

CROP MANAGEMENT REPORT

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ST. LAWRENCE PEST MANAGEMENT
BRAD EASTERLING
EA-IPM
GLASSCOCK, REAGAN, UPTON
COUNTIES
PO Box 299
GARDEN CITY, TX 79739



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

Our much needed rain has finally arrived to the area after a very long wait. Over the past two weeks it looks everyone in the three counties has received something with totals ranging anywhere from around .5" to over 3" in places. Although this crop will be a disappointment overall this will be enough for most folks to finish it out as well as get a start on building somewhat of a profile for next season. Even the latest planted fields in the area are finished at this point. Everything has bloomed out the top and is trying to mature those last bolls. We have some fields trying to start back up and but most everything is kicking off these young bolls and larger squares. The earlier, mid-May planted fields as well as some of those that completely burned up are now opening. A couple of these have open bolls as high as 3-4 nodes up of the plant at this time. Unfortunately emergence was erratic and boll opening is erratic in these fields as well. While some plants have four open bolls, others are still trying to bloom.

Most everyone has gone ahead and shut their water off at this point and if you have not I would suggest that you consider looking into it. Over the past 7 days our ET has been 1.3". Many of you have received that much in rainfall alone. When combining that with the amount of irrigation that you put out during that time you should have started banking some moisture to finish out this crop, especially if you had a little bit built up to begin with. With the fruit shed we are experiencing right now basically only the bolls that are 10-14 days old are going to make with the exception of a few others here and there. I would not be focusing to much time, effort, or money into trying to harvest those upper most bolls that you may end up losing in a couple of days or sacrifice quality on the lower part of the plant.



Pests are still fairly low, however I have found a couple of areas where stink bugs have increased in numbers. This spots are right at threshold in a couple of spots but with the low number of bolls in the upper canopy that are susceptible or likely to be harvestable I am very hesitant to treat any of the fields that I have seen with increased levels of stink bugs at this time. It would be difficult to return the cost of an application.

Cotton Cont.



I have seen some Alternaria along with a couple of other pathogens in a few locations the past couple of days. I am not overly surprised with the amount of rain and cool cloudy days with this humidity and wet leaves. We have been averaging 10-16 hours or more with over 10% leaf wetness for the past several days. This is perfect for disease infection. We will most likely start seeing some premature defoliation as well, especially on fields that are nutrient stressed.

Cotton Harvest Aid Decision Budget Tool

Mr. Will Keeling, Extension Risk Management Specialist in Lubbock has put together a simple spreadsheet to help figure the economics of harvesting low yielding cotton. The decision aid calculator will figure the cost of defoliation based on yield, price, cost of defoliating, and ginning the crop to help determine profitability. It does not take into consideration previous input costs. The [Cotton Harvest Decision Budget-2022](#) can be found on the Glasscock County Extension website.

Hay Grazer

With the recent rains hay grazer is emerging all over the area. The majority of this will simply be for cover in hopes of having something to hold the ground in place and to have something alive growing in the soil after this long fallow period. We will however have a fair amount of hay baled as long as the weather holds up for a while longer. With the hay market where it is right now it will be good to make something off of this ground.

Bollworms/Corn earworms are still fairly heavy in most of these fields so keep an eye out. As this hay gets a little size to it you can handle a bit more feeding, but you still do not want to give away too much of your profit. We also have to keep a close eye on this newly emerging hay coming up. Although they generally do not feed quite like fall armyworms, they can still wreck a stand pretty quick.

Wheat

As we begin to shift gears and move into planting wheat, the first thing that most folks start asking about is fall armyworm. The simplest thing that you can do to help yourself out is to plant into a clean field. We need to make sure that we clean up all of these fields now prior to planting wheat and try to keep them weed free for at least two weeks prior to planting. Breaking this “green bridge” will basically starve out any worms that are already in the field and give you a head start on establishing a crop. Nothing says you may not have to come back and treat later, but this way you at least have a fighting chance.

If you are planting for grain only and feel like you have the moisture now to hold off for a little while I would encourage you to wait as long as you can. If you have to get in now to take advantage of the moisture that is available then make sure you plant into a clean seed bed.

Although wheat seed is difficult to come by this year, we still have a list of top varieties suggested for this part of the state from past trials conducted throughout the area. These varieties have had the most consistent performance over multiple years over a large area.

TAM 114	Bob Dole
TAM 115	Canvas
TAM 205	CP 7869
	WB 4792

Tri-County Crop Tour

The Tri-County Crop Tour will be held September 13th 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 our new District Economist and Entomologist from San Angelo come down so everyone can meet them.

Brad Easterling, EA-IPM
Glasscock, Reagan, Upton Counties
PO Box 299
117 S. Myrl St.
Garden City, TX 79739
432-354-2381 (o)
940-356-1524 (m)

breasterling@ag.tamu.edu
<https://glasscock.agrilife.org/ipm/>
<https://www.facebook.com/stlawrenceipm/>



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