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# Gaines County Cotton/Peanut News

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### General Situation

The weather continues to aid in adding the finishing touches to our 2005 crop. The majority of the cotton is cutout and finishing up. Cutout is defined as 5 Nodes Above White Flower (NAWF). We continue to monitor for bollworm, pink bollworm, aphids, armyworms and Lygus in our program fields. Bollworm larvae range from 0 to

1800 per acre in our fields with the heaviest pressure again in the Southern portion of Gaines County. Beneficial numbers in cotton are moderate with lady beetle adults, larvae, and spiders being observed. A handout on identification of beneficial insects can be obtained through our office. The next hurdle for the cotton will be the timing of harvest aids so that we can get this crop out of the field and decrease the

chances of problems to occur. More information will come in the next newsletter.

The peanut crop is looking excellent with most fields having been treated multiple times for disease. It has been another year of disease pressure and again we have been shown just how important it is to be aware of happenings in the field and to know what to do and when to do it. The following diseases continue to be seen in program fields: early leafspot *Cercospora arachidicola*, *Pythium spp.*, and Sclerotinia Blight (SCB).

## What's Happening in the Cotton

### Fall Armyworm:

We are not seeing this pest in any program fields but consultants in the area are picking them up in a few fields. The FAW lays its eggs in masses and has an inverted Y on its head. Remember that these insects feed on fruit and Bollgard I cotton does not protect against them. Be sure and check under the bloom tags for this pest. EA-IPM for Dawson county Tommy Doederlein reminds us that pyrethroids in general are not that great for control of FAW but if you use them increase the rates.

### Cotton Aphid:

Populations are around 8 per leaf in a few of the program fields, levels well below economic threshold. Aphids at this time of year can affect yield by reducing boll size as well as by causing sticky cotton. Therefore, it is critical to protect the crop from high aphid populations during the boll-filling period. **Treatments should be initiated when the field averages 50 aphids per leaf and if the population is continuing to climb.**

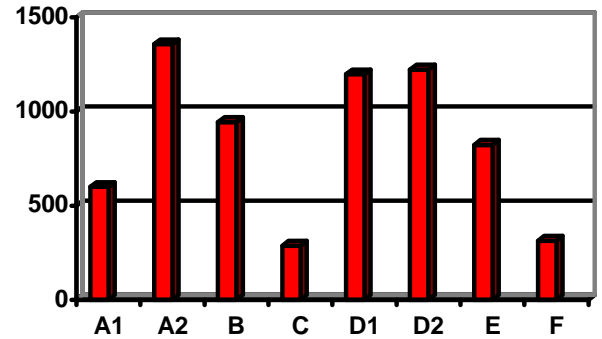
### Pink Bollworm:

**Numbers continue to increase in the Gaines County Area.** View High Plains County trap numbers in the FOCUS on Entomology newsletter written by Dr. Jim Leser at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu/>.

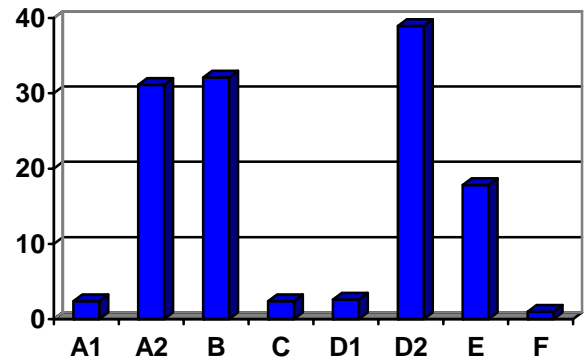
Numbers are from traps set on April 25 and have been run weekly since. Locations of the traps are as follows in each section of Gaines County.

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

The graph below depicts the total number of pink bollworm moths caught in each trap to date in Gaines County since trapping began.



The graph below depicts the number of pink bollworm moths caught per night in each trap for the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>.



With cotton fruiting PBW could become a problem across the county. Using a heat unit model we are able to predict when we should see initial emergence after overwintering, as well as when we will reach peak emergence and when we should see new generations. The heat unit model is based on temperature readings beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Pink Bollworm Development Based on Heat Unit Accumulation

PBW	Avg. HU Accumulation
Emergence	500

## What We are Seeing in Peanut

50% Emergence	1180
95% Emergence	1950
Complete Over Winter Emergence	2200
2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation (1 <sup>st</sup> infield)	1930
3 <sup>rd</sup> Generation (2 <sup>nd</sup> infield)	2680
4 <sup>th</sup> Generation (3 <sup>rd</sup> infield)	3430

Second (and subsequent) generations may be called “peak moth flights” referring to their captures in pheromone traps. Peak moth flights are usually seen over a 2-3 day period, with significantly higher numbers showing up in the traps at those times, they may even overwhelm the traps.

