

## “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 24<sup>th</sup> are;

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
1,425	1,694	1,569	1,505

**Water usage** in most cotton is peaking as most older fields are in the bloom/boll development stages. Heat units are accumulating on average of 27.5 per day, up 2.5 from last week’s average. Cotton in our area ranges from 1/3 grown square to 7 or 8 nodes above the first position white flower (NAWF) with a moderate quarter-size boll load on the bottom. Square and boll set in these older fields is excellent and maintaining 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. Fields that are lacking adequate moisture have begun cut out and are blooming to the top this week.

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 in the younger fields but at the present time, beneficial insects are handling the pressure. **Lygus** populations are still heavy in neighboring counties to the west and have required chemical intervention on several occasions.

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

are in low numbers of 1,000 to 3,000 per acre. Beneficial insects outnumber the worms on an average of 3 to 1 at this time and most worms are not developing past three days old. A few squares are being “tagged” by worms but a **small** percentage is allowable and expected. We have not had a substantial egg-lay or worm explosion yet but several hot-spots (“Big Four” area for one) have emerged after the week end of July 26 th. The next full moon is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> and, I’d be willing to wager that a significant egg-lay will occur in conjunction with this moon phase .

**Trap counts** for lepidopterous pests are decreasing slightly. Data from this week indicate;

	A) <u>South of Ralls</u>	B) <u>East Plains</u>	C) <u>East of Floydada</u>
Boll worm--	33	36	41
Bud worm--	16	9	11
Beet Army worm--	33	21	26

**Pumpkin fields** that have been irrigated this last week are doing extremely well with the exception of those suffering heavily from “beet curly top” symptoms. A yellowing, “rosetting” of leaves and stunting of the plants is

characteristic of this disease. Each field differs in severity of infestation, but all have some symptoms. This viral organism is transmitted by a non-descript leafhopper which migrates long distances, feeding and transmitting this virus over large areas. Maturity of cucurbit fields is pretty much on track even with delays experienced in June. **Squash bugs** are present in most fields but have not established heavy numbers to date as in past years. However, they still warrant observation to prevent disease and general wilting symptoms associated with their feeding in potentially large numbers.

will also be conducted in Lamesa (Aug. 12) and Dalhart (Aug. 13).

### **Meetings of interest:**

#### **Regional Alfalfa Workshop in Littlefield, Aug. 7th**

Alfalfa production is the focus of a half-day regional workshop scheduled for Littlefield, Thursday, August 7th. Registration begins at 8:00 AM at the Lamb. Co. Ag. Expo Center on U.S. 385, 2 blocks north of U.S. 84. The program, organized by Texas Cooperative Extension, begins at 8:30 AM and will conclude at 1:00 PM. Target counties include Deaf Smith, Randall, Parmer, Castro, Swisher, Bailey, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Cochran, Hockley, Lubbock, and Crosby. Topics will include variety selection, fertility, irrigation, weed control, and entomology. A field visit will review insect scouting techniques and discuss insects present in the field. In addition dairy and custom hay industry personnel will share observations on achieving desired hay quality. All participants will receive a book of alfalfa publications from Extension, Alfalfa Council, etc. As lunch will be provided, pre-registration is recommended one day in advance by calling Kent Lewis, Lamb Co. Extension Agent, (806) 385-4222 (extension 9). A \$10 registration fee will cover cost of materials. 2.5 CEUs (1.0 in IPM) will be provided. Additional alfalfa workshops

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