

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

TEXAS A&M
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GENERAL SITUATION

This crop has been trying to call it quits for several weeks now, but these little pop-up showers around the county have been supplying just enough moisture to keep these plants blooming. Over the past two weeks around 1/3 of the area has received from .4-1.25 inches of rain with the majority east of 33. With many fields deficient on moisture right now, hopefully this will help retain some of the smaller bolls that are shedding. Temperatures have been good as well, still accumulating good heat units, but we do not have excessive heat. We just need more rain!

STINK BUGS

Stink bugs are still scattered here and there, but in general are hard to find. Feeding damage has been harder to find as well. We could possibly see another flush over the next couple of weeks as sorghum harvest starts. Especially if they cut any fields that were not previously treated. Be on the lookout, especially if you have cotton in the vicinity of sorghum.

SPIDER MITES

Spider mites are slowly starting to show up in a few fields around the area. They are heaviest along oil field roads where the dust is worse. I have not seen any fields that are at threshold levels yet, but I would keep an eye on them and avoid using any pyrethroids.

APHIDS

Much like the spider mites, Aphid numbers have shown a very small increase this past week. This is not something to really get excited about, but fields should be monitored, especially as we get closer to open bolls.

TURNROW MEETINGS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Tuesday, August 26 | 9:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop |
| Wednesday, August 27 | 9:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop |

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IRRIGATION TERMINATION

From work that has been done by Warren and others, it has been determined that irrigation should be terminated 400-500 heat units after cutout (NAWF =5). Many fields started reaching cutout the first full week of August with others quickly following. With very little soil moisture in many of these fields it would be a good idea to water a little longer if possible, also factoring in rainfall, boll load, crop potential, etc...

HEAT UNITS

| DATE | 5/10 | 5/20 | 6/1 | 6/20 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2014 | 1925.5 | 1814.5 | 1647.5 | 1462.5 |
| 2013 | 1999.5 | 1857.5 | 1650 | 1475.5 |
| 5 Year AVG | 2152 | 2031 | 1820 | 1630 |

Heat units accumulated over the past seven days have equaled 20.5 DD 60's per day. Overall we are about 7-11 days behind our historical average.

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

TRI-COUNTY CROP TOUR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
2:30 PM

MEET AT ST. LAWRENCE HALL

SOCIAL & MEAL TO FOLLOW TOUR

LATE SEASON BLOOMS

A lot of folks have asked about the final date for expecting a bloom to make a boll, here is an excerpt from Warren's Sept. 6, 2007 newsletter:

Research has shown that it takes approximately 800 heat units to make an acceptable boll. The 5 year average for heat units accumulated during the month of September is 388. For a September 1 bloom to make a harvestable boll, we would still need an additional 400 heat units in October and November to finish it out. It will have to remain above average temperatures to make this happen.

Five year average heat units from August 20th to the end of September is 619. These August 20th blooms have a much greater chance of making a harvestable boll.

FARM BILL MEETINGS

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has set five farm bill programs across West Texas meant to help producers in their decision-making process, said an AgriLife Extension economist.

All the programs are set from 9 a.m.-noon at the following dates and locations:

- Sept. 23, Garden City, Glasscock County Community Center
- Sept. 24, San Angelo, Tom Green County 4-H Center, 3168, North U.S. Highway 67.
- Oct. 7, Fort Stockton, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center, 1618 Airport Dr.

Thompson said the meetings will recap both the programs available to producers, including Price Loss Coverage, or PLC, and Agricultural Risk Coverage, or ARC. They also will cover any base and yield update options available that can illustrate the data needed to complete the decision-making process.

"Though the new farm bill addressing cotton won't be in place until 2015, almost all farms will still need to enroll acreage into one of these two coverage areas," Thompson said. "We will also have a short discussion of the disaster and conservation programs available."

Thompson said he'll introduce an online decision aid available to producers developed by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center of the agricultural economics department at Texas A&M University, College Station. The decision aid simplifies the analysis needed to choose between the PLC and ARC coverages.