

AUGUST 23, 2024

General Status

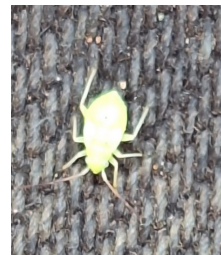
The hot and dry conditions are our prime situation again this week. Unfortunately it is not the only one. While fields are struggling to keep with water use, those that are close still have plenty of activity in the field with plenty of potential issues.



Open boll on stressed drip cotton this week.



FAW on pre-tassel corn this week.



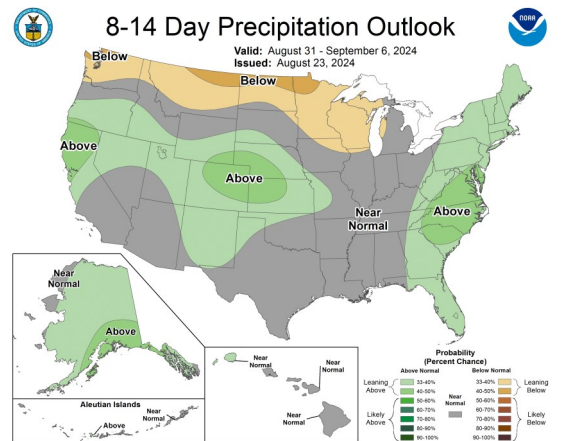
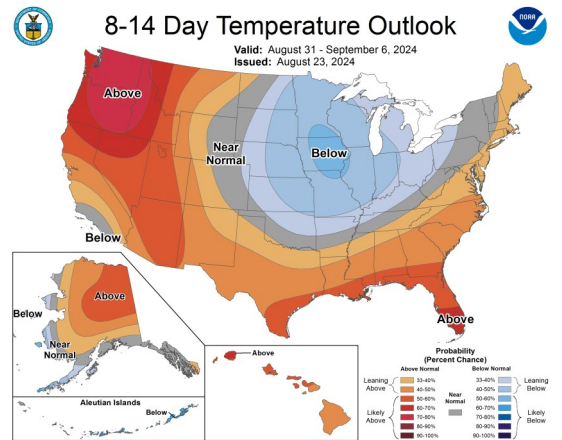
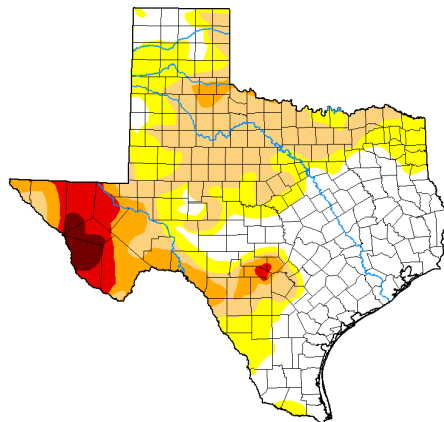
Lygus nymph this week.



Rapid plant bug in cotton this week.



Bollworm egg this week.



Cotton

Our PPM cotton ranged in stage between 4 nodes above white flower (NAWF) through about 5% open boll with most fields firmly at absolute cut-out and shedding the last of their fruit that the plants could not hold and maturing those it could. A number of our fields, primarily those that went without substantial rainfall events in the past 2



Field passed most insect damage that held all the fruit it could.

months, had developed passed economic insect damage of all pests except stink bugs this week. These fields had no fruit smaller than quarter sized bolls yet to make with all fruit either under late-stage boll development or shed. We will be spot checking these fields for issues until a likely early harvest aid season begins in a few weeks. The rest of our fields, those with fruit still available to develop, are at high risk for multiple pests.



Cut-out field still setting the last of its fruit in NE Hale this week.

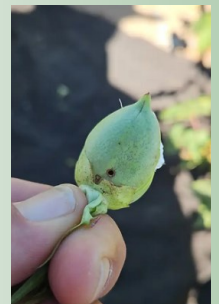
Bollworms and Lygus remain our scouting focus again this week. Our bollworm numbers have increased again from last week, particularly in egg lay, but they have been

nowhere near the potential amount of pressure represented by the large moth trap numbers from last week. In fact, we still had a majority of fields found with no eggs or worms at all. The weather and advanced developmental stage / status of most



Adult Lygus found with undamaged, 'natural' fruit drop in field entering cut-out.

fields is likely the cause but the lush, greener, or later fields held most of the pressure. Even in higher risk fields and where eggs were found, it was rare to have a field found with more than 6,000 eggs per acre or over 2% fruit damage or over 1,000 worms per acre. Almost all of the caterpillars we found this week were small and shortly out of the egg.



Bollworm damage in SE Swisher.

