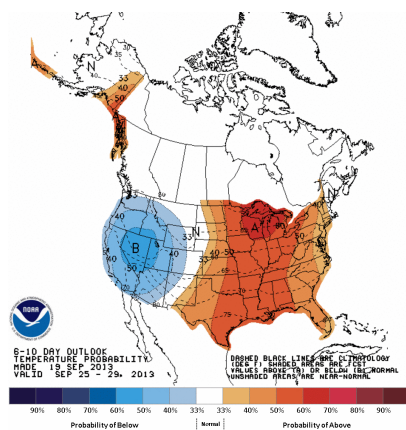


SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

General Status

With fall and cooler temperatures in the air, our attention usually turns toward cotton harvest aids, grain harvest, and wheat planting. While some of these issues are before us, the lateness of some of our area summer crops and the persistence of some pest species has kept much of our attention on field scouting with concerns of economic thresholds (ET) in some fields and developing crop maturity in others.



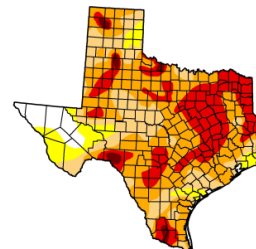
U.S. Drought Monitor

September 17, 2013
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

Texas

	None	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)				D4
		D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	5.30	94.70	86.30	64.06	25.08	1.65
Last Week (09/10/2013) resd	4.14	95.86	87.12	65.99	21.79	2.62
3 Months Ago (06/18/2013) resd	4.78	95.24	84.82	58.48	29.43	11.83
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013) resd	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	36.03	11.06
Start of Water Year (09/01/2012) resd	6.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (09/17/2012) resd	7.26	82.74	76.50	52.10	23.13	4.80

Intensity:
 00 Abnormally Dry
 01 Drought - Moderate
 02 Drought - Severe
 03 Drought - Extreme
 04 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

USDA
 National Drought Mitigation Center
 Released Thursday, September 19, 2013
 National Drought Mitigation Center

Cotton

Cotton has developed past the threat of economic cotton pests and our only concern looks to be moving the crop along maturity wise to beat the freeze date deadline. Normally we would start seeing some of the area's first harvest aid treatments going out by now. With this season's behind, but mostly not quite late cotton crop, we are likely seven to ten days away from the first recommendations at the earliest, temperature and crop depending. In fact we were more concerned about water stressing developing harvestable bolls by shutting irrigation off too early for most of our program fields these past two weeks. Conversely, we were just as concerned about leaving irrigation on too long and causing junk growth for just as many fields.

Without the collection of pertinent field data, progress can look slow from the turn row. Many fields are still quite green. With the extension of higher temperatures over the past few weeks some rapid progress has been made. Most of our program fields are sporting at least 5% open bolls and uppermost boll development has been occurring. Now that we seem to be losing those 'hot' days that boll development progress will slow. The bulk of our harvest aid treatments may stretch much farther into October than normal. Typically, we expect the last of our appreciable heat unit accumulation to occur around October 5th. Ideally, I prefer to have cotton fields managed so that they are ready for harvest aids before October 15th and all treatments made by that time. Most are hoping for some additional heat unit accumulation. With this in mind, there are a number of program fields I have concerns over that may require additional and drastic maturity management soon. Several area fields might even be forced into having a shot of ethephon just before a predicted freeze as an emergency treatment to ensure harvest if those fields were over irrigated or not managed for maturity during August and early September.

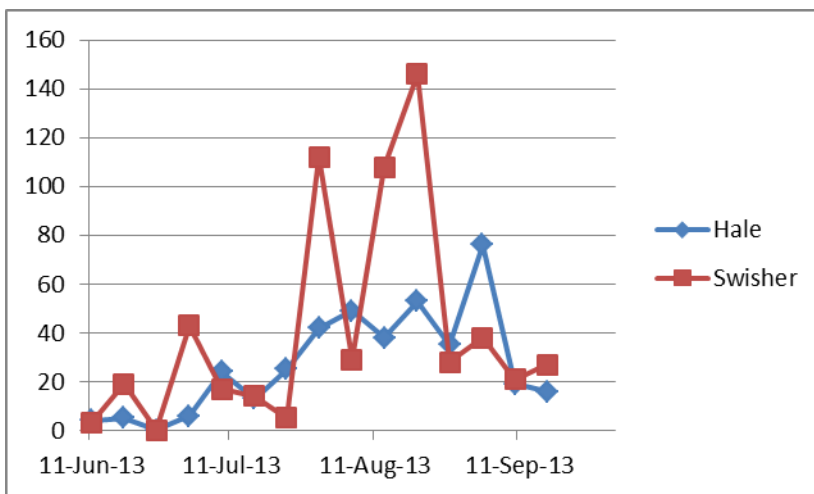
Corn

Corn harvest is underway for our normal planted corn. Combines and crews are moving from field to field as fields dry down. There looks to be plenty of time to make sure the machinery is properly greased and maybe even catch some of our area's fall football games between harvesting fields. With the variable stage of the corn crop, harvest should stretch well into the fall. So far, I have reports of yields ranging from 8,000 to 11,000 pounds per acre, but I do expect some outliers going a pretty good way out both directions.

