

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

May 2015

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

West Tx Livestock & Range Conference

5/21/15

GENERAL SITUATION

We finally received the general planting rain that we have been needing to wet the top of the beds and join the lower moisture. By the time you get this folks that were on the lower rainfall side, .5" - .8" may be planting. Areas that received 1.25" - 1.5" will have to hold off a little longer. Our soil temperatures look good, running 68-69 degrees and our ten day forecast is good except for a few chances of rain, which we will take. You can monitor soil temps on the Mesonet, but I would advise you to put a thermometer in the soil, especially if you are very far from a weather station.

COTTON

This is the most important time for cotton production. Variety selection, planting depth, moisture, stand, early season weed control all impact the rest of the season. I know everyone gets in a hurry to get finished planting, but it is little mistakes made now that cost money in the fall. Control early season weeds in order to allow cotton to grow off without competition. When possible, tank-mix another product besides glyphosate to prevent or control resistance. If cotton is following milo or haygrazer be aware of the potential for wireworms. Scout fields and place corn meal bait stations to monitor for their presence.

FERTILITY

With the moisture that we are starting out with this year, this may very well be one of those years where it will pay to fertilize dryland cotton. From talking to many of you, some of these fields have not been fertilized in 10-15 years. Even a little fertilizer could go a long way. I know it is expensive, but this year it could pay for itself, and putting out phosphorus will help those roots go down if its starts getting dry.

PECANS

I have a few casebearer traps out and I am trying to get more out. We are currently catching moths but no eggs have been found. The time to spray has not arrived yet.

SCOUTING PROGRAM

Scout applications just recently started coming in. I do not see us running 8 scouts like in years past, but we will have enough. Just like in other years, they will be gone from time to time but we will make it work and it will get better each year.

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WHEAT



Wireworms

This season's wheat crop is winding down and like a lot of years I have seen quite a few interesting things out there. In fields where leaf or stripe rust got out of hand they have dried down much quicker, where it was controlled the plants held on and matured out. Yields will vary considerably come harvest.

GRASSHOPPERS

I am hearing a few reports of grasshoppers popping up around the area. I have been beating the bushes and walking the ditches and pastures and am only finding a few here and there. I have talked to a few folks who have seen large numbers (20+) in small areas along roadside and fences. With cotton just now being planted and coming up we need to keep an eye out for them. Thresholds for jumbos are 1 per 3 row ft. and 10 per 3 row ft. for all others.



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MILO

A fair amount of milo is in the ground and is finally coming around. For a large portion of this crop it has taken longer than normal to come up. Now with good moisture and warm days hopefully it will take off and grow. Sugarcane aphids are again advancing north, but at this time all of their activity is east of I-35. I have included a map of where overwintering populations have been found. I am still not overly concerned about this pest, if it shows up again we will assess the situation, determine whether or not to spray and if need be control them. For us I think milo is still a viable option.

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