

# CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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Blister beetles on cotton

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## GENERAL SITUATION

It has turned out hot and dry again with no rain in over the past 2 weeks and warmer temperatures across the area. Several of the poorer dryland fields have been plowed out with some of them going back to maize. Others are sitting waiting on a rain. Most all of the cotton is squaring and square sets are running 85-95% despite what many of your reports have said. I have been going back and checking many of the lowest fields and the square sets were much higher. If you have any concerns give me a call. We do have several fields that are very close to bloom and should bloom within the next week to ten days. Quite a few of the early planted fields seem to be a little behind schedule compared to the heat unit model.

## BLISTER BEETLES

Blister beetles have been hanging around the country since early spring and just recently acquired a taste for crops. On Monday, they were found feeding on sunflowers near Garden City. By this Tuesday, they were defoliating the plants. On Wednesday, they had moved to the cotton. I have also seen them south of Garden City and around St. Lawrence as well as on wheat and wheat stubble.



Blister beetle damage to sunflower

For the most part they seem to be concentrating around tumble weed, careless weed and kochia on edges of fields. They usually will not be any more than 20 ft. in the field and generally 2-4 ft. They feed on the weeds and move to the cotton. Also, for some reason I tend to find them in the northeast corner of the field.

Bidrin at 1-2 oz. along the edges of the field should take care of them just fine. They are not located in every field, so I do not think you need to start spraying all of your acres, but I would check weedy locations along the edges of turn-rows. Give me a call if you need me to help you check your fields.

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## COTTON FLEAHOPPERS

Cotton fleahopper numbers are running low at this time with most fields averaging 0-5 fleahoppers per 100 terminals. One field reported 25 fleahoppers per 100 terminals. Square sets have been all over the place from 60%-94%, but after taking the scouts back to "school" this week we should see the percentages come back up.

## WEATHER DATA

We have finally starting accumulating heat units over the past several weeks. In the last newsletter I mentioned that we averaged 24.7 per day for the past week and 22 per day for the past two weeks. I was looking at last year's data. It was actually 15.1 and 22. Over the past week we have averaged 19.3 heat units and over the past two weeks we averaged 20.5 heat units per day. Aside from the wind blowing constantly and helping to dry out the upper 2-3 inches of the soil and increase the ET of the plants this has been good cotton weather. These milder temperatures should aid in keeping up with water demand and allowing for some banking of moisture prior to bloom.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2014

<b>Aug. 1, 2014</b>	Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center
<b>Nov. 3, 2014</b>	Ballots mailed to eligible voters
<b>Dec. 1, 2014</b>	Last day to turn in voted ballots at the USDA Service Center
<b>Jan. 1, 2015</b>	Newly elected county committee members take office

## TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, July 15	9:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, July 16	9:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop
Tuesday July, 22	9:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, July 23	9:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop

## HEAT UNITS

DATE	5/10	5/20	6/1	6/10
2014	1059	960	793	608
2013	1169	1027	819	645
5 Year AVG	1222	1102	890	700