

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

February, 2015

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sorghum Production Meeting 3/5/15

Cover Crop Conference—Lubbock 3/6/15

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Glasscock, Reagan, Upton 2014 Annual Report is complete and copies have been delivered to Both gins. I have also posted a copy on the [Glasscock County Extension](#) website. If you would like an electronic copy emailed to you, please let me know.

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GENERAL SITUATION

Moisture conditions are decent right now. Positive for dryland wheat, but we definitely need a good soaking rain. The rain the last weekend in January went a long way to fill up our profile, but the moisture on top is moving down or dried out. There is room for more. Up and down temperatures have made it difficult for this wheat crop to take off.

WHEAT

Wheat is very slow right now; it seems like every time we get a few days of good growing conditions, another cold front blows in to shut it down. It is not only around here, most of the state is like this unless the wheat was sown early and fertilized. Speaking of fertilizer, now is the time to start thinking about putting some out if you are planning on making a crop. Ideally, you want to put out 1.2 units of N for every bushel of wheat you expect to harvest. Putting it out prior to a good rain and getting it watered in is best. If it sets on the surface to long you lose it to volatilization; Also remember it needs to go out before the plants begin to joint.

Growth Stage	Approximate Injurious Temperature (two hours)	Primary Symptoms	Yield Effect
Tillering	12 F (-11 C)	Leaf chlorosis; burning of leaf tips; silage odor; blue cast to fields	Slight to moderate
Jointing	24 F (-4 C)	Death of growing point; leaf yellowing or burning; lesions, splitting, or bending of lower stem; odor	Moderate to severe
Boot	28 F (-2 C)	Floret sterility; spike trapped in boot; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration; odor	Moderate to severe
Heading	30 F (-1 C)	Floret sterility; white awns or white heads; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration	Severe
Flowering	32 F (0 C)	Floret sterility; white awns or white heads; damage to lower stem; leaf discoloration	Severe
Milk	28 F (-2 C)	White awns or white heads; damage to lower stems; leaf discoloration; shrunk, roughened, or discolored kernels	Moderate to severe
Dough	28 F (-2 C)	Shriveled, discolored kernels; poor germination	Slight to moderate

FREE SOIL & WATER SAMPLING

As part of a grant that I received from Cotton Incorporated, I am looking for 25-30 producers to allow me to sample one field each for nutrients and salts as well as take a water sample. Most of the fields I am targeting are South and West of St. Lawrence in some of the saltier country. I will be taking 5 or 6 around Garden City. All results will be returned to the producer for your use. Water samples will be taken later on in the spring when wells are turned on. Soil sampling will start in a couple of weeks, and samples will be taken first come, first served; funds are limited. Give me a call if you want to be included.

PESTS



Greenbug

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System, US Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating



Winter Grain Mite

Pests in wheat are not to much of a concern at this point, but we have some to monitor. Greenbugs can be found in most fields, but at very low numbers. Also, winter grain mites are present in some spots. These are tiny little mites about the size of the period at the end of this sentence. They are black with red legs. If you notice your wheat turning yellow in spots and cannot find any bugs, look where the yellow and green spots meet; You may find tiny little black mites. Leaf rust is also showing up in some volunteer wheat. Rust is usually not a concern and seldom a concern unless it reaches the flag leaf. It has been my experience that a rust year generally makes for a good wheat year due to increased moisture.

NEW FORMULATION OF TOPGUARD

I recently received some news from Dr. Tom Isakeit concerning Topguard. Topguard has received a full label, but has been reformulated to a 4.17 pounds ai per gallon of product called "Topguard Terra". At the same time, "Topguard" formulated at 1.07 pounds ai per gallon received a section 18 label. Both products will be sold this year. It will be critical to check your labels and make sure which product you have before putting it out in order to prevent applying 4 times as much or only 1/4 of the product. Application and performance is the same for "Topguard Terra" as "Topguard".

SORGHUM PRODUCTION MEETING

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension will be hosting a sorghum production meeting on Thursday March 5, 2015 at 9:00am at The Community Center in Garden City. Topics to be covered will include: Establishment, Irrigation, Splitting Drip Systems, Herbicides, Insecticides, and Pest Management. CEU'S will be offered, and time will be available to discuss Wheat Management as well. For more information contact The Extension Office.

Cover Cropping Workshop

Cover cropping, the practice of planting a crop to prevent soil erosion and add organic matter, will be the focus of a workshop conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. March 6 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock. The center is located at 1102 East Farm-to-Market Road 1294 (exit 11 on I-27 north of Lubbock International Airport).

Individual registration is \$30. RSVP to the AgriLife Extension office in Lubbock at 806-775-1740 is requested by March 4.

Dr. Calvin Trostle, AgriLife Extension agronomist at Lubbock said regional producers realize cover crops would use significant amounts of water, so he said it is natural to determine if the practice is even permissible under current water use guidelines.

"It's a practice used mostly where there is much more rainfall than we have here," Trostle said. "Will it work here? Would the water needed to grow cover crops be detrimental to our cropping system? What are the potential long-term benefits for soil improvement? And do tillage options affect cover cropping? These questions and more are the focus of this workshop where we will attempt to take a pragmatic look at the pros and cons of cover cropping, and at a minimum, identify components of cover cropping that could enhance South Plains crop production."

Brown said speakers will include staff from AgriLife, Texas Tech University, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service and several area producers who have initiated cover cropping on part of their land.

Producers can access educational materials at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/cover-crops>. "The exchange of ideas among attendees, coupled with research and demonstration work conducted by AgriLife will help us identify aspects of cover cropping that may be beneficial to the region," Trostle said.