

Pest Management News Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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Integrated Pest Management
Runnels-Tom Green Counties
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Runnels County Ag Day
Thursday, April 2
Rowena, TX

**If you would like to be added to
the newsletter email list please
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GENERAL INFORMATION

The overall wheat crop is continuing to progress and last week we received a slow, steady rainfall resulting in up to 3.25" in some areas. The rainfall last week pushed off corn planting until this week.

Runnels County Ag Day will be held on Thursday, April 2 in Rowena at St. Joseph's Parish Hall! Some topics include improving soil health, weed resistance, and gene drive technology. The guest keynote speaker will be Mike Conaway. The annual meeting of the Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association will be during Ag Day as well! I will send out the agenda once it is finalized.

WHEAT

To put a few things on your radar... There have been a couple of reports of stripe rust in McCulloch County (Figure 1). Initial infection can come from wind-borne spores that can be carried long distances or come from nearby hosts such as volunteer wheat. Stripe rust development favors cool and wet conditions such as intermittent rains, with a preference of nighttime temperatures <60°F. Even in the absence of rain, heavy dew and fog provide sufficient moisture for rust development.



Figure 1. Stripe rust pustules on wheat leaf in McCulloch County (3/9/20)

I have also received a few reports of brown wheat mites in McCulloch County that resulted in pesticide applications. The brown wheat mite is about the size of a period mark with a rounded, metallic dark brown body (Figure 2). One of the distinctive characteristics is that its front legs are about twice as long as the other pairs of legs. They feed in wheat during the daytime, with peak activity occurring mid-afternoon.



Figure 2. Brown wheat mite on wheat leaf. Photo Credit: Kansas State University

AUXIN TRAINING

There have already been multiple auxin trainings held this year, but there are 2 more opportunities coming up. **One of them will be April 2nd at the Runnels County Ag Day, and the second training date is April 8th at the Ballinger Senior Citizen Center.**

Remember—the auxin training must be completed in order to apply 2,4-D or Dicamba on the auxin tolerant cotton varieties. Keep in mind that producers who are applying one of the Dicamba formulations (Engenia, Fexapan, Tavium, Xtendimax) must be a licensed pesticide applicator and have their own license. If you are applying 2,4-D (Enlist One or Enlist Duo) you may still apply under the supervision of a licensed applicator. This year's training has been reduced back to a one hour training instead of two.

PARAQUAT TRAINING

Any person who intends to **mix, load, apply, or handle** paraquat must complete the EPA approved paraquat training. You must be a certified applicator AND complete this training in order to use paraquat. The training must be retaken every three years. Currently the only way to do this training is through an online link. (<https://npsec.us/paraquat>).

This online training requires about 45 mins to an hour of your time, with a 15-question test at the end of the training. You must score 100% to receive your certificate.

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