

“Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

Update on Integrated Pest Management in Crosby and Floyd Counties

**Steve Davis - Extension Agent - IPM - 201 West Aspen, Suite 011 - Crosbyton 79322
phone: (806) 675-2426; mob (806) 620-0427; Cell (806) 789-7912; fax (806) 675- 2348**

E-mail: sgdavis@ag.tamu.edu

Website: <http://entowww.tamu.edu>

Vol. 3, No. 2

May 8, 2003

Cotton producers are astir over the two county area with field preparation, pre-watering and planting in full swing. Some cotton is up to a stand in scattered locations ,and from some folks, I've heard of cotton planted on April 19th in the Vigo Park area with a less-than-desirable result.

Temperatures, both ambient and soil, have not been too favorable in our area with 17 nights in April registering below 50°F. This week started out much improved but talk of another front and rain possibilities still exists. Related to these cool temperatures, **degree day** measurements are again being tabulated for reporting and were begun on March 13, 2003 (first positive recording for Crosbyton). The formula for degree day (**DD60** or **DD**) tabulation that we use is ;
DD60 = [(Max Temp + Min Temp) ÷ 2] - 60
There are several other formulas that can be applied but this one will suit the needs of this newsletter. So far we have accumulated 153.5 **DD** as of May 1st. To compare with previous years on this date;

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
n/a	168.5	<100	153.5

It is way too early to see any trends but this is our base line for this year. Plant emergence requires 50 to 60 degree days with first fruiting branch requiring 300 to 340 in the first 21 to 27 days of growth - we should have no trouble attaining this level quickly as long as warm temperatures dominate and an average range of 12 to 14 **DD** are accumulated per day.

Seeding rates for cotton are being discussed at this time as in previous years. A timely article appears in the March issue of **Cotton Grower** magazine in which Delta and Pine Land's Dr. Tom Kerby cautions growers about over seeding of some D&PL varieties due to small seed size being experienced. With **any** variety, over seeding results in extra cost and may delay overall plant production as plants tend to compete and overcompensate vegetatively before ever beginning to square. This takes more time and nutrient and does not promote a significant positive yield response. Bottom line, consult your seed dealer for the best seeding rate for your area. Seeds per foot of row is a more sophisticated planting tool to use rather than the old lbs. per acre method.

Moths have become very bothersome over the last two weeks. There is not much we can do except let them run their course and vacuum up the aftermath. These cutworm and armyworm species are most probably emerging out of pastures, bar ditches and CRP ground in response to recent rains and warmer temperatures. It will pay to watch tender, spring foliage as the eggs from these moths may be hatching into small worms in gardens and on new turf soon. There were some problems with seedling damage in early sunflowers last year adjacent to CRP and wheat pasture.

Paul Glasson, D.V.M. at Lockney, is vaccinating horses for **West Nile Virus** and warns that we may start seeing cases soon

since mosquitoes are relatively heavy and some areas south of us are getting a fair amount of rain to promote mosquito populations. Horses and humans are “dead-end” hosts with birds as intermediates that may die rather suddenly once they are infected. We are all urged to report dead bird contacts to the local health departments as they are an “early warning” of incidence of the disease. For more information on West Nile Virus (Encephalitis), the following Web site may be helpful;

<http://www.ncpmc.org/NewsAlerts/westnilvirus.html>

The **Crosby/Floyd Integrated Pest Management Field Scouting Program** is beginning in earnest for 2003. We have accumulated some acreage but would like more in Floyd County and Eastern Crosby County. The Steering Committee, made up of farmers and agri-businessmen in both counties, has set a cap of 3,500 acres maximum to be enrolled in the program. Also, two years ago, they set an acre fee of \$5.00 for all commodities which has remained unchanged. This fee is for travel and wages paid to the field scouts. Primarily, the program deals with cotton but some pumpkins, squash and ornamental gourds have been included the last two years. We welcome fields of any size and any commodity that may offer information to the overall two county program.

High Plains Scout School has been scheduled for Thursday, May 29th at the Ollie Linder Center in Plainview. IPM Agents and Texas Cooperative Extension Specialists from District II will present items of interest to farmers, consultants and field scouts. Dr. Randy Boman always has an informative program regarding cotton production, Dr. Calvin Trostle reports on strides in grain sorghum production, and there is no fee for attendees. For more detailed information, contact;

Greg Cronholm
E.A. - I.P.M. - Hale and Swisher Counties
(806) 291-5274

For those interested in receiving this weekly newsletter as a hard copy or by e-mail, please contact this office prior to May 15, 2003, as the mailing list must be updated and postal restrictions will be imposed on those not responding. Those respondents that meet the deadline will be carried on the mailing list until October 2003.

The information herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

Steve Davis
Extension Agent - Integrated Pest Management
Crosby and Floyd Counties