

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

Spotty showers have visited the area over the past week, with quite a bit of it falling around Garden City and along HWY 158. Amounts have varied from a trace to around 1.5". There was one cloud right around FM 2401 and FM 1357 that dropped a considerable amount. We will always take a good rain, especially when it has been this dry for so long, however this rain will probably not do a great deal of good when it comes to adding pounds of lint unless we have an abnormally warm fall. Most all of this crop has been set and the majority of fields are kicking fruit off due to not being able to hold any more load. The cool, cloudy weather has added to fruit shed. If the plants start growing again it is debatable how much of this new growth will have time to mature. You may just wind up with a lot of trash in the top of the plant. We will however have a start on some fall moisture and a little help for some of this hay grazer out there. More good news is that these temperatures are finally letting the plants rest a little instead of working day and night just to survive. Our temperatures are now running about average for this time of the year with cooler weather in the forecast.

Stink bugs continue to build in spots around the area, primarily around Garden City where we have a little more lush growing cotton and more fields surrounded by pasture. Remember that a boll that has accumulated 450 heat units is safe from stink bug feeding. We have accumulated 450 heat units since August 1, so we are only looking at bolls set since



then at this time. Have you set enough bolls to offset the cost of an application? With each day that goes by or node up the plant it becomes less economical to treat due to fewer susceptible bolls to protect. Additionally, making an application "just in case" increases your risk of flaring aphids, a situation we do not want to get into this time of the year.

Hay Grazer

It looks like we are going to have some hay grazer around the area this fall with quite a few irrigated fields making some pretty good progress over the past couple of weeks. We have some fields that looked like they were completely burnt up a couple of weeks ago that are coming around now and starting to show signs of life. There might be a little hay in the country now, but at the very least some ground cover. Bollworm/Corn earworm is feeding fairly heavy in several of these fields right now which is somewhat of a surprise. I would have expected to see fall armyworm instead. Either way, if forage is your primary goal than you do not want to let the worms get too much of your crop. There are no definitive thresholds but a general rule of thumb is when they consume about 30% of the forage it is time to do something. The hard part about controlling worms in haygrazer is getting the chemical down into the whorls to get to them. Lots of water.



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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