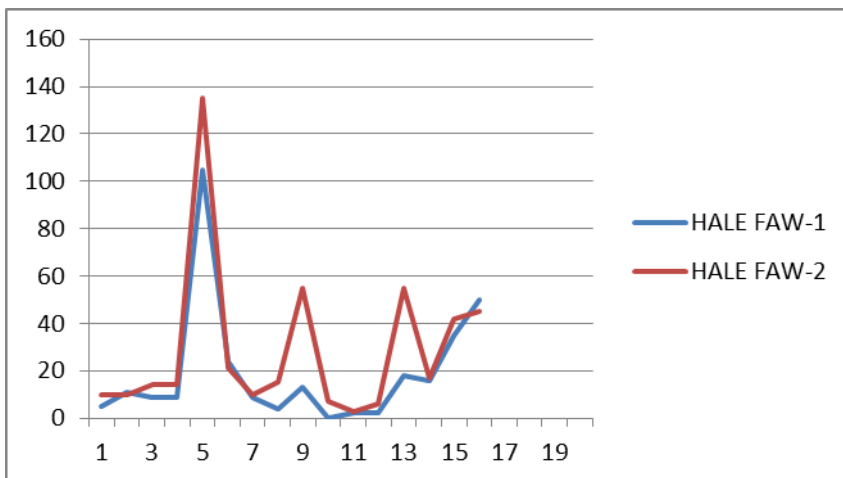
Most of our program's late corn is in early to full dent. It is very unlikely that any pest will reach an economic status for the remainder of the season in these fields. All of these field's spider mite populations have long ago crashed, but I can find a few mites, some are even the two-spotted spider mite. I can also find good populations of predators waiting on the mites also. I can still find plenty of earworms and the occasional FAW (fall armyworm) in ear tips, but these are not anywhere near economic levels and these large FAW seem to be moving down the ear. Because the fields are still susceptible to several pests, I am keeping an eye on them, just to make sure.

Sorghum

The late sorghum is still where the pest 'excitement' is. Our program's late sorghum ranges in stage from late bloom to late soft dough. As fields reach the milk stage, they are very susceptible to FAW and bollworms, which make up most of our sorghum headworm complex. Both of these species are still prevalent, both as moths and larva, this season.



2013 Bollworm Trap Data



2013 Hale County FAW Trap Data



225 Broadway, Suite 6
Plainview, TX 79072

Tel: 806.291.5267

Fax: 806.291.5266

E-mail:

Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

Blog:

<http://>

halecountyipm.blogspot.com/

WEB

<http://>

hale.agrilife.org

Educational programs by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, sex, disability or national origin.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied nor does it imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.

We're on the air...

"Tuesday's with Blayne"

The 1090 AgriPlex
Report from 6 – 7 AM
and 12:30 – 1 PM
on 1090 AM –
Plainview

*"IPM Wednesdays" from
1:00-2:30 PM on The
Fox Talk 950 Ag
Show. Fox Talk 950
AM - Lubbock.*

Dr. Pat Porter also indicates a large increase in FAW trap catches in Lubbock County.

Most of our program's late sorghum has already been treated for headworms with good affect. Those that have not been treated, have an excellent population of beneficial arthropods present that could be helping control the population so far. I recommend continued weekly scouting for the headworm complex in any late sorghum field. As a reminder, if FAW are present at treatable levels, an alternate chemistry must be utilized that will control both bollworms and FAW.

General Watch

With high populations of FAW out this fall looking for a crop to attack, I recommend we begin scouting planted wheat for potential problems. This potential problem might also be a consideration when choosing a wheat planting date.

The vast amount of the so reported 'miller moths' that are buzzing the area's yards and fields are made up mostly of the garden webworms that were devouring weeds a few weeks ago. Little is locally known about this insect's life cycle and it was unknown if the vast number of larva present would attempt to overwinter, or pupate and attempt to complete another rav- enous generation. Judging from the volume of moths buzzing about, I believe we should keep an eye on our fall gardens, not Bt crops, and landscapes for these foliage feeders.

Please call or come by with any questions,

Blayne