

PEST MANAGEMENT NEWS

NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR PRODUCERS IN RUNNELS-TOM GREEN COUNTIES

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GENERAL SITUATION



Cotton harvest is winding down for most area producers with another record-breaking crop. Much of the cotton is still in modules and most area gins say they will be ginning well into the early part of next year. Dryland cotton ranged from one to more than three bales per acre and irrigated cotton estimates ranged from 2.5 to four bales per acre. Fiber quality is much better this year when compared to the 2004 crop.

Cotton Root Rot has really shown its presence this year, especially in those fields which have been in cotton for several years. Many producers have chosen to rotate those fields to wheat or will plant them to grain sorghum in 2006. Remember, we have had two bumper crops back to back and have pulled lots of nitrogen and phosphorus out of the soil. Now would be a good time to pull soil samples and see where you stand as far as nutrient needs are concerned. With the high cost of fertilizer, a soil sample is cheap.

AGRIPLEX AG DAY



Ag Day will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2006. The ag program is just about set and the day long activities will kick off at 10:00 a.m. with the SRPCGA Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars. More information will be forth coming.

BELTWIDE COTTON CONFERENCE

The Beltwide Cotton Conference will be held in San Antonio on January 3-6, 2006. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the new developments in all aspects of the cotton industry. For more information, give me a call.

IPM SURVEY

Enclosed is the annual IPM Survey. Please fill out and return at your earliest convenience in the enclosed envelope. A return envelope is provided. Your comments are very important.

WISHING YOU ALL



A MERRY
CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

2005 IPM SURVEY

- 1) In which county is your primary occupation or farm?
 Tom Green Runnels Concho Other
- 2) Did you use the information collected from the cotton scouting program this year?
 Yes No
- 3) How did you find out about insect information in your area?
 Scouting Program Daily Insect Update Newsletter
 Turnrow Meetings Chemical Salesman
- 4) Did you look at the scouting reports left at the cotton gins?
 Yes No
- 5) Was the information collected from the cotton scouting program useful to your farming operation?
 Yes No
- 6) Which of the following IPM tactics do you use in managing pests of your major crop?
Check **ALL** that apply.
- Select varieties that reduce or avoid insects and diseases.
 - Use recommended planting dates.
 - Use field scouting for insects, disease or weed pests.
 - Use pheromone traps to monitor pests.
 - Rotate crops for insect, disease or weed management.
 - Conserve or protect beneficial insects.
 - Purchase and release beneficial insects.
 - Use computerized forecasting models.
 - Use economic thresholds for pests.
 - Cultivate for weed control.
 - Use hand hoeing for weed control.
 - Band pesticides to reduce amount applied.
 - Soil tests to determine fertilizer rates.
 - Destroy or plow down stalks after harvest to reduce pests.
- 7) How do you decide when a pesticide application is needed on your farm? Check **ALL** that apply.
- Neighboring farms being treated.
 - Pesticide dealer or aerial applicator recommendation.
 - Consultant recommendation.
 - Scout my own fields.
 - Family member or field hand scouting field.
 - Extension IPM agent scouting report or recommendation.
 - Crop stage or calendar date.

For the following two questions, your answers should be based on how the overall IPM program has impacted your farming operation. The IPM program includes scouting/monitoring, applied research and result demonstrations which include variety testing, newsletters, and educational programs.

8) How has IPM affected your pest management costs in cotton?

_____ Reduced _____ Increased _____ Remained the same

If IPM has affected your pest management costs, please indicate:

_____ \$1 to \$10/acre _____ \$10 to \$20/acre _____ \$20 to \$30/acre _____ Other

9) How has IPM affected your net profit?

_____ Reduced _____ Increased _____ Remained the same

If IPM has affected your net profit, please indicate:

_____ \$1 to 10/acre _____ \$10 to \$20/acre _____ \$20 to \$30/acre _____ Other

10) How often do you use the following sources to acquire information on pesticide use?

SOURCE	FREQUENTLY	SOMETIMES	NEVER
Neighboring Producer			
Ag Chemical Magazine			
Computer Programs			
Extension IPM Entomologist			
Ag Chemical Salesmen			
Extension IPM Newsletter			

11) Please evaluate the IPM newsletter for Tom Green, Runnels and Concho Counties.

_____ <u>USEFULNESS</u>	_____ <u>LENGTH</u>
_____ Highly Useful	_____ Too Long
_____ Somewhat Useful	_____ Too Short
_____ Not Useful	_____ About Right

12) Please feel free to make any comments or suggestions regarding the IPM program, demonstration work, or newsletter.