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## **“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update**

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Vital Crop Production Information for **Crosby** and **Floyd** Counties

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☛ Mere words cannot express the shock and loss that have been felt by all this last week with the passing of **William “Bill” Tidwell**. Bill was certainly an icon in this area who, as we were reminded during his eulogy, represented generosity above all things. Bill was given the “Friend of Extension” award from Crosby County in 2004 as a result of his generous nature. He was instrumental in providing several opportunities for meetings in his office and hangar for sharing of information with Extension clientele through educational programming. Previously, Bill had donated his plane, fuel and time to fly us to Austin for the Texas Pest Management Association Annual meeting in 2004 with never a thought of being reimbursed for his trouble. Bill has been a contributing member of the Crosby/Floyd IPM Steering Committee for approximately six years and was responsible, in large part, for the success of this program. Lastly, but certainly not least, Bill was a friend to a great many people and shared much of himself with everyone that he met. I will miss Bill Tidwell and can only wish his family the best in this time of sorrow. Thank you, Bill, for all that you’ve done for me.

☛ **Cotton planting** conditions in Crosby and Floyd Counties have been declining with moisture rapidly disappearing from the upper soil profile this last week due to low relative humidity and wind. Latest heat unit accumulations are **303** HU’s through May 25, 2005, (since January 1) with the average for the same time frame for the past **5** years yielding approximately **519** HU’s total accumulated for that same period. Since May 1, 2005, there have been only **236** HU’s accumulated. We are currently behind the

previous 5 year’s average at this time but have adequate HU accumulation to get this year’s crop off to a good start.

☛ Rainfall amounts accompanying last week’s storms have been instrumental in allowing some cotton producers to continue planting irrigated fields and to begin dryland field work. Unfortunately, growers in Southern Crosby County were not blessed with those recent rains and remain dry.

☛ From **Greg Cronholm**, IPM Agent in Hale and Swisher Counties, a reminder for the **HIGH PLAINS CROP PEST SCOUTING WORKSHOP** at the **Ollie Liner Center** on **South Business Hwy 27** in **Plainview, TX** on **June 1, 2005**.

“We again have an excellent workshop for Wednesday, June 1, 2005 to train those interested in basic knowledge of area crop pest. At this workshop we will cover cotton, corn and sorghum pest. The morning program will be devoted to cotton topics followed by a worker protection training just prior to lunch. Those interested in obtaining a pesticide handlers card (EPA green card) can attend just this portion of the program (11:00 a.m to noon). This card is valid for a five year period.

After lunch we will cover other commodities, plus recognition of herbicide damage, weed identification and plant diseases of cotton, corn and sorghum. We have applied for 5 Continuing Education Units (CEU’s) from the Texas Department of Agriculture for those with a private, commercial or non-commercial pesticide license. CEU’s to be offered will be 1 hour of laws and regulations and 4 hours of IPM. There is no fee to attend this program and if you have any questions please call our office at 806/291-5274.”

• **Very few grasshopper** problems have been noted to date since most cotton has not emerged to the extent to become attractive as a primary food source. This is expected to change, however, with the demise of borrow ditch vegetation from this past week's heat wave. Corners and edges closest to pastures, borrow ditches and weedy areas in lake beds should be monitored closely as the young crop continues to emerge.

• **Thrips** continue on the move out of ditch banks where "former" weed host plants continue to dry down. Producers who have cotton emerging at this time will undoubtedly need to prepare for treatment of this pest problem. Thrips are an annual problem for our area, and those growers not utilizing soil or seed treatments will see the negative effects of this pest over the next week as first true leaves begin to emerge.

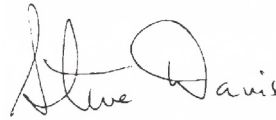
• A 7 to 10 inch "banded" application of **acephate, dicrotophos** or **dimethoate** will be the most cost-effective and efficient form of treatment (depending upon pest species present) in **7 to 10 gallons** of carrier **per acre**. In 2004, there were aphids present early in the year requiring the use of dicrotophos instead of just acephate or dimethoate alone. Scouting individual fields will determine which chemical will be more suitable this season. **Rates** of these chemicals can be found in Extension Publication **E-6A**, "Suggested Insecticides for Managing Cotton Insects in the High Plains, Rolling Plains and Trans Pecos Areas of Texas". This publication is available electronically through your local County Extension Office or on-line at

<http://tcebookstore.org/pubbrowse.cfm?catid=11>  
at no charge.

• Continued windy and hot conditions with little humidity will present further complications to thrips control. Coverage is the key and is crucial considering the limited surface area available on seedling cotton. Going slow and taking extreme care in applying these pesticides may save a second or even third application to protect the young crop.

• **Beneficial predator** insects will eventually follow thrips into cotton, however, the lag time needed to allow this natural progression will **not** be conducive to young cotton getting off to a good start. This is especially true if weather patterns continue to be detrimental, i.e., cool

and damp as has been forecasted for this week end.



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