

# 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.



## Cotton

I will do what I can to try and be as positive as I can this week despite the current situation. This crop is progressing quickly at this time and overall is not carrying the load that I would generally like to see at this time of year, even for our better irrigated acres. On top of this, it appears that many of these bolls are going to be much smaller than we would like. I have started seeing more fields start kicking off squares of all sizes and small bolls this week, not really a good sign. The heat has also caused deformed, “parrot beaked” bolls due to poor pollination. There are a couple of exceptions out there, but as a whole things are looking a bit light. Fortunately we still have a couple of weeks to try and set bolls before we reach our average final bloom date of August 28th. At this time this crop is anywhere from blooming at 1-3 NAWF, basically done, to 6-7 NAWF and just getting started. Some of these fields have blooms on only the first or second fruiting branch at this time. Fortunately with about 23 days left to bloom, 7 NAWF is doable.

I know that several folks are talking about being able to pick up additional heat units into September if they choose to water that late or we catch some rain since it is so hot this year. I went back and looked at the temperatures for 2011 and the weather turned out to be right around our long term average from September through December. All heat unit accumulation ended on October 26th and the final bloom date to completely mature a boll was August 26th. I still feel like water is going to be, or should be a larger factor in deciding when to shut down this crop if it has not already shut itself down. I have spoke with a couple of growers over the past week who said they are looking at turning their water off in order to divert it to either fewer acres of cotton or to get haygrazer going.



## Cotton, Cont.

From a pest situation it is still very quite. You guys tell me all the time, “As long as my job is boring you’re happy.” Well it has been a boring summer as far as pests go. I heard one report of stinkbugs in the north-eastern part of Glasscock County earlier in the week, otherwise I have not seen a single stinkbug or puncture anywhere. The spider mites that were present several weeks back are almost non-existent. Even if we do happen to have some stink bugs or other pest flare up, we will have to reevaluate our economic thresholds a bit to determine at what level they will pay this year. We need to consider potential yield + potential price at harvest or contracted or pooled + cost of control + all the inputs. Making a \$15.00/ac pesticide application will not make you \$15.00/ac, but will it save you \$15.00 worth of cotton in yield and/or grade. We cannot necessarily say I’m not spending anymore money on this crop, but at the same time, you do not want to spray if it is not going to give you a return.

## Tri-County Crop Tour

We are still planning on having the Tri-County Crop Tour this year which will be held September 13th. This year’s tour will be in Midkiff and will begin at 2:00 pm. At this time I am not sure what will be looking at, but I will hopefully at least have some cotton defoliated and we will be able to eat. I am also going to have out new District Economist and Entomologist from San Angelo come down so everyone can meet them.



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