

---

# Gaines County Cotton/Peanut News

---

August 10, 2004  
Vol. I No. 6

Andy Cranmer EA-IPM  
101 S. Main Rm B-8  
Gaines County Courthouse  
Seminole, TX. 79360

[amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu)  
Phone: 432-758-8193  
Fax: 432-758-4031

Connie Lambert Secretary  
John D. Luck Field Scout/Technician

[cclambert@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cclambert@ag.tamu.edu)

---

## Contents

- I. General Situation
- II. What's happening in the Cotton
- III. What we are seeing in Peanut
- IV. Upcoming Events
- V. Fun Fact
- VI. Acknowledgements

## General Situation

The wet and cool pattern continues across the High Plains. Rainfall amounts over the last week and a half range from two tenths of an inch to over two inches in certain areas of the county. Forecasters are calling for more moisture and even cooler temperatures later in the week. Cotton varies

widely in growth stage depending on planting date and whether we are discussing irrigated or dryland fields. Dryland fields are squaring to first bloom while irrigated cotton is in cutout or holding just before cutout with 6-7 nodes above white flower. Cutout is defined by observing first position white

flowers, when there are five or less nodes above the first position white flower the crop has reached cutout (NAWF=5 or less). More information can be viewed in last weeks Focus on Entomology at:

<http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/>

Many of the fields that have not reached cutout have become “growthy” with all of the recent moisture. Pink bollworm continues to plague fields in the west and cotton bollworm numbers are on the rise throughout the county.

The peanuts are looking good, if only the diseases will cut us some slack. Disease has been on the increase in program fields, not a surprise with the recent weather. We are finding early leafspot *Cercospora arachidicola*, *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Pythium spp*, and Sclerotinia Blight (SCB). Scott Russell the Terry-Yoakum IPM agent has also found Southern Blight *Sclerotium rolfsii*, in some of his program fields. Insect pressure is still virtually non-existent in program fields, however scouting for both insects and disease is still very important at this time of the season.

Beneficial insect numbers in both cotton and peanut fields are at low levels. I am beginning to see an increase in Lady beetle larvae with the presence of a few aphids under leaves and in the bracts of the squares. Lady beetle (LB) adults, bigeyed bugs, minute pirate bugs, assassin bugs, and spiders are a few of the beneficial insects that we have observed over the past week. A handout on identification of beneficial insects can be obtained through our office.

## What's Happening in the Cotton

### **Fleahopper:**

These insects are beneficial either as food or as predators at this time. If more information is needed please contact the office.

### **Lygus:**

These insects are still very much a pest of cotton at this time so I will mention them again. *Lygus* numbers continue to be low in all program fields with less than 1 bug being captured per 10 row feet. However with that said, *Lygus* can still be a pest as they can move in and out of cotton from alternate hosts and damage **squares** of all stages and young **bolts** that have accumulated less than 350 heat

units. Reliable methods for detecting *Lygus* are the use of a beat bucket or drop cloth as visually sampling may be difficult due to the fact that *Lygus* move quickly when disturbed. However, while the beat bucket is very good at capturing adults, it would appear that nymphs are not represented well. **After the third week of squaring, the economic threshold is 2 lygus bug adults or nymphs per three feet of row with less than acceptable fruit retention.** These thresholds are based on the drop cloth sampling method.

### **Cotton Bollworm:**

Egg lay in program fields are still at low levels with numbers ranging from 500 to 1,300 per acre. Consultants I have spoken with indicate that they are finding similar patterns. Percent damaged squares were between 0-9% with worm numbers increasing across the county. In program fields, we have seen between 3,000 – 6,000 worms per acre and I have heard reports of field levels of around 9,000+ in the county. Worm size varies as we go from one field to the next, with the majority being 4 days old or younger. The cool temperatures, the moisture, and the lower levels of beneficial insects will greatly increase the ability of these worms to survive. It is essential to be inspecting fields closely and regularly for these pests. **When small worms are in the upper part of the plant they are most vulnerable to control by insecticides and predators.**

After bolls are present treatment may be justified when counts average 5,000 or more **small worms** per acre. Once you get more proficient at finding small worms, the treatment threshold should be raised. Also, if numbers are not at threshold levels but are relatively close and have been constant over a period of time treatment will be justified (don't let them pick you apart over a period of time). However, if two or more key predators are present for each small worm, control measures may not be needed.

