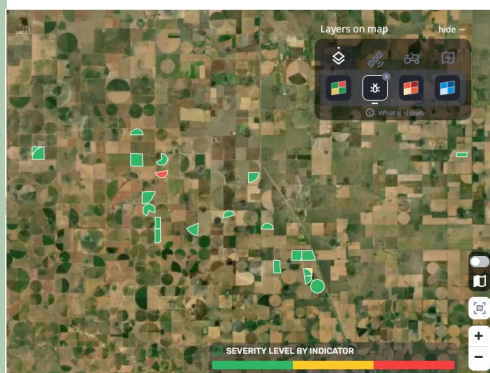


JULY 1, 2022

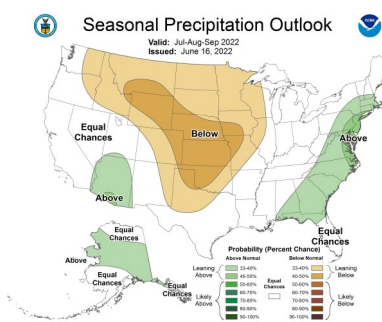
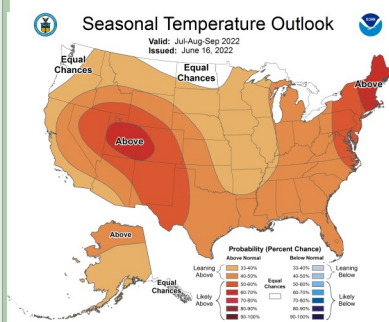
General Status

With the fate of most of the borderline failing fields finally determined via insurance, we have been able to focus better on the well being of our surviving fields. Almost all of these fields in the area are irrigated. Dryland fields might not be mentioned here for the remainder of the season although a few in the area are still hanging on somewhere just above the permanent wilting point. The remaining fields are making good progress, rushing through developmental stages rapidly so long as soil moisture is available. A few more pests are creeping into our scouting data sets, but nothing is widespread yet despite some threats out there to keep us on our scouting toes. Overall I am pretty pleased with weed control but there are some serious battles ongoing with unrelenting weed pressure and a hot, tough to kill weeds environment.



This is a Cropwise Protector image resulting from our scouting this week. The Cropwise Protector scouting app can highlight individual pests, problem areas, and fields that we find with color code maps based upon our economic thresholds. In this

particular map, I have selected Palmer amaranth (pigweed) as the specific pest to highlight. All fields with any color have some level of pigweed population in-field. Green indicates a light population that might go unnoticed but will require some management to reach 100% control. Yellow indicates a serious need to act quickly before small and somewhat populous weeds get out of hand. Red indicates that a high population growing above the 2-inch height restriction is in-field and rapid measures are needed to maintain control and/or economic profitability in that field. This image seems to sum up our current weed situation very well. We are doing pretty well, but the



battle continues unrelentingly.

Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management program cotton ranged in stage from 2nd true leaf stage and ½ grown square stage this week. We do have a fair number of fields with good chances to reach 1st bloom by July 4th. The bulk of our fields are somewhere between pinhead and match-head square and should see a more average 1st bloom date that will be a few weeks out. Fleahoppers were again our main concern this week with just a few fields still at risk from thrips. Very few thrips were found on the later fields. Meanwhile, our fleahopper numbers steadily increased again this week with around 60% of our field having some level of the pest present. No field reached ET for us this week with our highest population in both plant bugs and fruit loss showed the equivalent of 7.9%

terminals infested with a square drop of 9.8% during the 3rd week of squaring. Most infested fields came in with the equivalent of 2.4% infested terminals and less than 5% fruit drop during the 2nd week of squaring. We also picked up a couple of fields with solitary Lygus in our data sets and one field with a stink bug. Both of which could damage cotton if populations increase. We do expect to be

forced into treating a few fields for fleahoppers, or other plant bugs in a mix, in at least a few fields over the next few weeks.



From Central Swisher to SW Hale, most fields are susceptible to fleahoppers now.

Region	Fleahoppers	Cotton growth stage	
Blacklands	10–15 per 100 terminals (terminal inspection)	During squaring	
Coastal Bend	15–25 per 100 terminals (terminal sampling)		
Winter Garden Lower Rio Grande Valley	In development: 20–40 adults and nymphs per 100 plants (beat bucket sampling)		
Panhandle South Plains Permian Basin Rolling Plains Trans Pecos	25–30 per 100 terminals (terminal inspection)	Week of squaring	Square set
		1st week	< 90%
		2nd week	< 85%
		3rd week	< 75%
		After 1st bloom, treatment is rarely justified.	

Our Current recommended Fleahopper ET levels from the Texas A&M Cotton Insect Management Guide.



Fleahopper on a dropcloth this week



Black fleahopper on a drop cloth.



