

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

April 12, 2016

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FSA MEETING	4/19
WHEAT TOUR	4/29

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THANK YOU

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GENERAL SITUATION

Overall conditions look fairly good in the field for this time of the year. Our soil moisture profile looks better now than it has at this point in time for several years. Additionally, we have a good chance of rain today and throughout the weekend. Many folks have water going at this time, but a few have still not started their pumps.

WHEAT

Wheat for grain is still looking good around the area, but sure needs a drink as most everything is headed out and making grain. We had a very slight freeze on April 2nd with reports of temps down around 29-30 degrees. Wheat that is flowering can only handle temps to 32 degrees. Wheat that is heading can handle temps down to 30 degrees. If it is still in the boot it can drop down to about 28 degrees, of course these are all approximates and things such as elevation, wind currents, soil moisture, and fertility play a roll in how plants are effected by freezing temperatures. Fortunately, it appears that this cold snap just barely grazed us. Of the fields I have looked at so far the yield loss is probably less than 1%.

Rust on the other hand could turn out to be a much worse problem. Varieties with no rust tolerance have shown a considerable amount of rust all season. All of these fields have been treated at least once, otherwise they would be dead. Rust is starting to build in some of our more resistant varieties at this time. This is not uncommon, especially when the inoculum has been present for this long and we have had little showers and humid mornings. At this point in time, the most important thing to keep in mind is keeping that flag leaf healthy. Approximately 75% of the photosynthate needed to make grain comes from the flag leaf, much like the sub-tending leaf on a cotton boll. After flowering when the plants can withstand a much higher percent of infection on the leaf. The percent of infection increases as the crop matures from milk stage to soft dough, to hard dough. However, cool weather and rains can greatly increase the amount of rust present. Give me a call and I will check some fields with you.

The Glasscock County FSA will be holding an informational meeting on Tuesday, April 19th at 8:30 am at the Glasscock County Community Center

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SORGHUM

First off, I am happy to report that the EPA has just granted us a Section 18 for Transform WG for use on sugarcane aphids (SCA). This is outstanding news for sorghum producers in Texas. I know that many of you prefer Sivanto and that is fine, but if more than one application is necessary for SCA, I strongly encourage you to rotate chemicals. More information can be found about the Section 18 at [Texas Sugarcane Aphids News](#). Either SCA is overwintering further north every year or we are getting better at finding them. On March 9th they were found in Comanche County, around the 10th Dr. Allen found some in Tom Green County, April 1st in Nolan County, and April 4th in Dawson County. All of these sites were johnsongrass where the SCA had overwintered. SCA has been manageable for us the past couple of years and I feel we can still handle it, but we need to monitor our fields regularly.

COTTON

The good thing about cotton is we have moisture, the bad thing is that we do not have a price. Cotton futures have broke .60 finally, which is some good news. Hopefully they can hold this level and go up. Even with slightly higher prices this is going to be a year where every dollar spent needs to be accounted for. We can not throw in product "x" because " its only \$7.50 an acre", unless it will return you \$9.00-\$10.00 an acre. We can not make applications just because our neighbors are doing it, we have to know the pest are there and and in high enough numbers to justify spraying. Weeds could be most critical. A little time and money spent now could pay off in the end. The more residuals that you can get out, the less you will have to worry about weeds competing for moisture. You will also conserve moisture by not cultivating. Aside from the yellows, folks are going back to Caparol, Cotoran, Direx, and Warrant is a fairly new product that works pretty good. When going back to some of these older chemistries keep crop rotation restrictions in mind if you are not planning on going back to cotton.

PIMA COTTON

At this time the Bollweevil Eradication has not announced if they will be trapping pinkies in Pima Cotton this year or not. If you are planting Pima, please let Debbie Schraeder know so she can put a trap out if they decide to.



WHEAT TOUR
Friday, April 29, 2016
9:00 a.m.

Sammy Kellermeier's Barn- Behind House

CEU'S OFFERED

Tour the Extension Wheat Variety Trials

Discuss:

Variety Selection

Disease Issues

Pest Management

Fertility

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