### **Cotton Aphid:**

Aphids are being found under leaves and in the bracts of squares in program fields (less than 5 per leaf), at levels still well below economic threshold. Aphids at this time of year can affect yield by reducing boll size. Therefore, it is critical to

protect the crop from high aphid populations during the boll-filling period. **So remember, that treatments should be initiated when the field averages 50 aphids per leaf and if the population is continuing to climb.**

**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. During the weeks of Aug 2 and 9 old pheromone was used in PBW traps due to a short supply, therefore numbers are not presented. New pheromone has been placed and numbers will be recorded for the rest of the season. 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

Trap	7/6	7/13	7/19	7/27
A1	7	13	8	14
A2	53	64	184	57
B1	13	12	36	14
B2	3	5	4	9
C	19	16	31	41
D	18	30	252	123
E	12	14	23	11
F	13	21	28	32
Total	138	175	566	301

The western part of the county is still being plagued by pinkies. We continue to monitor with the pheromone traps and are planning some research that will allow us to better understand trap number and in field number relationships. The Gaines county crop tour is coming up on 8-23 and the pinkie situation as well as fall and winter research efforts dealing with this pest will be mentioned, your input and concerns are welcome and will be useful.



Rosetted blooms should still be monitored for pink bollworm (PBW) larvae at this time. This will not tell you if a treatment is necessary but will let you know you have activity and need to cut bolls.

**The economic threshold for PBW is 10-15% infested bolls.**

The only sure way to find out what level of infestation you have is by cutting bolls and looking for **PBW** entries and larvae. To sample for **PBW** you need to collect and examine 40 to 50 small bolls per field. Bolls about the size of a quarter should be pulled from the plant and carefully cut and examined for this pest. Newly infested bolls have a small clear bump or wart on the inside of the bur wall at the site where the larva entered the boll. This wart is similar to the damage caused by *Lygus* so it is critical that you determine which pest is causing the damage. Using a hand lens you should be able to see the small thread like larvae. The black head and movement of the larvae will make them easier to spot. Further discussion on the difference in the damage caused by these two pests can be found in Focus at: <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/focus/> The developing lint surrounding the wart is depressed or sunken in to accommodate the wart. Sampling bolls this size indicates the current status of the infestations. Bolls which have been infested for several days are much larger, fecal material is easily seen, and the feeding damage is more extensive. Wide swathing with an airplane at night has been a successful application method.

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

### **Diseases:**

For information on these or any other peanut problem contact the office and I will be happy to assist you.

*Rhizoctonia solani*: is being detected in program fields at moderate percentages (3-18%). The peanut plant is susceptible to *Rhizoctonia solani* from planting to harvest. Symptoms appear as lesions usually beginning on the lower branches in contact with the soil. The lesions are small and light to dark brown in color with a distinct target pattern. These lesions may extend inward to crown of the plant. Additional lesions may form on the stems either from direct infections or from fungal growth up infected pegs or leaves. Pods formed on the outer limbs are more likely to rot or be shed at harvest. The pathogen may also damage the primary crop.

Sclerotinia Blight (SCB): is being found in local fields, and with the continuing moisture and cooler temperatures this disease has the potential of being very devastating. The fungus grows most rapidly at 26 degree C (79 degrees F). Sclerotia are produced most rapidly at 22 degrees C (72 degrees F) on all plant parts, in soil, and inside limb and pod tissue. Again this week I will mention that if you are aware of this problem in one of your fields, you need to hinder its ability to move into your other fields. This can be accomplished by good sanitation practices. If you enter or use a tool (shovel, your shoes, implements) in one of these fields, clean them before moving on. This can greatly reduce the spread and problems you could face.

Early Leafspot: the recent weather has resulted in problems for a few fields in the county. Early leafspot can be recognized by a spot either circular

or irregular in shape with a brown raised appearance on the upper portion of the leaf. The spot will be surrounded by a yellow halo. Control of this disease and suppression of other diseases can be achieved by using fungicides at the labeled rates and intervals.

Pictures of all diseases along with control and symptoms can be viewed at:

<http://stephenville.tamu.edu/~clee/pdncr/>

**We are now at 90-100 days after planting and another round of fungicides should or should have been applied to fields that are experiencing problems or that have a history of disease. Control measures should be taken as a preventative and not as a rescue.**

### **Insects:**

Spider Mites, Lepidopteron Pests: We are currently experiencing very low numbers of insect pests in peanut.

## Upcoming Events

Stocker Cattle Meeting – **Aug 17 10:30-3:00**  
Gaines County Ag Tour – **August 23**  
Sheep Goat Production Meeting -**August 30**  
Tillage Meeting in Morton - **Sept 9**  
Western Peanut Growers Farm Tour-**Sept 15**  
Ag and Oil Day – **Sept 16**

## Fun Fact

Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of getting peanut butter stuck to the roof of your mouth.

## 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**

To assist in reducing costs, if you have internet access, please provide your e-mail address and we will e-mail the newsletter to you in the future. You can call the office or e-mail your request to me at: [amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:amcranmer@ag.tamu.edu) Benefits of having your newsletter sent through e-mail are: pictures and graphs will be in color, easy to store on your computer, no papers to mess with, click-able links to other internet sites, and sooner access. If you are not sure how to use e-mail but have access to a computer give us a call and we will help you.

Educational programs conducted by Texas Cooperative Extension serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension is implied.

Gaines County 8/3