Fleahopper nymph

Corn & Sorghum

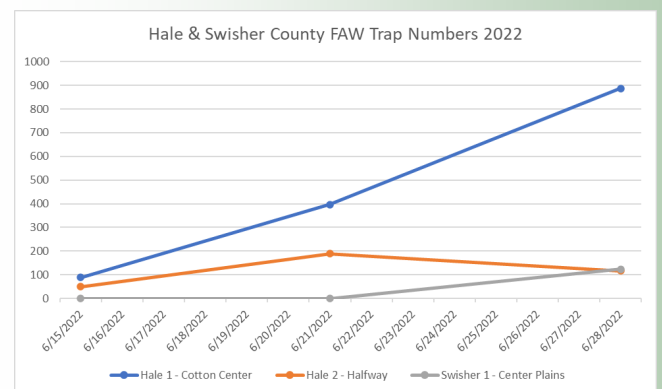
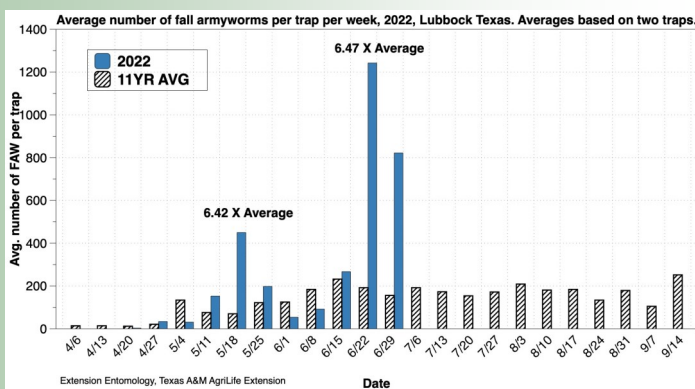
This week our only PPM corn field ranges between V11 and V13 with water patterns while our sorghum reached V10. We are yet to encounter any pests of note in our sorghum which includes the sugarcane aphid, now properly renamed the sorghum aphid, and fall armyworms. This could change at any moment with FAW trap numbers being high and sorghum aphids located as near as Lubbock this last week. In our corn, I did note light FAW feeding on non-Bt refuge plants but the issue still did not seem as severe as the trap catches indicate the pressure could be. In our corn we also noted Banks grass mites moving in and establishing colonies on most lower leaves around field margins and moving across the field rapidly from there. Our overall rating for this field was 0.75 this week on the 0-10 Texas A&M BGM Rating scale with 3.5-4 being economic. This was a mix of data sets with 1-2 ratings along the field margins that decreased eventually to zero towards the center of the field. There is a very high probability that in this heat and drought stress that once this field reaches tassel stage the BGM would rapidly develop into a treatable issue quickly.



BGM colony starting on lower leaf in our corn this week.



Our PPM sorghum showing the impact of the environment this week.



In our Texas Corn Producers corn pest traps we are running this year, we also found 2 southwestern corn borer moths at Cotton Center and 1 at Center Plains. We also had 1 western bean cutworm at Center Plains.



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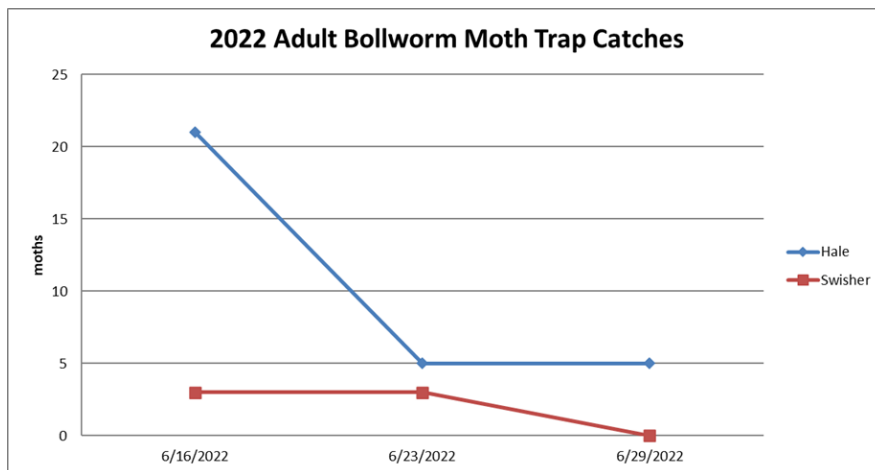
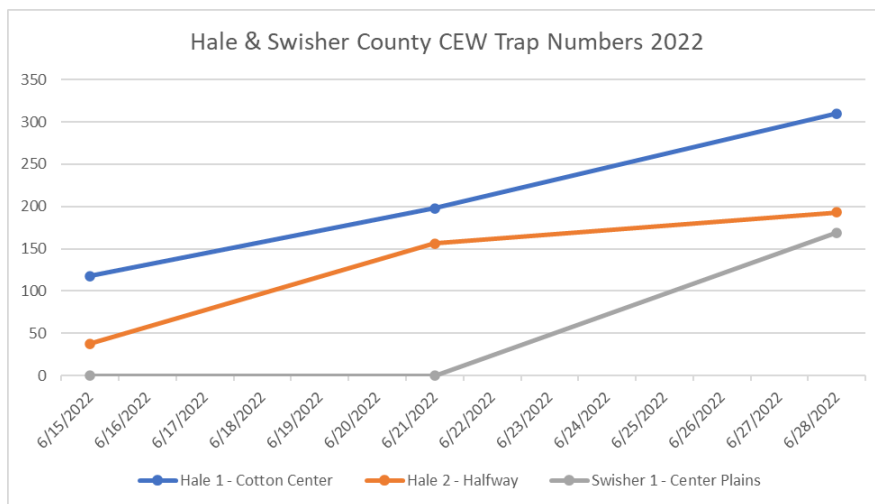
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Again our traditional location for our bollworm moth traps, held in the same location for almost 12 years now, and our Texas Corn Producers corn pest bollworm (corn earworm) traps tell a very different story from each other. Our traditional traps are located nowhere near any corn this year, while the smaller corn traps are very near some of the area's few corn fields. I expect these moths are sinking into the mostly whorl stage corn, most of it Bt, without economic impact.

Blayne Reed