

HAPPENINGS IN AG



News about Integrated Pest Management for producers in Castro and Lamb Counties.

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GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Cotton

Cotton continues to progress very rapidly towards cut-out and at this point even some of the fields that have had good irrigation only have 5 nodes above white flower. This seems early but remember that we have accumulated many more heat units than what we had at this same time over the previous two years. Rainfall amounts have also been significantly less this season than what we have over the previous two seasons as well, so with the heat and drought you can expect for cotton to be further along than what we have been. The one thing that I would caution everyone about is, do not try to delay this crop from cut-out. In other words only irrigate for what the crop needs at this point. Do not irrigate too heavily and waste money and irrigation.

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Corn

Most program fields have entered the dent stage. Corn is now using less irrigation and many producers have now moved irrigation into cotton fields. Be careful not to abandon corn for too long and fall behind. Remember that this crop still needs its irrigation so that test weights are not reduced.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Cotton

Cotton insect pests remain very light in program fields in both Castro and Lamb counties. Lygus bugs can only be found occasionally and cotton bollworm activity remains very light as well. As I mentioned in last weeks issue, beneficial insects are very light in cotton fields as well. The fact that we are not finding any insect pests pressures is good news so don't stress over not spraying cotton fields with insecticides.

Corn

Spider mite infestations appear to be crashing in most program fields. I think that beneficial insects have really helped fight this pest for us this year and did a remarkable job of keeping infestation levels in check. Fields that were treated with miticides have also indicated that the applications did help to control spider mite infestations. I did follow up on some fields that were treated with Oberon and also fields that were treated with Capture-Dimethoate as a tank mix, these products appear to have performed very well in controlling spider mite infestations. Southwestern corn borer egg lays increased this week in program fields and most program fields were above the 20% economic threshold.

Heat Unit Accumulations For Cotton As of May 1st-August 2nd

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| | 2006 |
| Dimmitt | 1370 |
| Earth | 1410.5 |

**Happenings in Ag is a publication of Texas Cooperative Extension
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