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PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN GLASSCOCK, REAGAN AND UPTON COUNTIES

GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton ranges from first open boll to 5-6 nodes above white flower. Rainfall this week ranged from 0.4-2.2" across the area. We need to continue with sunshine and heat to finish this crop.

Bollworms and fall armyworms are the insects of most concern now. Aphids are still a problem in some fields.

BOLLWORMS

As stated in last week's newsletter, we were finding fairly high numbers of small worms in many fields. These worms were sprayed in many instances with a pyrethroid. We began finding worms that are surviving these applications. Early results of identification of these worms are that most survivors are Fall Armyworms. More about this pest later. Bollworm control still seems to be holding up pretty well with a pyrethroid. Egg-lay doesn't seem to be that high now, but we have found little worms without seeing that many eggs. It seems the moths are hiding eggs more.

Some fields are getting past being susceptible to bollworms, but many still have a ways to go so, don't let your guard down.

Bollgard II cotton still remains relatively clean of most worm pest. Bollgard I cotton has had some bollworms and fall armyworms that are surviving, but damage is nothing like in the conventional fields.

APHIDS

Aphid numbers seem to be lower this week. Many fields were sprayed and control looks good while others have

been lowered by wind, rain, lady beetle larvae and crop conditions.

BEET ARMYWORMS

We are seeing more beet armyworm hits around in some fields. We are also finding a few more larger worms scattered in fields. If beetles are feeding primarily on foliage, the threshold is 20,000 per acre, but if they are feeding on fruit, especially bolls, I would use 8,000-10,000 as the threshold.

FALL ARMYWORMS

We are seeing substantial numbers of fall armyworms in some cotton fields now. This happens in other areas more often, but is not common here.

Some fall armyworms can look similar to bollworms, especially when they are small. The primary difference is Fall Armyworms have a distinctive upside-down Y shape on the top front of their head and bollworms don't. The armyworms also have four sclerotized spots on the eighth abdominal segment. To look at these characteristics, you need a microscope or hand lense.

Many of the fall armyworms can be found in squares and blooms. We are at or past the time most blooms will make harvestable bolls in an average year. If these worms stay out of the bolls, you may be able to tolerate higher numbers.

If they are getting into bolls, control with Intrepid® at 6 oz has been reported to be giving the best results. I have not observed this myself, but have gotten reports from several sources. Intrepid® doesn't control bollworms, so if you have a mixture, you need to use a pyrethroid also.

PINK BOLLWORMS

Pinky traps ranged from 1-24 moths per night this week with the higher numbers found near the intersection of FM 2401 and Hwy 158. You should check for pinky infestations in bolls on non-Bt cotton. If 10-15% of bolls are infested, treatment should be considered.

WEED CONTROL

Some people have asked when Roundup could be sprayed over the top on Roundup Ready® cotton as the season progresses. The label says at 20% cracked bolls. Several sources suggest waiting at least until the last bolls you think you may harvest are bloomed out. Most change to fruit is in the square and bloom stage to developing pollen.

TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, Sept 6 9:00 am Glasscock Coop
 Wednesday, Sept 7 9:00 am Midkiff Coop

TRI-COUNTY CROP TOUR

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

We will meet at the St. Lawrence Hall at 2:00 pm for a short St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Meeting. The tour will be from 2:30-5:30 followed by refreshments and a meal. We will tour variety, fertility and Roundup Flex® plots.

PECAN WEEVILS

Pecan weevils continue to emerge in area orchards. If you have had pecan weevils in the past, you should be spraying your orchard every 7-10 days with Sevin 80S® for 2-3 applications.

BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION

Below is some information on the Boll Weevil Eradication program through the week of August 26th.

	North Glasscock	Midkiff	Central St Lawrence	Reagan County
	201	202	203	204
Weevil Captures Per Trap This Week	.0755	.0014	.0357	.0274
Weevil Captures Per Trap This Year	.5192	.0049	.1761	.0460
Treatments This Week (ac.)	4,829	69	1,880	1,519
Treatments This Year (ac.)	45,492	2,170	17,150	18,855

Remember, the eradication assessment statements were sent out around August 19th. Payment is due by September 25th. If not paid by October 18th, a lien can be placed on your crop. If paid by September 10th, you get a 2% discount.

HEAT UNITS

Heat units averaged 16 per day the past week. Heat units since 5-5, 5-15, 5-25, 6-5 compared with last year and a five year average in the table below.

DATE	5/5	5/15	5/25	6/5
2005	2054	1933	1776	1627
2004	2226	2088	1901	1682
5 YEAR AVG	2276	2138	1987	1799

HEAT UNITS NEEDED FOR COTTON DEVELOPMENT

Planting To:
 Stand Establishment 78
 Squaring 526
 First Bloom 1064
 First Open Boll 1641
 95% Mature Bolls 2271

WEATHER DATA

Weather data for the past two weeks is included in the table that follows:

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	SOIL TEMP
8/18	89	66	0	5	78
8/19	87	66	0	5	79
8/20	87	68	0	5	81
8/21	88	66	0	3	82
8/22	91	65	0	3	82
8/23	91	64	0	2	83
8/24	92	65	0	2	83
8/25	90	66	0	2	84
8/26	93	65	0	2	85
8/27	93	67	0	2	85
8/28	82	63	.39	5	84
8/29	83	64	0	3	82
8/30	87	59	0	0	82
8/31	90	59	0	4	82

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