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ST. LAWRENCE PEST MANAGEMENT
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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

This crop continues to progress in spite of the blistering heat and lack of supplemental moisture we desperately need from above. We averaged over 100° for a high for an entire month twice before with the highest being 100.53°. We might very well be over 101° this month if things do not change quickly. More and more irrigated cotton is blooming every day. The majority of fields are blooming at 7-8 NAWF which will give them a good three weeks of blooming. Our biggest issue is holding everything on the plant. At this time fruit loads are still holding quite good with most all fields above 80%. This will set us up good for when we start shedding fruit in the next couple of weeks as the heat and lack of moisture catch up.

Insects remain light for the most part, however there are a few areas that I am monitoring for a few specific pests. Lygus numbers are continuing to build in a couple of spots and I have been in and out checking on these fields. The heaviest level of lygus remains in a couple of fields in Reagan county. We have treated one and cleaned it up nicely, the other I am still monitoring but will hopefully not have to treat. Spider mites are slowly building in areas primarily in Upton county but also in some localized areas in western Glasscock. In most all cases they are being found throughout the field and not just along the borders of dusty turn-rows. I am not exactly sure why this is, but if you have cotton that you are willing to treat for mites keep an eye out for them throughout your fields and not just along the turn-rows. I am seeing more stink bugs in most all of the fields that I have looked at and Bart said that he has been seeing the same thing in fields he has been scouting. Nothing to get concerned about at this time, very few per 100 plants but worth noting since we had so many earlier. I am still not catching any bollworm or fall armyworm moths in my traps to speak of, however, Bart said that there was a large egg lay in northern Glasscock county and they sprayed some Pima up there. I have seen very few moths and almost no eggs in any of the Pima anywhere else around here. This is surprising considering the number of bollworms that are in the sorghum at this time. Fortunately our beneficial numbers continue to be through the roof. I do not know if I have ever seen this many beneficials in fields before.

CORN/SORGHUM

There is not a whole lot to say about corn at this time. It is basically waiting to dry down. Every field that I have looked at is physiologically mature and the water should be shut off regardless of soil moisture. At this point we need to wait for harvest. Remember, allowing your grain to dry excessively will result in lost yield due to reduced weight of water that could have been harvested in the grain.

We have some pretty decent looking sorghum this year considering the conditions. We will not set any records, but it should do alright. Headworms have moved into most of these fields and are feeding quite a bit at this time. Headworms can be difficult to try and determine when to spray due to numbers, size, yield, value of your grain, and cost to control them. Small worms will consume virtually no grain whereas larger, greater the 1/2" will consume 85%+ of the grain they eat in their lifetime. To assist with making this decision we have a publication on our website [Managing Insect and Mite Pests of Texas Sorghum](#). In this guide there is a chart that will assist with management decisions on headworms. Sorghum aphids have been found in one location in eastern Glasscock County at this time. I have not been able to locate any others but it should only be a matter of time before they start showing up in other fields. Stink bugs are building considerably in sorghum at this time. In most places they are not at threshold level as of yet, but in many years we will go ahead and treat for them before they move in to the cotton.

When treating for headworms or stink bugs consider using the "softest" pesticide that you can to avoid killing off your beneficials. If we do this it will increase the likelihood that we will see sorghum aphids build up possibly to treatable levels without the beneficials to hold them in check. This is very difficult to impossible to due with stinkbugs, so you might check to see if you have aphids present first and considering controlling them as well.

NOTE FROM ST. LAWRENCE COTTON GROWERS

The St. Lawrence Cotton Growers would like to let everyone who received a packet from WETT and LCRA pertaining to the power line going from here to McCamey that they please fill out the Request to Intervene and to ask for Mono Poles instead of Lattice Towers. The deadline to fill out this request is **August 7th**. If you have any questions please contact one of the members of the St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Association.

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