

August 22, 2013

The Floyd County AG NEWSLETTER *August, 2013*

WEEDS

By Blayne Reed - EA - IPM Hale & Swisher County

The weed pressure this season has been high. With every passing shower and irrigation, no matter how light, a fresh flush of weeds has tried to emerge, even those handfuls that made it through our pre-plant residual. It also remains common to find weeds, in both large and small groups, surviving over the top glyphosate sprays. Producers seem to have hitched up their pants and made ready to tackle the problem this season. Most producers are hitting those weeds with any and all recommended and possible control measures. It has been a chore, but I am feeling pretty good about our area's response to Roundup resistance. Many of the fields we were very concerned with at the start of the season look pretty clean. While speaking to producers this week about other fields that look to be very problematic I have been impressed by the plans about to be unleashed on those weeds. I maintain that stern vigilance is needed when dealing with these weed issues as the weeds have never, nor will ever, ease their potential pressure.

As it stands today, the best way to control Palmer surviving 1, 2, and especially 3 glyphosate sprays remains the plow, hoe, or altering labeled over the top herbicides and hooded sprays. To quote a producer I spoke with this week, "It is hard to develop resistance to iron."

If in-season tillage is an option for producers with minimum tillage and even conventional type situations I urge those producers to replenish as much soil moisture as they can as soon as possible behind any tillage. Once that soil is opened up, large amounts of moisture will be

lost. We have not had much moisture to loose, so a few hours lost could actually have an impact upon yield. A day or two under stress certainly will.

PLAINS PEST BUGOSPHERE

Blayne Reed- EA - IPM Hale & Swisher County

For the past several weeks, we have been expecting a large moth flight this month, based upon regional trap catches and what we, and other area entomologist, have been seeing in the field. Now that we have had some moonlit nights, we are starting to pick up fresh bollworm egg-lay in our program fields this week. There has also been some debate about which area crop the bollworm would choose. With a large amount of late planted corn and sorghum, it was suspected that the bollworms would prefer to lay eggs in late corn first, late sorghum second, and cotton as a last resort. Early indications from the field show that this is probably correct.

Yesterday, August 19th, a field scout reported finding 15 bollworm eggs per plant in a late corn field with a mix of brown and green silks, a prime bollworm habitat. This morning, August 20th, I scouted a field just starting green silk stage, a field where we would expect to only see the beginnings of moth attractiveness, and found 2 bollworm eggs per plant. I feel it is likely that this trend of corn preference will continue as long as green corn remains prevalent in the area this fall. Typically we are not economically concerned about bollworms that choose to be earworms. Even heavy egg lay of bollworms in corn should not be a major economic concern for Hale & Swisher Counties. Eventually, the larval caterpillars will cannibalize each other until there will only one worm per

ear remains ensuring that the strongest survive. While we do not like to see even one worm feeding in our corn, it is not economically feasible to attack those few earworms who are protected inside the corn shucks with multiple, predator damaging sprays, especially with spider mites already in the mix.

The bollworms that choose to be headworms in sorghum (and millet) are much more of an economic threat. Mostly because we can make effective sprays to the exposed head of grain, but also headworms do more damage to our sorghum yields proportionally. Yesterday, August 19th, I scouted a field in milk stage and found 0.5 small headworms per head. This is sub-economic but something to watch nonetheless. Roughly half these headworms were FAW (fall army worms), another important species that make up the sorghum headworm complex.

Any non-BGII cotton is now at a heightened risk, but doubly so if that field is not near any late corn. This morning, August 20th, I scouted a late and growthy cotton field not near any grass crops and found 7,199 bollworm eggs per acre. With no corn or sorghum in the vicinity, I would expect bollworms to settle on cotton, the lusher the better for the worms. So far, we are not finding bollworm eggs in cotton if late corn is in the area.

We already know that FAW is an economic concern in cotton and sorghum. Recent research, much of which is still ongoing by Dr. Pat Porter, indicates that FAW should be a concern in corn, especially late corn. Gary Cross, CEA – Hale, and David Graf, CEA – Swisher, are assisting Dr. Ed Bynum in some area wide moth trapping studies. Their FAW trap catches remain low, and we are still finding large FAW larva in whorl stage sorghum. We are also not finding FAW egg masses at any significant level yet. All of these indicate that FAW are late but may join the mix in the moth flights soon, at least locally.

This is the latest post on the IPM blog from Hale County; this is a great resource for producers. You can find this blog at <http://halecountyipm.blogspot.com/>.

Upcoming Events

September 17- Floyd Crosby Ag Tour
September 13 &14- Floyd County Fair in Lockney
October 12- Punkin Day in Floydada

PLANT NUTRITION

By Ethan Fortenberry

As I drive around the county I have noticed that some of the crops are showing nutrient deficiencies. Adequate nutrients are crucial to production, more so in a year when we are struggling for another necessary resource water. Most producers realize that nutrients are needed for production, what most don't realize are exactly what nutrients are needed for production and how to tell if your crop is deficient of them. There are 16 essential nutrients needed for plant survival, growth, and production; most producers are aware of about half of them.

Yellowing of leaves, chlorosis between the veins, purpling, burnt tips, leaf curl, etc. are signs that your crop is in need of nutrient inputs or fertilization. Different problems show up in different places on the plant, most deficiencies are unique in their symptoms. This helps us to determine the cause of the problem and address it correctly. We must remember there are factors that control a lot of these issues, soil pH, moisture, organic matter, and the soil profile all factor into the utilization of nutrients by plants.

If you believe that your crop is lacking in any nutrient and need assistance, call the Extension office 983-4912.

Ag Tour

The 2013 Floyd/Crosby Ag Tour is scheduled for September 17th. The tour will begin at 8am at the Floyd County Unity Center in Muncy, transportation will be provided.

The Topic of this year's tour is sunflowers. We will travel to sunflower fields where presenters will cover issues pertaining to sunflower crops and other crop issues. We will then travel to SunGold in Lubbock for a tour of the facilities. A lunch will be held at the conclusion of the tour.

If you have questions about attending or you want to RSVP, please contact the Extension office at 983-4912.

A publication of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Floyd County.
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