

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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WHEAT

If you would like to be added
to our newsletter mailing list
please email
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The county extension office
will be closed to the public
until further notice. If you
have any questions or con-
cerns please contact the of-
fice at 354-2381 or e-mail/
call Brad or Cody at:

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Rain has most definitely been abundant over the past month with February official-ly recording 2.01" and march already having 3.02" of rain. Fields are wet and wheat is making good progress with the 5.81" that we have had this year. It equals the total that we generally receive through May. Fortunately at this time I am not seeing any rust in the area. I have visit-ed with folks all the way down to Corpus Christi and at this time the only reports I have heard are by Haley Kennedy of a couple of locations in McCulloch County and a little stripe rust in southwest Runnels County. Conditions at this time are very good for rust infections so we need to keep an eye out. If rust does become an issue a list of products to control rust can be found on the Glasscock County. extension website at: <http://counties.agrilife.org/glasscock/files/2020/03/FungicidesRustWheatTx2016.pdf>

Tan spot has also shown up in a few fields in Runnels County. Tan spot will first appear as oval shaped light to dark brown lesions with a yellow halo around them. These spots generally start on the lower leaves and as the number and size of spots increase the leaves will die. Tan spot is generally worse in continu-ous wheat as the fungus overwinters on the straw from the previous crop. The majority of the rust fungicides have very good to excellent control of tan spot.



Tan Spot

Photo taken by Haley Kennedy

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With most of the wheat crop now past jointing and nearing "Flag Leaf" stage herbi-cides will become even more restricted. Be careful what you apply so you do not lower yield potential

COTTON

Due to all of the rain a lot of field work is behind schedule this year. On top of this weeds have really come on with the moisture and warm temperatures. I know that no one wants weedy fields and everyone does a good job of keeping their fields clean, but if we get caught in May-June where we are trying to burn down weeds and plant at the same time do everything you can to spray in front of the planter, planting first and then coming back too often results in reduced stands, less vigorous seedlings, the risk of not getting back to spray as quickly as you would like and ultimately reduced yields. As always, multiple modes of action as well as residuals are strongly encouraged.

Some folks have said that they will not fertilize dryland this year despite the rain because it could easily turn dry again. Others are saying they will put some out in hopes of a little summer rain. One thing to keep in mind is that if it does not rain your fertilizer is not going to go anywhere. It will still be available for the next crop. This is evident right now in some of this dryland wheat behind dryland cotton that was fertilized last year. You can see right where the band was knifed in.



PARAQUAT TRAINING

As many of you are aware, the EPA is now requiring anyone who mixes, loads, or applies paraquat (paraquat dichloride) to be a **certified applicator** and to take an EPA-approved online training. This training was developed by the manufacturers of paraquat. Texas A&M AgriLife cannot give this training like we provide the auxin trainings. These trainings are only provided online through the Extension website, which is part of the [Federal Cooperative eXtension System](#). The good news is that this training is only required once every three years unlike the auxin trainings. For more information on the paraquat training you visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators>

AUXIN TRAINING

You all know about the mandatory auxin training for anyone applying 2,4-D or dicamba on cotton. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 spreading we are no longer able to host group meetings or trainings, however if you need the training Extension has created an online website to allow producers to still receive this training while we are unable to meet. You can also go online and take the training at: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/product?catalog=AGCH-001>