We reached 500 HU (emergence) in Gaines County on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1180 (50% emergence) on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1930 (2<sup>nd</sup> generation) on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1950 (95% emergence) on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2200 (Complete Over Winter Emergence) on August 19<sup>th</sup>, and have currently accumulated 2401 HU as of August 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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. The developing lint surrounding the wart is depressed or sunken in to accommodate the wart. The tiny, threadlike white worm can be found in the depressed area. The black head and movement of the larvae will make them easier to spot. Sampling bolls this size indicates the current status of the infestations. **DO NOT CONTINUE TO USE TRAP NUMBERS TO MAKE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.**

More info and a heat unit calculator can be found at the Plains Cotton Growers website:

<http://www.plainscotton.org/>

### **Cotton Bollworm:**

Populations in all program fields remain below economic threshold. After a boll has gained 450 heat units it is relatively safe from worm damage. It is also very difficult for a worm population to become established in cotton that has only larger bolls present.

### **Disease:**

*Pythium*: This disease is being found in program fields. Symptoms include: pods show brown lesions and upon close examination and dissection the pods are full of wet runny liquid. Products for control are Ridomil and Abound (better as a preventative).

\*note control measures should be taken as **preventative** and not as a **rescue**.

**Sclerotinia Blight (SCB)**: has been seen in peanut fields in Gaines County over the last 3-4 weeks. Research in the past year has shown that a Bleach solution does not do a satisfactory job of sanitizing equipment.

The following results are from a research trial conducted in Gaines County this year with the help of Gaines, Terry-Yoakum IPM programs and Dr. Terry Wheeler. The objective of the test was to compare the benefits between treating peanuts in a known Sclerotinia field by calendar applications at 60 and 90 days after planting (dap), versus treating soon after the first symptoms (sclerotia) were apparent. The below data was collected 3 wks (on 8/22 - 8/23) after the last spray application. At the test site, the first set of fungicides applications were made on June 30 at 60 dap. The second of the calendar sprays, and the first application for the “symptom” spray were made on August 2 after rating the plots. When directly comparing each treatment with calendar versus “symptom” applications at one week after treatment, the calendar applications for Endura and Omega 500 had consistently less disease than the “symptom based” application, however, by three weeks after treatment, both Endura and Omega 500 had similar levels of disease with both “symptom” and calendar based applications made on Aug. 2. This means that there was a delay of more than 1 wk after the application, before benefits of the fungicide could be measured in the “symptom based” application. The calendar and “symptom” applications demonstrated control from both Omega 500 and Endura compared with Topsin M and the untreated check. Both of these fungicides show excellent activity against Sclerotinia minor when ratings are conducted three weeks later.

Fungicide treatment	% sclerotia of each plot	
	calendar	“symptom”
None	60 a	64 a
Topsin M	51 b	49 b
Omega 500	26 c	18 c
Endura	23 c	14 c

Treatments with different letters have significantly different levels of disease (95% confidence level).

**Stay on a fungicide schedule in accordance with the label regarding HARVEST restrictions until the crop is finished this year. However, if your crop is thoroughly infected with these diseases, no amount of fungicides will help. So, please remember that fungicides are preventative and not curative in their mode of action.**

\*For more information on this disease and others please call my office or go online at:  
<http://stephenville.tamu.edu/~clee/pdnctr/>

**Insects:**

No program fields are experiencing insect problems at this time.

**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

Gaines County Ag Tour – **August 31**  
 Ag and Oil Day – **Sept 15**

**Fun Facts**

Astronaut Allen B. Sheppard brought a peanut with him to the moon. Source: NPB

**Acknowledgements**

Funding for the IPM program is provided by donations from local agribusinesses. Money goes 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. 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.

- Ag Texas**
- Anderson Welding**
- Baucum Insurance**
- Birdsong Peanut**
- Carter and Company Irrigation**
- Farmers Ins.**
- Farm Bureau**
- First United Bank**
- Golden Peanut**
- McKinzie Insurance**
- Moore-Haralson Agency**
- Nolen Ag**
- Peters Irrigation**
- State Farm Insurance**
- Stateline Gin**
- UAP Southwest**
- Valley Irrigation and Pump Service**
- West Texas Agriplex**
- Western Peanut Growers Association**
- Whittenburg Insurance**

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

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

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