

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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IPM AUDIO UPDATES

To catch my IPM Audio Updates recorded weekly, you can sign up at: [Rolling Plains/West Texas IPM Audio Updates](#) or click on the QR code below and receive notifications by text when one has been recorded and then listen to it whenever you wish. This is a very brief update about what I am finding around St. Lawrence both pest and crop wise along with what I expect to see in the near future.



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Cotton

Planting is finishing up as we speak, much to everyone's relief. The clock now begins before adjusters will start coming around and taking a look at this crop to decide what will have to be done. For most all of it the decision will be an easy one. However, with the scattered showers that we were receiving around the area over the two weeks or so we have had a little more cotton come up than I think most folks originally thought we would. There have even been a couple of dryland fields giving it a shot, we will have to wait and see if they make it.

Weed control is rapidly becoming the next big issue coming up. With just a little bit of rain a whole lot of weeds as well as volunteer cotton have come up in just a short period of time. I know that everyone wants to wait as long as possible to try and let all of them hopefully come up, but remember, size does matter. Obviously the larger they get the harder they are to control and often times the higher the rate of chemical they require. Also remember that as things begin to dry back down, heat up and the wind blows more, these weeds will start to harden off and be harder to kill. Deeper rooted weeds such as careless weed, kochia, and volunteer cotton become harder to cultivate when they are up on the sides of the bed. Sweeps will push them over or lay them down but not kill them. They will lay there for a week or so and then green back up and start growing again. Getting to them early before they get that root established deep down makes them easier to take out.

With these 100+ degree days be careful when using the auxin herbicides. They are much more prone to volatilize in this heat and move great distances. As always, any movement is ultimately your responsibility even if you have made the application according to the label.

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Alternative Crops

We are going to have to start making the decision about what to do next on this ground that is being taken out. For many that decision will be grain sorghum or haygrazer, either in hopes for some kind of rain in order to make a wildcat crop this summer or to at least get some type of cover on the ground. Keep in mind optimum seeding rates for these crops. In general, for a dryland crop, especially with very limited soil moisture we should shoot for 18,000-21,000 plants per acre for a final plant stand. Much more than this and there will not be enough available moisture for grain production or sufficient forage production. Excessive plant populations essentially become weeds. Many times we still plant sorghum, haygrazer, and wheat by the pound, mostly due to the fact that the seed is cheap and it is easy to figure rates by the pound. However; seed size on grain sorghum can vary anywhere from 11,000-18,000 seed per pound. With a target population of 20,000 plants and figuring on 85% emergence you drop 23,600 seed. That rate could vary as much as 1.1-1.8 lbs per ac. With inputs where they are today, it does not hurt to cut costs where we can. For additional information on [Alternative Options after Failed Cotton](#) see our Extension publication from the Lubbock Research and Extension Center.

2022 Scouting Program

With the limited number of fields that have come up this year I am doing everything I can to try and find all of them in order to make sure I scout each one. I have found what looks like the majority of them so far but I know some are still coming up. If you have any cotton this year let me where so I can make sure it gets checked.

Test Plots

Test plots are very limited this year, if anyone gets enough rain to plant or test something and has an idea give me a call. I still have my weed projects in the works. Now that the sprayer is up and running I can also do insect trials if we get a pest issue in the middle of the summer.