels-Tom Green Counties
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Turn Row Meetings:

Thursday August 1 at 8:30 AM

Western Chemical

Tuesday August 6 at 8:30 AM

Wall Coop Gin

GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton ranges anywhere from squaring to about mid-bloom. For the fields that are squaring, keep monitoring for fleahoppers until first bloom. Aphids are present in numerous fields and continue to pop up. Regarding sorghum, many fields are starting to finish out. Most of the milo is getting to the point where stinkbugs are no longer a concern. Be mindful that these stinkbugs will be moving from milo to nearby cotton fields.

There will be no turn row meeting at Wall Coop Gin on Tuesday, July 30. I apologize for this inconvenience. The next turn row meeting at Wall will be Tuesday, August 6.

Hellllo Runnels County folks! There are now turn row meetings at Western Chemical starting on Thursday, August 1 at 8:30 AM. These will be every Thursday.

COTTON

Fleahoppers continue to be a concern in cotton that is squaring. Keep monitoring your fields for fleahoppers until first bloom. Some of the fields I have scouted in the past week have been at economic threshold, resulting in insecticide applications; however, I have been in other fields that are below the economic threshold. If spraying for fleahoppers, using a selective insecticide is important in order to conserve your beneficial insect populations. If you choose to use a broad spectrum insecticide for fleahoppers, you are more likely to see outbreaks of aphids and bollworms since you are killing off beneficials that help naturally control aphids and bollworm eggs.

Aphids are present in several fields in the area and continue to show up in other fields. Aphids are usually found on the underside of leaves, on stems, or in the terminals (Figure 1 and 2). Small number of aphids can attract beneficial insects and help build these beneficial populations further. However since aphids can reproduce quickly, a light infestation can easily turn into a damaging one (especially if there is a low population of beneficials present). So check fields infested with aphids twice a week to make sure they don't reach threshold. (Table 1). Scout fields by randomly selecting plants across a field, sample 60 leaves among the top, middle, and lower portion of the plant to determine aphid infestations.



Figure 1. Aphids on underside of leaf



Figure 2. Aphids

Table 1. Aphid Threshold

Cotton Stage	Action Threshold
Prior to first cracked boll	40-70 aphids per leaf*
After first cracked boll	10 aphids per leaf**
*Higher the yield potential (>1000 lbs lint/acre), lower the threshold	
** Where rainfall is not likely to wash honeydew from the lint	

SORGHUM

Not much has changed regarding sorghum. Most of the milo is at the point where stinkbugs and headworms are no longer a concern. Once your field hits hard-dough stage, both of these pests are not an issue. However, keep in mind that the stinkbugs will be moving into cotton from your milo.

Sugarcane aphids remain present in the area and populations continue to build. As mentioned before, the economic threshold for SCA depends on the growth stage of sorghum (Table 2). Remember even though sugarcane aphid infestations that occur after grain fill may have less impact on yield, the honeydew produced can impede harvest. It is important to keep monitoring your fields, especially if you have SCA present. If necessary, consider applying an insecticide with your harvest aid. This will prevent SCA from moving up into the panicle and continue to produce honeydew. Make sure you observe preharvest intervals for the insecticide if choosing to apply it with your harvest aid.

Table 2. Sugarcane Aphid Threshold

Growth Stage	Threshold
Preboot	20% plants with aphids present (50 aphids or more)
Boot	50 aphids per leaf on 20% of plants
Flowering -Milk	50 aphids per leaf on 30% of plants
Soft dough	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, 30% of plants infested
Dough	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, 30% of plants infested
Black Layer	Heavy honeydew, established colonies, observe preharvest intervals

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