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# PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

*NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN GLASSCOCK, REAGAN AND UPTON COUNTIES*

## GENERAL SITUATION

No rainfall over the past 2 weeks and reasonably warm temperatures has allowed cotton to progress fairly well. We still need some additional heat to mature bolls on much area cotton.

Insect activity remains light, but several of the later maturing fields are still vulnerable to worm activity. Aphid numbers have dropped off recently.

## BOLLWORMS

Egg-lay and worm activity remains fairly low in the fields I have looked at this week. There are several non-Bt and possibly Bollgard I fields that could be damaged by additional worm activity, so keep checking these later maturing fields for an increase in worm numbers.

## BOLL WEEVILS

One weevil was caught this past week in a field near Forsan. Surrounding acreage will be treated to control this infestation

## SALT MARSH CATERPILLARS (Wooly Worms)

We have seen several hits where wooly worm egg masses have hatched in area fields and small worms are skeletonizing leaves. We have never seen wooly worms develop into a problem in the fall, but we will watch their progress.

## COTTON APHIDS

Cotton aphids have declined in most fields where they were higher a week ago. We may see them build in some fields, so we need to keep watching.

## TRI-COUNTY CROP TOUR

WHEN: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
2:30  
WHERE: **MIDKIFF COMMUNITY CENTER**  
St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Meeting  
Tour  
Refreshments and Meal

Dr. Billy Warrick, Dr. Terry Wheeler and agents will discuss variety, Irrigation Termination, Plant Population, Verticillium Wilt, and Wheat Variety Plots.

## IRRIGATION TERMINATION

Many have been asking about irrigation termination. Several factors should go into this decision such as soil, moisture content, rainfall over the last 30 days, maturity of crop, etc.

Over the past 4 years, we have been looking at a method of terminating irrigation so many heat units after cutout (4-5 nodes above white flower). With a wide variety of conditions, it appears at 400-500 heat units after cutout, we can terminate irrigation and not lose potential yield.

Each field can be entirely different, but much of the May 20<sup>th</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup> planted cotton reached cutout around August

15<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. From August 20<sup>th</sup>-June 5<sup>th</sup>, we have accumulated 295 heat units, so we still need 100-150 more heat units which should be 8-10 more days. In this scenario, I would terminate irrigation around September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Fields that had more rainfall in early and mid-August may have residual soil moisture to carry them through the next week or so, but those with less rainfall are living from irrigation only. Some of the later planted fields may need to water cut back to get them to head toward maturity.

If it rains over the next several days and becomes cooler, you should be able to shut off water sooner.

### LATE SEASON BLOOMS

Research has shown that it takes approximately 800 heat units to make an acceptable boll. The 5 year average for heat units accumulated during the month of September is 388. For a September 1 bloom to make a harvestable boll, we would still need an additional 400 heat units in October and November to finish it out. It will have to remain above average temperatures to make this happen.

Fiver year average heat units from August 20<sup>th</sup> to the end of September is 619. These August 20<sup>th</sup> blooms have a much greater chance of making a harvestable boll.

### PECAN WEEVILS

Area traps continue to catch emerging pecan weevils. If you have had a history of pecan weevils, you should be treating now.

### GRAIN SORGHUM

Much of the late grain sorghum has headed now and a good portion is making grain. Headworms and stink bugs are both pests that can cause considerable damage to grain sorghum. Using a bucket to beat the heads in is the best method of checking for these pests.

The threshold for stink bugs is 1 per head, but varies depending on control costs and value of the crop. The threshold for headworms ranges from 1-2 per head and varies depending on size of worm.

### HEAT UNITS

Heat units averaged 14 per day the past week. Heat units since 5-15, 5-25, 6-4 and 6-14 are compared with last year and a five year average in the table below.

DATE	5/15	5/25	6/4	6/14
2007	1840	1777	1637	1467
2006	2300	2132	1940	1710
5 YEAR AVERAGE	2083	1939	1775	1579

### Heat units needed for Cotton Development

Planting To:	Days	Heat Units
First Open Boll	88-106	1641
95% Mature Bolls	129-163	2271

### WEATHER DATA

Weather data for the past two weeks is included in the table that follows:

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	SOIL TEMP
8/23/07	90	70	0	11	82
8/24/07	94	72	0	9	83
8/25/07	90	70	0	5	84
8/26/07	91	64	0	4	84
8/27/07	91	66	0	5	85
8/28/07	91	63	0	5	85
8/29/07	91	66	0	4	84
8/30/07	88	63	0	5	85
8/31/07	86	64	0	4	84
9/1/07	88	61	0	3	84
9/2/07	88	60	0	3	84
9/3/07	82	58	0	4	83
9/4/07	84	65	0	5	82
9/5/07	91	63	0	6	82