

HAPPENINGS IN AG



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

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GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Cotton

We continue to see cotton mature at a very rapid pace and many fields have reached a hard cut out. Many producers have asked about irrigation and it is important for everyone to be realistic about yield goals. Keep in mind that the crop should be using irrigation to fill bolls and make a good high quality boll at this time. We are past the stage of trying to add nodes with the idea of getting more bolls. So keep that in mind when determining irrigation needs for your cotton crop.

Corn

I think anytime silage cutters start to run it begins to rain!! Silage cutters are rolling fast and furious and so of course we get rain. The rains have varied from no rain to close to 3" in some areas of Castro and Lamb counties over the past few days. Corn fields are dented and many producers are checking the moisture line to look for hints of the opportunity to shut irrigation down. Most program fields are still a couple of weeks at the very least from shutting down irrigation.

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INSECTS AND DISEASES

Cotton

We did begin to pick up very light bollworm activity in program cotton fields this week. Numbers were well below the 10,000 worms/ac threshold. The highest count we found was in a field near Springlake which had 2,000 small worms/acre. I hope that we can outrun this pest this year and not have to resort to treating fields with insecticides. As I mention each year please do not treat fields based on egg counts. Beneficial insects and other factors are highly effective in preventing eggs from ever hatching. It is important to base decisions on worm counts. As I mentioned the economic threshold is set at 10,000 small larvae/acre. Small larvae are defined as those worms that are less than 1/4" in size. Remember after worms have grown larger than 1/4" insecticides are not highly effective. At this time worm counts are not anywhere near those numbers according to my scouting and reports from private consultants and other IPM agents. Lygus bug activity remains very light in program fields with only an occasional lygus being found. Again I don't mean to sound like I'm complaining about it, this is good news.

Heat Unit Accumulations For Cotton As of May 1st-August 16th

	2005(May 1st-Aug 17 th 2005)		2006
Dimmitt	1330		1657
Earth	1414	1	1592

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