

Pest Management News
News About integrated pest management for
producers in Runnels-Tom Green Counties

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GENERAL SITUATION

Thunderstorms early last week dropped 0.5 to over 3-inches of rainfall over scattered areas across the southern parts of Runnels county and much of Tom Green and Concho counties. Unfortunately, many areas missed out on the rain and 100° temperatures continue. The seven day forecast sounds like a broken record. Sunny and HOT.... The corn crop is rapidly drying down and therefore water demand is not as high now. Much of the grain sorghum that's headed is in the soft dough stage and should be checked regularly for headworms. Cotton varies from 3rd true leaf to 2nd week of bloom.

The Summer Crop Conference last week was successful and well attended. We appreciate everyone who came and supported our Conference. We would like to recognize the businesses who supported the program: Ballinger National Bank, Bayer CropScience, Capital Farm Credit, Central Texas Farm Credit, Citizens State Bank of Miles, Delta and Pine Land Co., Farm Bureau Insurance, First National Bank of Ballinger, First State Bank of Paint Rock, Helena Chemical Co., Porter Henderson Implement Co., and Western Ag Chemical. The SRP Summer Crops Conference was sponsored by the Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association, Texas AgriLife Extension, USDA-NRCS, Runnels County Ag Committee, and Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District.

Cotton. Cotton is progressing rapidly in those areas with adequate soil moisture. Irrigated cotton is in the 2nd week of bloom and the water and nutritional requirements have increased dramatically, so try and keep it going. We would like to see greater than 8 NAWF during the early blooming period. This is considered excellent. If you are at 6-7 NAWF now, reduced yield is possible unless adequate irrigation is quickly initiated. Once 4-5 NAWF is reached, cut-out is fast approaching. Most likely we will see a short blooming period this year unless adequate moisture and nutrients are applied and demand is maintained.

Bollworm egg counts increased sharply over the past several days. Egg counts ranged from 5 to 78 BW eggs per 100 plants. Larvae numbers ranged from 0 to 3 small worms per 100 plants. Most of the larvae were found in bloom tags. I would encourage growers to carefully inspect white blooms and under bloom tags for surviving larvae. Beneficial insect numbers are fairly high and should help keep this population in check.

Cotton fields planted adjacent to corn or grain sorghum should be monitored regularly for spidermite infestations. We have the perfect environmental conditions for spidermite buildup. Mite infestations most often occur in spots and in field margins. Because mite populations are generally clumped in distribution, particularly along field edges, spot treating infested areas will often prevent spread and is most cost effective.

Cotton fleahopper numbers ranged from 3 to 25 fleahoppers per 100 terminals and square sets ranged from 87 to 98 percent. Most cotton fields have an average of 95 plus percent square set. This is great. I just hope Mother Nature is going to help us out with some additional rainfall. We are going to need it with this fruit load.

Sorghum. Headworms have ranged from 18 to 50 per 100 heads in fields inspected during the past two weeks. Considering the value of grain sorghum and expected cost of treatment, the economic threshold should be about 1.5 headworms per sorghum head. Some insecticides recommended; Baythroid 2E @ 1.3 - 2.8 oz./acre, Karate 1E @ 2.56 - 3.84 oz./acre, Warrior 1E @ 2.56 - 3.84 oz./acre, Mustang Max @ 1.75 - 4.0 oz./acre and Asana XL @ 5.8 - 9.6 oz./acre.

Heat Unit Requirements for Cotton Growth	
GROWTH STAGE	HEAT UNITS
Planting	0
Emergence	75
First Square	450
First Bloom	900
First Mature Boll	1800
First Open Boll	1900
5% Mature Bolls	1975
95% Mature Bolls	2270

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!!

July 21st at 9:00 a.m. Wall Coop turnrow meeting. The Ballinger meeting is still looking for a location.

July 23rd, 8:00 a.m. The Runnels County Ag & Natural Resources Committee will host a Forage Tour at the Glen Halfmann Farm in Miles on Thursday, July 23rd beginning at 8:00 a.m. near Miles. The program will begin with a tour of the Forage Sorghum Variety Test Plot on Hwy 67 North. Dr Ricky Rice will discuss the varieties and lead the tour of the forages. At approximately 9:00 a.m., the tour will move to Weatherby Hall in Miles where several guest speakers will talk including: Dr David Drake, AgriLife Extension Agronomist, “Nitrate Toxicity and Prussic Acid Poisoning”, Dr Alan McGinty, AgriLife Extension Range Specialist, “Chemical Brush Control Options for Mesquite and Pricklypear”, and Jan Hatler, Texas Department of Agriculture, “Laws and Regulations for Pesticide Applicators”. A complimentary noon meal will be provided by B&H Seed Services beginning at approximately 11:00 am. **Three hours of continuing education credits will be given to pesticide applicators in attendance.** For more information or to register for the meal, call the Runnels County Extension Office at (325)365-2219.

