

## “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 31<sup>st</sup> are;

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
1,575	1,872	1,702	1,671

**Water usage** in most cotton is at the pinnacle. Heat units are accumulating on average of 23.5 per day, down 4 points from last week’s average due to night time temperatures falling below the previous week’s 70 degree average low. Cotton in our area ranges from early bloom to an average of 6 nodes above the first position white flower (NAWF) with an ever-increasing quarter-size boll load. Square and boll set in these older fields is excellent and maintaining at 80 to 85 % where adequate moisture is present. A large number of fields have reached peak bloom and cut out at the same time with the hot temps. and lack of moisture across the area. Look for extreme boll shed within the next week to ten days if conditions persist.

Natural enemies are still controlling **aphid** colonies quite well. **Lygus** populations are very erratic with most fields not affected by this pest.

**Cotton boll worm/budworm larvae** have been found and **eggs** have been reported from program cotton fields each time they have been monitored. Numbers are low of and have not exceeded 3,000 per acre which indicates that natural enemies and most probably, weather factors, have been instrumental in restricting these numbers. With the “middles” starting to meet, increased canopy humidity will enhance survivability of these pests. Beneficial insects outnumber the worms on average but they seem to be cycling

out which also may allow worms to get established. A few squares and small bolls are being “tagged” by worms with the next full moon’s egg lay and potential onslaught of worms projected around August 12<sup>th</sup>. Most cotton that has been “fed” properly is overloaded at present anyway and trying to save every boll, with the way this year has been and continued potential uncertainty, is not feasible.

**Trap counts** for lepidopterous pests from this week indicate;

	A) <u>South of Ralls</u>	B) <u>East Plains</u>	C) <u>East of Floydada</u>
Boll worm--	18	25	78
Bud worm--	0	6	8
Beet Army worm-	25	32	34

All lepidopterous numbers remain at a very low level relative to other counties South and West of Crosby/Floyd.

**Pumpkin fields** that have been irrigated this last week are doing extremely well. Most symptoms of “beet curly top” and “watermelon mosaic” diseases seem to have slowed or else the increased canopy is masking these symptoms. A yellowing, “rosetting” of leaves and stunting of the plants is characteristic of these diseases. Each field differs in severity of infestation, but all have some symptoms. There are no cost-effective IPM strategies for control of these particular diseases. “Downy mildew” is

present also in areas of standing water and may result in heavy losses once temperatures moderate and/or rainfall events are experienced. Fungicides are labeled for the control of this disease.

Maturity of cucurbit fields is pretty much on track with very rapid growth being the rule.

**Squash bugs** are present in most fields but have only required chemical intervention in two fields this season.

### **Meetings of interest:**

#### **Regional Alfalfa Workshops in Lamesa, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and Dalhart Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>**

Alfalfa production is the focus of a half-day regional workshops scheduled for Lamesa and Dalhart. 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 local Co. Extension Agents in Dawson [(806) 872-7539 ]and Dallam [(806) 244-4434 ] Counties. A \$10 registration fee will cover cost of materials and 2.5 CEUs (1.0 in IPM) will be provided.

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