

# HAPPENINGS IN AG



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

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## GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

### *Cotton*

Most of the area has received some rainfall that was very much needed. Producers were needing to give some of their well motors a break from running constantly. Rain totals have ranged from 1" to near 5" in some areas. Will this be enough to push cotton to the finish line? Probably not. We are forecasted to receive some more rain over the weekend so maybe we can continue to have mother nature do her part to finish out this crop. Otherwise, we are still too early to shut down pivots all together on cotton acres. Remember that irrigation at this point is going towards lint quality which is very important. I wish that I could say that there was a magic formula or a sign in the cotton as to when to shut down irrigation, but that's just not there. There is some research from Lamesa that indicates 600 heat units after cut out is a good time to stop irrigation. Again that was research conducted in Lamesa where things are slightly different than up here. In reality we have no idea what the weather will do for the remainder of August or what September has in store so it's tough to determine when to quit irrigating. I know that irrigation amounts can be decreased at this time since the crop is not using as much irrigation down the final stretch. Most program fields have reached cut out and have 0 to 4 nodes above white flower.

In this issue...

<b>General Crop Conditions.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Insects and Diseases. ....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Heat Unit Data .....</b>	<b>1</b>

## INSECTS AND DISEASES

### *Cotton*

Everyone continues to ask about cotton bollworm activity and I am pleased to report that I still have not found a field that has more than 3,000 worms per acre. Last week I was seeing adult bollworm moths flying around fields and I was expecting a heavy egg lay based on the activity that I saw, but egg counts remain very low as well. I have noticed an increase in beneficial insect populations especially crab spiders and lady beetles. I have had some reports from others that they are finding cotton bollworm infestations exceeding the economic threshold of 10,000 small worms/ac. Current weather conditions are favorable for bollworm eggs to survive and hatch. I would recommend to continue to scout heavily for cotton bollworm infestations. Bollworms will feed in and around small squares and blooms as well as bolls. It is important to detect the larvae while they are still less than 1/4" in size. After the larvae have grown more than 1/4" it is difficult to control them with insecticides.

### Heat Unit Accumulations For Cotton As of May 1<sup>st</sup>-August 22<sup>nd</sup>

	2005(May 1st-Aug 25 <sup>th</sup> 2005)		2006
<b>Dimmitt</b>	1451		1677
<b>Earth</b>	1543	1	1754

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