

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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COTTON

If you would like to be added
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please email
tara.johnson@ag.tamu.edu
THANK YOU

Important Dates	
Tri- County Crop Tour	9/12
Nexgen Field Day	9/19
4-H Dove Hunt	9/20
Bayer Field Day	9/26
Runnels Co. Crop Tour	9/27
Tom Green Co. Crop Tour	10/5

I have received a lot of questions about the status and exactly what impact Hurricane Harvey had on the cotton crop along the coast. So I will start out with what I do know which has come from reliable sources. First off, there are 1000's of acres which are still inaccessible and therefore the status of the crop is unknown. As most of you know, the number one issue will be quality. Whether the lint is still on the plant or in a module sitting in 20+ inches of water the quality is going down. Some fields and/or modules will dry quicker than others and this will effect how much the quality drops. Preliminary estimates have around 400,00 bales still on the stalk with most being 100% lost at this time. From what I can gather, most of this cotton is from College Station, South to Victoria, and back East. Like I said, it is still early. The Bayside Gin was destroyed and approximately 200 modules were destroyed or heavily damaged. Several other gins are without power and it could be up to 4 weeks before power is restored. Several fundraisers are in the works for the folks down there. Lets be sure to help wherever we can and to keep them in our prayers. Word is they had a record crop this year, key word **HAD!**

I know that August was a lot cooler than normal, especially the last week and a half, but it sure has been good cotton growing weather. Many of our irrigated fields have been sitting at the same NAWF for nearly 2 weeks now. Ideally, we would like to see them start advancing to hard cutout this week. If this cool pattern continues we may not be able to generate enough heat units to mature any bolls after 9/8. If we have a "normal" fall 9/8 is our last effective bloom date.

Fortunately a good portion of this dryland continues to bloom and set bolls everyday up on the top. Hopefully we can get another week out of it and bump these yields just a little more. The dryland is varied considerably but there is some really good looking cotton out there, especially behind wheat.

Insects are not much of an issue right now. I'm still checking for stinkbugs. Remember, stinkbugs are feeding on 1 inch or 1/4 grown bolls. These are the bolls you need to be checking for damage. There are not a lot of these bolls left in the field at this time. Worm pressure has dropped significantly, moth counts in traps around all three counties are very low. I would still keep an eye out, but I feel much better now.

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CORN/SORGHUM

Corn and Sorghum harvest continues with some folks pleased with the end results and others not so much. Much like I have been discussing in cotton, monitoring soil temperatures before planting corn and sorghum is critical. Looking at soil temps for the past couple of years, we could be getting into the field earlier and possibly missing the heat during pollination. Corn needs a minimum soil temp of 50 degrees and sorghum 60 degrees and with a favorable 10 day forecast.

As I was checking sugarcane aphid this week prior to harvesting a test plot I noticed the numbers had crashed. Now we have seen this before as well as other parts of the state. That doesn't mean they're gone and you can let your guard down. They're just taking a break. Continue to watch for them.