

## “Rio Blanco” Integrated Pest Management Update

### Update on Integrated Pest Management in Crosby and Floyd Counties

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**Heat unit accumulations** for cotton through July 17<sup>th</sup> are;

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
1,263	1,508	1,402	1,331

**Water usage** in cotton at this time is peaking as most older fields are in bloom. Heat units are accumulating on average of 25 per day. Cotton in our area ranges from pin-head square to 8 nodes above the first position white flower (NAWF). Square and boll set in these older fields is excellent at 85 to 90 % with very few aborted squares or bolls being noted where water is plentiful and/or irrigation was begun in a timely manner.

Currently, our older, squaring IPM program cotton has a few small **aphid** colonies present with natural enemies plentiful. We still have a potential threat from this pest due to late season nitrogen applications in the younger fields. The question of Section 18 for Furadan to treat cotton aphids has been answered - **NO**, not unless **multiple** failures occur with other more environmentally friendly products. This information from Dr. Terry Mize, FMC rep from Amarillo. Very few **fleahoppers** have been seen this year in this area and, for cotton that is blooming, they present no more threat this year. A resurgence of this pest in numbers to hurt late cotton in our area seems unlikely. There have been no **Lygus** populations reported from program cotton but adjacent counties of Lubbock and Hale have treated some fields for this pest. .

**Cotton boll worm/budworm larvae** have been found or their eggs have been reported from program cotton fields but are

in low numbers of 1,000 to 1,500 per acre. Most are able to get a “foothold” only because of the increasing canopy cover as the middles grow together. Beneficial insects outnumber the worms on an average of 6 to 1 at this time and most worms are not developing past one day old. We have not had a substantial egg-lay yet and will not likely have one for a while - keep your fingers crossed.

**Trap counts** for lepidopterous pests are increasing slightly, however. Data from this week indicate;

	A) <u>South of Ralls</u>	B) <u>East Plains</u>	C) <u>East of Floydada</u>
Boll worm--	29	42	31
Bud worm--	16	20	14
Beet Army worm--	28	26	31

**Pumpkin fields** have been a mixed bag this year. This crop suffered as much, if not more than cotton, from the early spring foul weather. The combination of cool temperatures and wet soils to the point of saturation have severely reduced stands as they allow for the production of soil disease organisms and arthropod or other vectors of these problem diseases. Squash bugs have been treated for in only one program field to date as this was an earlier variety present when the bugs emerged from overwintering. Populations of squash bugs have not elevated to treatable levels in other program

fields. There is also a mixed bag of symptoms for other viral and mycoplasma-like-organisms (MLO's) which have no control measure other than rotation or planting of resistant varieties. These infested fields present a general yellowing and weaker-looking plant as you drive by these fields.

### **Meetings of interest:**

Texas A & M University Research & Extension Center in Lubbock will be starting a new tradition by hosting the **1<sup>st</sup> annual High Plains Vegetable and Weed Control Research Field Day** on **July 30** beginning at **9:00 a.m.** The Research & Extension Center is located at 1102 East FM 1294 just

north of the Lubbock International Airport off Interstate 27 (Exit 11).

The field day will include a short presentation on general weed control practices in vegetable crops, and a discussion of new potential herbicides for the future (we will have 2.0 general CEU's available). A walking tour of research plots located on the station will include the statewide watermelon variety trial, as well as herbicide research in pumpkins, cantaloupes, peppers (bell, chili & jalapeno), snap beans and tomatoes. Fungicide research for powdery mildew control in pumpkins and cantaloupes will be reviewed as well.

by contacting Wendy Durrett at 806-746-6101.

Additionally, for those interested in Black-eye peas and pinto bean weed control, there will be an afternoon tour of the plots located at the Halfway Research & Extension Center (a 45 minute drive) beginning at 2:00 p.m. We appreciate your attendance and support. For further information, please contact Russ Wallace at 806-746-4052.

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Lunch will be provided free to those in attendance, however, we ask that you RSVP

