

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

August 2, 2019

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THANK YOU

SCOUTING PROGRAM

One of our Cotton Scouts, Shay Miller along with our intern Jonah Trevino are finished for the season. Ryan Halfmann will continue to scout fields up until school starts. With us being down to only one scout we may not be able to check as many fields as we would like but we will get as many as we can. You can follow their progress throughout the summer on my blog at [IPM Blog](#) and also sign up to have my weekly summary emailed to you with all locations checked for the week marked on the map.

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COTTON

Here we go again, it seems like we have heard this song before. Good rain in the spring, good moisture at planting and a few showers in May or early June and then it shuts off. Aside from last year, '15-'17 was very similar and we have actually received less rain in June and July than we did in those 3 years. It is a good thing we started out with the moisture that we did. As far as the crop goes, it is hanging in there, somehow. It has one heck of a root system, especially this early dry land. We have had some brutal heat and so far it is hanging on to a good amount of fruit. The average fruit set at this point is 84.1% with a low of 75% and a high of 92.8%. These are some amazing numbers and should all go down some, but it is nice to be holding this much at this point. Blooms are getting higher everyday. A large portion of early dry land has cutout and approaching hard cutout while the irrigated is 5-6 NAWF. The later crop is anywhere from not yet blooming for dry land to 7-8 NAWF for the irrigated. The irrigated is still on track to make a decent crop but I am worried about the dry land having enough time to put any bolls on. Of course if it does not rain then it will not be able to hold any bolls anyhow. Insects are fairly light except for some stink bugs. Bollworm are pretty hard to find.

STINK BUGS

Stink bugs are generally our most troublesome pest and the most difficult one to truly manage without going out and spraying every acre. Too many times they show up, feed a bit and then disappear to the pastures, or we will check one or two spots and either see hundreds or none at all and not get a good picture of what is truly going on. Stink bugs prefer feeding on young bolls, generally less than ten days old, however, they will feed on bolls as old as 25 days old or older. Many times their feeding will leave tiny dark spots on the outside of the boll, but do not always leave internal damage. The only way to determine if you have internal damage and intern, economic loss is by splitting bolls open to look at the inside of the boll wall. The presence of warts or calluses leads to stained lint, damaged seed, reduced grades, and boll rot. Scouting can be difficult, especially in tall, lush cotton. Recent thresholds have been adjusted to 20% or more 1" in diameter bolls that have internal damage and stink bugs are present. This threshold may be lowered for very high yielding cotton.

STINK BUGS, cont.

So with that being said, where are the sink bugs right now? Fortunately I am not seeing as many as I was about two weeks ago but I think it is only a matter of time. I am finding a few around pastures at the moment. With this late bean crop I am hoping we can keep them there for most of the rest of the summer. I am also finding a tremendous number in some of our sorghum fields. Fortunately about 98% of these are 1st and 2nd instar nymphs, meaning they are small and wingless. We may have about 20-25 days before these guys develop into adults with wings and begin flying into neighboring cotton I am also finding quite a few egg masses out there as well. This may partially explain why we are not finding as many stink bugs right now, we may be in between cycles and about to see a large increase. Definitely continue to scout.



CORN/SORGHUM

There is not a lot to say about corn at this point except that it is done. We are just waiting on it to dry down to where we can start cutting it.



Sorghum is a whole other story. I already mentioned the stink bugs and I will touch on that again in a bit, but first, we now have sugarcane aphids (SCA) in Glasscock and Reagan Counties. From the looks of a couple of these fields they have probably been there a week or so. With the stage of our sorghum they should not be much of an issue but you will want to keep an eye on the honeydew and see to it that they do not become such a problem as to make harvest a difficult mess. One option would be to go ahead and kill the crop with glyphosate in order to get in and harvest quicker. The stink bug issue can also pose another problem, whether you have SCA or not, if you spray for stink bugs there is a

good chance you could flare SCA. I know with the price of sorghum everyone wants to keep inputs to a minimum, but you also hate to get this far and not harvest anything at all.

TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, Aug. 6	8:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, Aug. 7	8:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop
Tuesday, Aug. 13	8:00 a.m. Glasscock Coop
Wednesday, Aug. 14	8:00 a.m. Midkiff Coop