Lygus, and similar plant bug pests (rapid plant bug) were more numerous in these fields than bollworms. Although several fields came back with numbers of these pests around threshold, we did not treat any this week. We determined in these situations that the fruit drop was primarily due to maturity and drought

and not the Lygus feeding. If by next week the Lygus are still in the field feeding on susceptible fruit, we would need to treat to prevent loss. The majority of the Lygus we found this week were late-stage nymphs and will have the ability to move soon if the environment is not to their liking.

We are still finding a plethora of different pest species in the 'greener' cotton fields. Aphids, usually at below 1 per leaf are common. Spidermites continue to be found in fields primarily to the south of Plainview, but only on a few upper leaves. Whiteflies can be found in most cotton fields with pockets of higher populations hovering around 10 per upper leaf. Beet armyworms are starting to show in non-Bt fields, most feeding near fruiting sites and on flowers and not the leaves but not directly on bolls yet. No BAW population came in over 1,000 per acre.



BAW found feeding on bracts near a dime sized boll in W Swisher this week.

Grain Crops and New Potential Diseases in Texas Corn

Our older corn has been harvested and our younger fields should be tasseling soon while our sorghum fields are nearing blackline and millet is near boot stage. While mites continued to increase in our older corn, they did not reach threshold before the cutters arrived. Drought at the finish line was our biggest issue in our older fields and caused a need to harvest a bit early.

It is possible some newer disease issues could have played a minor roll, if they were in our fields. The full IPM Team from across Texas is trying to get an understanding and handle on some emerging issues in corn this year. We hope to have a fact sheet out soon for distribution and education soon. What I can say today is that these 'new' diseases are spread by the invasive corn leaf hopper. This corn leaf hopper is known to transmit 4 corn diseases that would be new to our area, 2 bacterial and 2 viral. Symptomology of these may not always show early or consistently on the foliage but the impact is felt on the ear and late in development. Detection of the transmitting insect might prove difficult as our native leaf hopper species are inconse-



Some of our late PPM corn developing well this week.



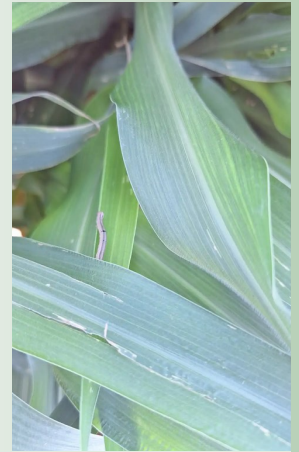
While not disease free, another example of our younger PPM corn not showing obvious signs of the new diseases.

-quential in corn production and are typically overlooked. What appears to be the critical time to scout and manage for this issue would be between V2 and V8. If this turns out to be a widespread issue here in Hale and Swisher it would not be too large of a surprise and far to late to control the issue for this year. Even for our late planted fields as transmission would have already taken place and there is no known treatment for viral and bacterial disease once plants are infected. If this species is in our area transmitting these diseases we will need to be fully prepared for next year.

At this time our younger fields are showing no signs of disease, which may not mean anything. We will be looking for the transmitting insect

species closer this next week, the corn leaf hopper and trying to distinguish it from our native leaf hopper species. Today, I have no images I can share yet, but, the corn leaf hopper will be more of a light tan color and have two dark spots located between the eyes.

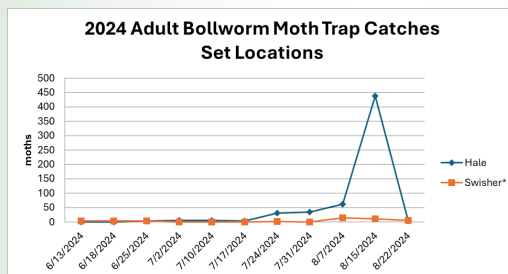
The only pest of note in our late stage millet are the fall armyworms. This looks like the second generation to hit this whorl stage millet. The damage remains below 5% and well below threshold. Now the millet is nearing boot, we will be watching to see if the pest ride the head out or otherwise move to the head to cause yield loss.



FAW on late stage millet in SW Hale this week.

Bollworm Moth Traps This Week

Following an old-time similar high in moth numbers, our Hale trap was damaged this week and our Swisher trap continues to be plagued by grasshoppers. Our Texas Corn Producers corn pest traps are still catching high bollworm numbers this week.



