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# Gaines County Cotton/Peanut News

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## Survey Program

The survey monitoring program is designed to provide current, accurate and unbiased information to growers, consultants and agribusinesses. Information provided will describe plant growth and development stages as well as pest and natural enemy situations occurring in program fields. We are looking at 2820 acres that are spread out over the entire county (cotton: 1860, peanut:

960). Fields were chosen in specific areas so that there would be equal representation from each area in the county.

Funding for the program was provided in the form of donations from many local businesses. A list of those businesses is located at the end of this newsletter. Without the support and donations from these establishments, the success of this program would be limited.

## General Situation

Conditions in our area have changed over the past two weeks. Yes, it has been raining on and off for the past two weeks, with some areas receiving over two inches while others received less than half an inch. Temperatures have been mild for the most part but the forecast is calling for higher temperatures and less rain in the ten day outlook. Cotton continues to grow and will develop rapidly with the moisture we have in place and the high temperatures they are predicting. Across the county cotton development varies with cotton in the south and west at 1/3 grown square stage. I have seen blooms in fields this week, but not in program fields. Cotton in the north and east is at the matchhead to 1/3 grown square stage and dryland cotton is still emerging with the help of the recent rains.

Beneficial numbers in cotton and peanut fields continue to be very high with many lady beetle adults and larvae being found along with big eyed bugs, assassin bugs, and minute pirate bugs. This is very comforting given the time of the season and the fact that we are starting to pick up bollworm eggs. A handout on identification of beneficial insects can be obtained through our office.

Peanut are continuing to grow and make progress. Fields are blooming and pegging and we are starting to see pod growth on the ends of the pegs. With the recent rains and lower temperatures be on the lookout for diseases as they may begin to show up.

## What's Happening in the Cotton

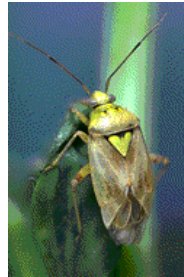
### **Fleahopper:**



Cotton is in the squaring stage across the entire county and everyone needs to be monitoring for fleahoppers and *Lygus*. We are finding 5-30 fleahoppers per 100 terminals in local fields with percent square set ranging from 80-93%. Adult

fleahoppers are about 1/8 inch long and pale green. Nymphs resemble adults but lack wings and are light green, and they both move very rapidly when disturbed. Fleahopper adults and nymphs suck sap from the tender portion of the plant, including small squares and terminals. Pinhead size and smaller squares are most susceptible to damage. **During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 85 percent square set. Starting with the third week of squaring up to first bloom, the economic threshold is 25 to 30 cotton fleahoppers per 100 terminals combined with less than 75 percent square set.** Scout your fields carefully for this pest and base treatments on actual populations and not just square damage.

### ***Lygus*:**



*Lygus* numbers will also need to be monitored closely as this pest can damage **squares** of all stages and young **bolts**. Visually sampling for *Lygus* is very difficult and a more reliable method is the use of a beat bucket or drop cloth. Adult *lygus* are 1/4 inch long, have a conspicuous triangle in the center of the back, are winged and vary in color from pale green to yellowish brown with reddish brown to black markings. Immature *lygus* bugs are called nymphs and are uniformly pale green with red-tipped antennae; late instars have four conspicuous black spots on the thorax and one large black spot near the base of the abdomen. The nymph's wings are not developed, but nymphs can move rapidly and are difficult to detect in cotton foliage. **During the first week of squaring, the economic threshold is 1 *lygus* bug adult or nymph per three feet of row**

combined with less than 90 percent square set. In the second week of squaring, the economic threshold is 1 *lygus* bug adult or nymph per three feet of row combined with less than 85 percent square set.

**Cotton Bollworm:**

Currently we are detecting light egg lay in program fields with worm populations well below economic threshold. Worm populations have been below 2,000 worms per acre in program fields this week.

Bollworm moths are attracted to cotton where they lay eggs. The moths lay single eggs which are pearly white at the one day old stage and turn light brown in appearance on day two. Eggs are generally found around young tender tissues of the plant. Eggs hatch within 3 to 4 days. Once hatched, worms feed for a day or two on tender small squares and the plant terminal before moving down the plant. Larvae vary in color from pale green, brownish, or black, with black stripes along the back. **\*When small worms are in the upper part of the plant they are most vulnerable to control by insecticides and predators.**

Before bloom treatment may be warranted where 15 to 25 percent of the green squares examined are worm damaged and small worms are present. After bolls are present treatment may be justified when counts average 5,000 or more small worms per acre. However if two or more key predators are present for each small worm control measures may not be needed.

**Pink Bollworm:**

The following table depicts numbers of pink bollworm captured per week. Traps were set on April 15 and there were no moths captured on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. Locations of the traps are as follows in each section of Gaines County.

A: NW	B: N	C: NE
D: SW	E: S	F: SE

Trap	4/29	5/7	5/14	5/20	5/27	6/3	6/8	6/15	6/22	6/29
A1	0	2	3	10	135	89	3	4	7	7
A2	3	1	36	20	93	138	8	55	47	121
B1	0	0	12	18	30	11	5	13	10	15
B2	0	0	16	8	71	43	0	3	2	5
C	1	2	3	4	68	21	5	27	27	15
D	1	18	106	26	125	135	6	13	83	114
E	2	1	12	12	103	95	4	12	6	29
F	0	1	10	21	*	52	1	23	11	28
Total	7	25	198	117	629	504	31	150	193	334

Copies of Texas Cooperative Extension cotton guides *Managing Insects in Cotton* as well as *Suggested Cotton Insecticides* are available in the office or can be e-mailed. If interested call the office or e-mail your request to [amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu)

**What We are Seeing in Peanut**

**Disease:**

It would be no surprise to begin to see disease build up in local peanut fields. With the recent rains early leafspot may be seen. This disease can be easily confused with symptoms of an altogether different problem. Chemical burn can be confused with leafspot. To distinguish between the two one must look carefully for tiny brown bumps on the top of the spot along with a yellow halo around the spot. Other diseases that may show up in the near future include both Rhizoctonia and Pythium; growers need to apply an appropriate fungicide prior to outbreak. Fungicides are a preventative and not a curative measure.

We are still seeing wire worms in fields that were rotated out of cotton. These worms are not causing significant damage. A few grubs are also being found but are not surviving long enough to do much damage. It is important to scout behind the pivot as well as in front to get a feel for the entire field as many of the soil inhabiting insects prefer moist conditions.

Trap Data : April - June

**Acknowledgements**

Funding for the IPM program is provided by donations from local agribusinesses. About \$15,000 dollars per year is required to run the program with money going towards postage, travel, and wages for scouts. We are still in need of funding so if you know someone you think would be interested in donating please contact them or call our office so we might be able to.

The IPM staff would like to thank these businesses that donated to the program and encourage producers to support their business as they have supported the producers.

**VIP**  
**Baucum Insurance**  
**Nolen Ag**  
**Agriliance**  
**Ag Texas**  
**Five Points Gin**  
**Stateline Gin**  
**UAP Southwest**  
**Western Peanut Growers Association**  
**AG Aero**  
**Farm Bureau**  
**State Farm**  
**South Plains Implement**  
**West Texas National Bank**  
**Whittenburg Insurance**  
**Moore-Haralson Agency**  
**Pioneer Gin**  
**Wilco Peanuts**  
**Eddins Walcher**  
**First United Bank**

**Special Thanks to our \$1000 Contributors**

**Ocho Gin**  
**Oasis Gin**  
**Tricounty Producers Co-op**

**Newsletter by E-Mail**

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