

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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THANK YOU

COTTON

Harvest is now in high gear (literally for many folks) and moving quickly. As is usually the case, reports that are coming in are quite mixed. Some places caught a late rain, more rain, or that perfect rain. Others were not so lucky. I love riding around and getting a chance to see how some of these different varieties perform under different conditions around the area. It is also fun to compare your notes and experiences to mine and combine it all to use next year. Best of luck and be safe.

WHEAT

If you have a wheat, oats, barley, or triticale field that you have not looked at in the past 7-10 days and you have not sprayed I would highly encourage you to do so now. Fall armyworm (FAW) have been increasing over the past several weeks now. Many times it looks as if they show up overnight due to the fact that the first couple of instars of larva are very small. However, the later instars which are much easier to see consume 70-80% of the total forage consumed during their life cycle. This is why you will suddenly see bare spots show up. The 1st and 2nd instars only eat the outer green layer of the leaf, leaving a thin transparent film. This is what we call "window panning." As they reach 3rd–5th instars, they are able to take bites of the leaf. In general we use a threshold of about 3 FAW per foot of row. However, if due to harvest activities, you know that you will not be back to check the field in a timely manner and worms are present, I would go ahead and treat. I know that a lot of Lorsban (chlorpyrifos) has gone out already. Personally, I would use a pyrethroid. If it were me, something such as Warrior, Karate, or Mustang. Most of the pyrethroids will do a better job controlling larger worms than chlorpyrifos....

I have also been asked about whether or not folks will have to replant wheat that has been completely chewed off. The short answer is, it depends. For starters, the growing point is still below ground so worm feeding is no different than cattle, goats, or deer. That being said the "grazing" pressure must be reduced in order for the stand to recover. How was the stand to being with? Have deer and rabbits impacted it as well? How is your moisture situation? Will more seeds germinate or will these plants continue to grow without a rain? If you choose to completely replant, I strongly suggest destroying the old stand and waiting 10-14 days before replanting to starve out any remaining worms.

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WHEAT CONTINUED

We will also want to allow these potential freezing temperatures to try and do their job this weekend. A couple of factors that work in tandem when discussing freezing temps is how cold did it get and how long did it stay there. These two factors work together whether killing insects, crops, or weeds. 32 degrees Fahrenheit or one hour may have greater effects than 30 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes. Keep in mind that the worms generally will burrow under the soil where it is a little warmer, so bottom line is we need that “hard, killing frost.” As always, give me call if you want me to look at something for you.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATORS TRAINING

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Garden City on January 16th beginning at 8:30 am. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity.

To participate in the training individuals must call 432-354-2381 by Friday 1/12 in order to have enough training material on hand. The trainings will begin promptly at 8:30 am at the Extension Office and last approximately 4 hours. If you are not there the entire time you will not get credit for the training. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

The table below shows the monthly average temperatures and heat units for the last several years.

	MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		November	
	DD-60'S	AVG	DD-60'S	AVG	DD-60'S	AVG	DD-60'S	AVG	DD-60'S	AVG	DD-60'S	AVG	DD-60'S	AVG
2017	370.5	71.9	664.5	82.2	669.5	81.6	554.5	77.9	432.0	74.4	230.5	68.19		
2016	371.0	71.6	551.0	78.4	788.5	85.8	633.5	80.4	460.0	75.3	346.50	71.08	65.50	58.20
2015	316.00	69.89	529.0	77.6	682.0	79.1	698.0	82.5	551.0	78.4	248.50	67.54	33.00	54.65
2014	376.00	71.45	594.5	79.8	627.0	79.5	643.0	80.7	420.0	73.8	255.00	67.54	14.50	50.09
2013	414.0	72.6	643.5	81.5	560.5	79.1	632.0	80.4	427.0	74.2	175.50	64.46	21.00	49.63
2012	449.5	74.5	672.0	82.4	659.0	80.0	668.5	81.6						
2011	469.0	74.6	788.0	86.3	778.5	84.7	775.0	85.0	436.0	74.5	220.50	65.6	37.50	54.32
2010	404.0	72.8	709.5	83.7	578.5	77.0	673.0	81.7	428.0	74.8				
AVG	396.25	72.41	644.00	81.47	667.94	80.85	659.69	81.28	450.57	75.06	246.08	67.24	34.30	53.38