A bollworm moth avoiding desiccating, hungry grasshoppers in Swisher trap this week.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service /
 Texas Pest Management Association

225 Broadway, Suite 6
 Plainview, TX 79072
 Tel: 806.291.5267
 Fax: 806.291.5266
 E-mail: Blayne.Reed@ag.tamu.edu

We're ONLINE



Newsletters and IPM Reports

as well as out latest

*High Plains Weekly IPM
 "Radio" Podcast*

*at Plains Pest
 Bugosphere*

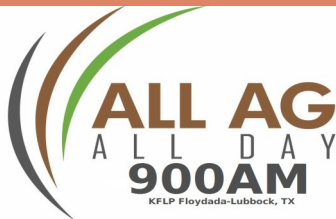
<https://halecountyipm.blogspot.com>

*For text pest alerts to your
 phone, register at:*

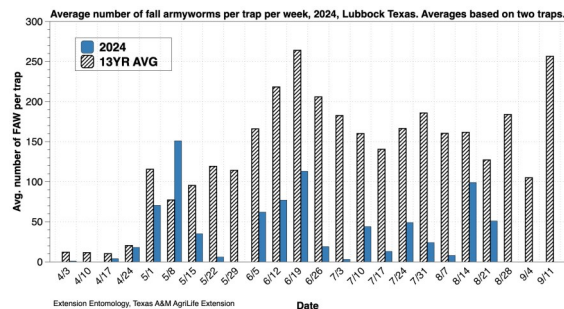
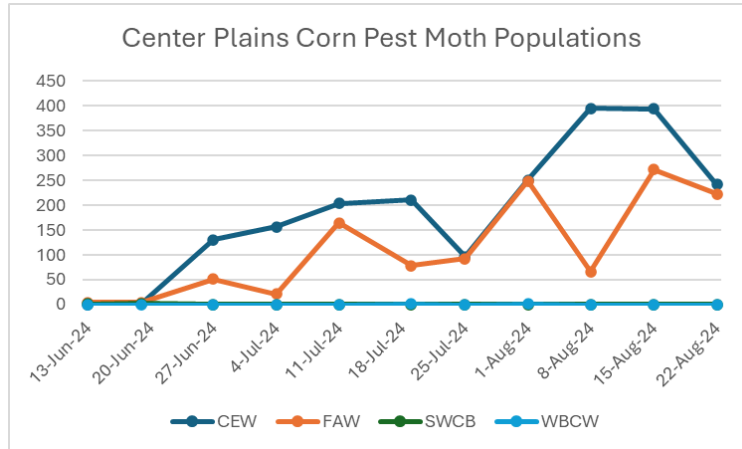
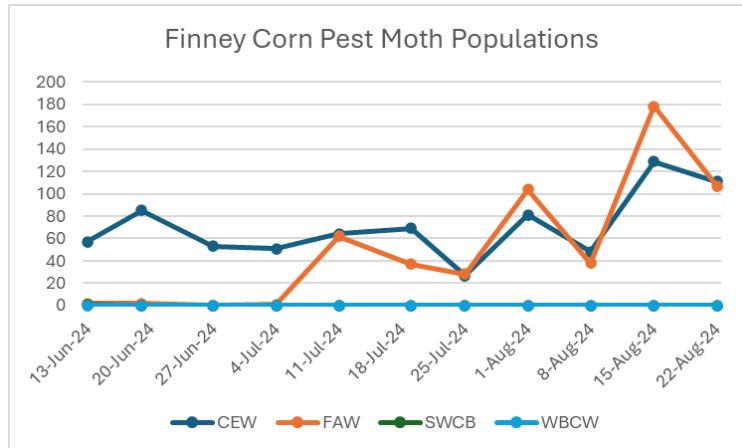
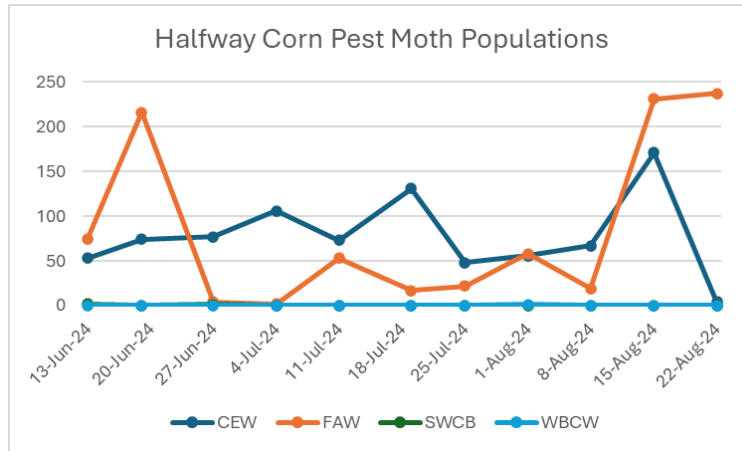
PEST PATROL
 BLAYNE REED
 IPM Extension Agent
 Texas A&M University

Sign up for alerts

syngenta



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. 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.



Blayne Reed