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Agenda Runnels County Forage Tour

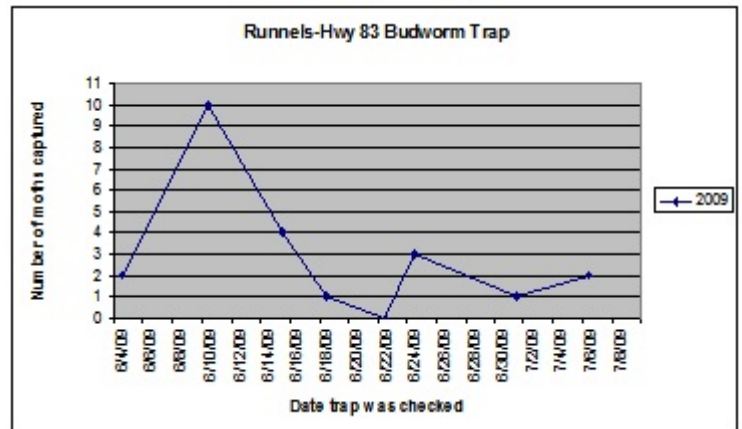
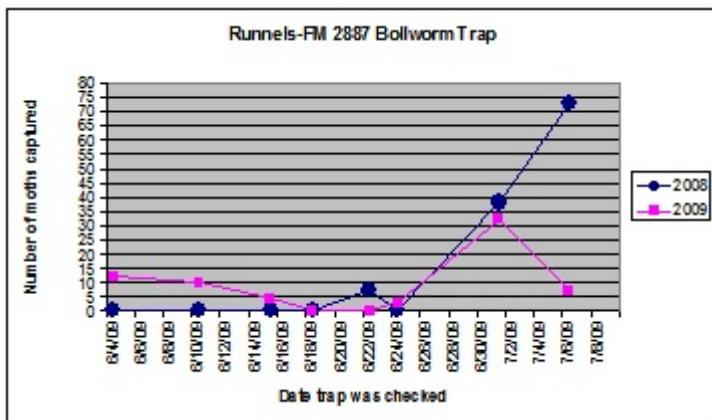
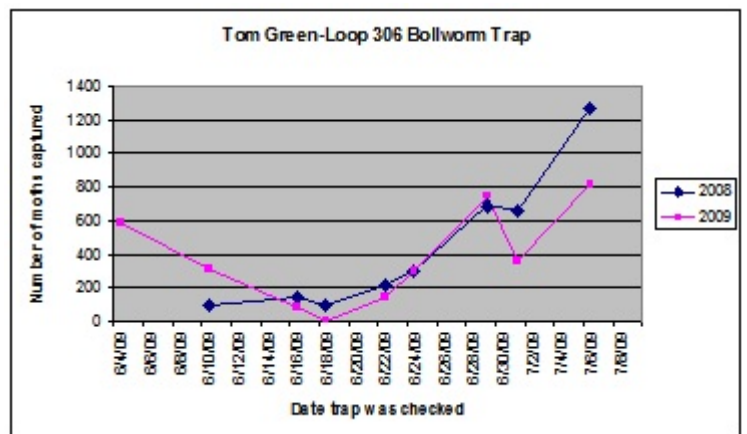
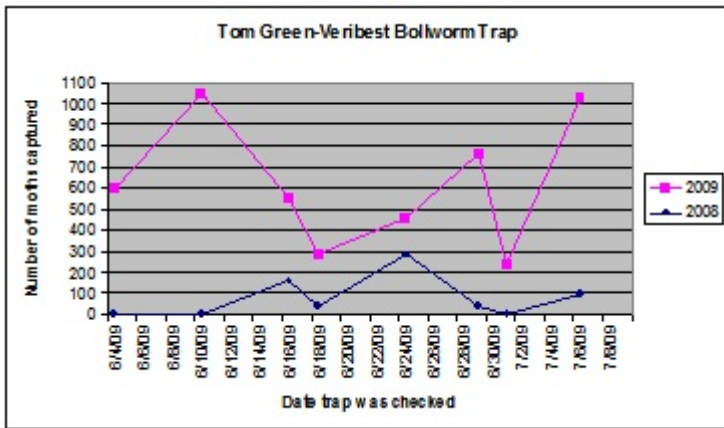
8:00 Meet at Glen Halfmann Farm - Hwy 67 north out of Miles

8:15 Forage Sorghum Variety Test Plot - Ricky Rice

9:00 Meet at Weatherby Hall in Miles

Nitrate Toxicity and Prussic Acid Poisoning, Dr David Drake
Chemical Brush Control Techniques for Mesquite and Prickly Pear, Dr Alan McGinty
Laws and Regulations for Pesticide Applications, Jan Hatler

11:00 Complimentary Noon Meal provided by B & H Services



Wall Weather Station						
Heat Accumulations	2008	2009	2008	2009	Rainfall	
Planting Date	June 29	June 29	July 09	July 09	February	0.19
May 01	1219	1083	1396	1308	March	1.76
May 15	1040	873	1216	1098	April	3.21
June 01	716	674	892	899	May	0.17
June 10	472	509	649	734	June	1.71
June 15	342	378	519	603	July 8	1.23