

# CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sesame Meeting 3-27

Sorghum Meeting 3-31

## SCOUTING PROGRAM

We are currently taking applications for IPM Field Scouts for this Summer. The starting salary this year will be \$10.00 an hour plus mileage. If you know of anyone looking for a summer job (kids, nieces, nephews, grandkids, wives, etc...) have them contact me here at my office or on my cell phone.

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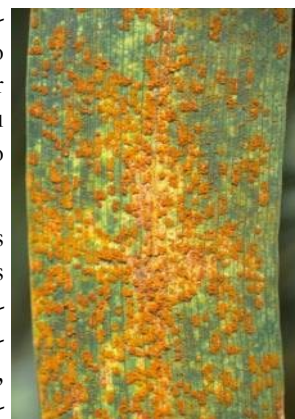
## GENERAL SITUATION

Moisture wise, we are not in too bad of shape right now. This month alone we have received 1.04" and 3.82" for 2015. That is the best start to the year since the Mesonet was put in, and we still have a chance for more rain this week. Hopefully it will come as we can use the moisture down deep for our spring crops.

## WHEAT

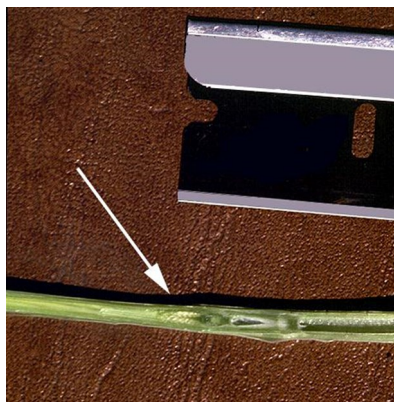
Area wheat is looking real good right now as it is starting to grow off. Most of our fields are very close to jointing at this time. If you do not have your fertilizer out yet, I would be making plans to do so now. If you are grazing your wheat and still planning on taking it to grain, now is the time to pull off.

Winter grain mites continue to build in some fields around the area. These tiny black mites with red legs are difficult to see and are more of a problem in continuous wheat fields. Warmer, drier weather will reduce their populations. When populations get high, yellow spots or areas can be found in the field. Malathion at 1.5 -2.0 pt/ac or methyl parathion at 0.5-1.50 pt/ac is labeled for control.



Leaf Rust

Leaf rust can be found in several fields around the area.



Jointing Wheat

I am still not real concerned about rust right now, but we need to keep an eye on it. Do not let it start infecting the flag leaf. Products labeled for rust include; Quilt, Tilt, Headline, Stratego, Quadris and others. Remember, if it is cool and wet enough for a lot of rust, we will make a lot of wheat.

Weeds are taking off after the recent rains. 2,4-D is still your best broadleaf option up until the crop begins to joint, then some yield loss may be suffered. After that, products like your ALS inhibitors work well on those mustards. Products like Affinity, Ally, Beyond, Finesse Grass and Broadleaf, and Olympus.

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## PIMA COTTON GROWERS

TDA would like to be notified of all pima fields planted in the area in order to monitor these fields for pinkies this year. The following statement has been issued by TDA and they request that all Pima producers contact them.

Prior to planting producers will need to contact the gin that will be involved in ginning your cotton because both the growers and gin must submit a mitigation plan to TDA. This plan should be in place prior to planting. All pima cotton fields will be trapped for pink bollworms.

## COTTON

A lot of folks have been asking me "How can we afford to grow cotton for "\$0.60?" I will make two quick points about this.

First, managing costs will be critical. You still have to fertilize, control weeds, spray bugs, irrigate (if you have it), ect. But if you can save a few bucks here and there it will add up. Soil test, watch seeding rates, make sure sprayers are properly calibrated, make sure insect pests have reached economic thresholds. These things just might add up.

Secondly, quality cotton is going to be huge. We have already seen it with this year's exports and with even larger world carry over numbers producers will get paid for high quality. So variety selection and management will be critical.

## PIMA

**PIMA:** The following table shows results of the 2014 pima cotton variety trial conducted with Mr. Ramon Tirres Jr. at his Farm out near El Paso. This test was planted on April 29, using a seeding rate of 17.3 lb/acre, and harvested on December 2, 2014. The plots consisted of 4 rows spaced at 40 inches and a length of 600 feet, replicated 3 times. The total row length per variety was 7,200 feet (600' x 4 rows x 3 reps) equivalent to 0.55 acres in 3 reps (7200/13069.3) or 0.18 acres per plot (0.55/3). A 4-row field margin was used to minimize border effect. Varieties sorted by pounds of lint/acre:

The results have been very consistent with what I have heard elsewhere, conventional Pima varieties tend to out yield Flex varieties. However; you do have the weed control aspect to contend with. I am looking at putting a Pima trial in this year.

### PIMA YIELD:

Variety	Average seed cotton per plot (lbs)	Average seed cotton per acre (lbs)	Average lint turnout percentage	Average lint per acre (lbs)
DP357	460	2,634	43%	1,077
DP340	470	2,693	42%	1,075
DP358	416	2,384	41%	929
DP348	370	2,120	42%	846
PHY805RF	297	1,700	44%	711

### PIMA FIBER ANALYSIS:

Variety	Micronaire	Length	Uniformity	Strength	Elongation
DP357	3.56	1.33	84.43	39.07	6.50
DP340	4.11	1.34	84.63	40.27	5.70
DP358	3.65	1.38	86.13	39.20	6.17
DP348	3.61	1.37	86.03	39.33	6.07
PHY805RF	3.84	1.37	85.97	41.00	5.83