

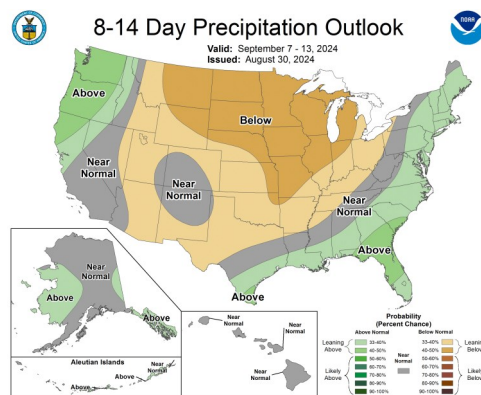
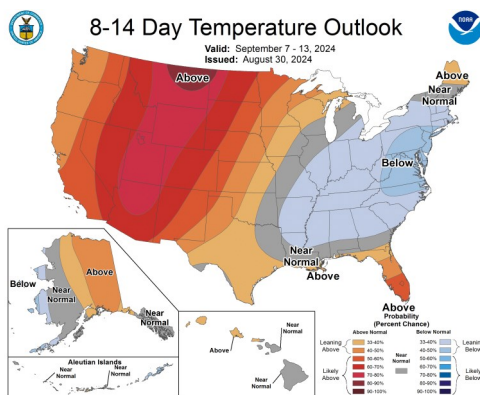
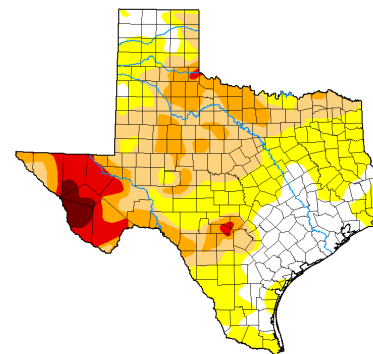
AUGUST 30, 2024

General Status

This week's status is not too different from last week's. With some late field exceptions, most fields are finishing out, it has been hot and dry, and there are remaining pest populations of multiple species threatening multiple crops. In a few of our fields this week, the pests did more than threaten. Last night and this morning some long awaited rainfall came to the area. According to PivoTrac amounts mostly varied between 0.1 and 0.9-inches. Not exactly a drought buster but any rainfall is useful, even if the 'crunch time' beneficial window has just finished slamming on many fields, this should help with late boll fill or stalk integrity for grain in late development. For the later fields, any additional moisture and hopeful break in the high temperatures is welcome. So far, I do not believe this is enough moisture to kickoff regrowth or late sucker-heading yet.



Area cotton and blackeye peas maturing this week.



Cotton



Cotton finishing fruit setting in SW Hale this week. A lone, pesky surviving weed remains an attention getter and a future concern.

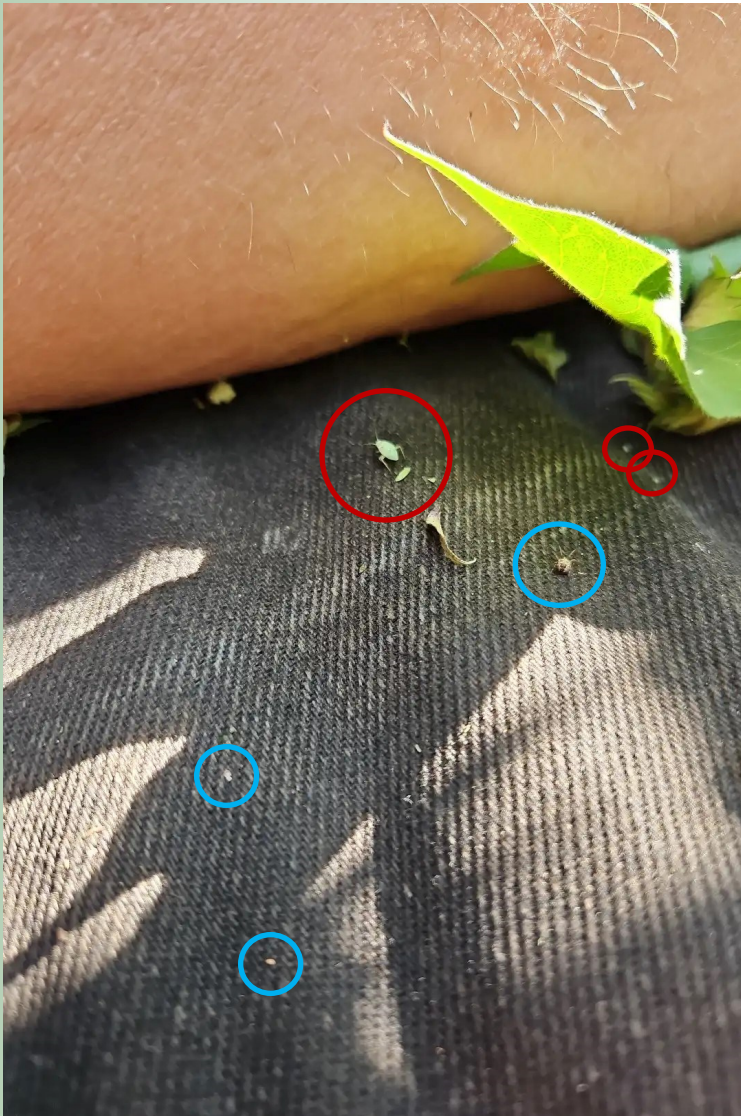
This week our PPM scouting program cotton ranged in stage between a recently reached absolute cut-out though to an estimated 10% open boll. Around half of our PPM fields have developed passed most economic pest issues and are sporting large bolls up top and no other fruit to develop. Most of these fields also sport some open level of cotton bolls. Of the pests that these fields are still susceptible to include cotton aphids and stink bugs. Stink bugs have been noted all season in our fields, but not at a treatable level. Bolls will remain at risk to them right up to they open. We did not note stink bugs any in the fields scouted this week. It is suspected that aggregates of stink bugs could move in mass from grain crops, where we have found most this

week, once the most area fields' seed mature to be too hard, to cotton as a second option. Once in cotton, these large groups can damage many bolls by feeding on the seed hidden within the boll in a short period of time. This results in damage of several type including disease introduction, hard lock, lint staining, and other quality issues. Any field from here until harvest is at risk from stink bugs.

With these more mature fields sporting open cotton bolls, cotton aphid can still be an issue. Our cotton aphid numbers went up and across both counties this week. None were near threshold, in fact our highest counts were only at 0.9 aphids per leaf, but more fields were found with aphids. The cotton aphid's feeding nature is secondary and upon the plant's sugars. In fact, this species can ingest it's body weight while it sorts through the plant sugars to retain the sugars they actually need and deposits the unused plant sugars in the form of honeydew. This certainly can limit and or otherwise impede boll development and yield by robbing the plant of needed nutrients, but once we see open cotton bolls, this honeydew can be deposited on to the open cotton causing issues with "sticky cotton." While this issue is rarer today compared to past history, the threat remains, particularly if the aphid is present at any level in the field, other pests reach economic levels and require treatment, and non-selective insecticides are utilized in treatment. This often does not effect the aphid, removes beneficial arthropods, and allows them to multiply to economic levels unimpeded. For developing cotton the aphid threshold is around 50 per leaf and for fields with open cotton, the threshold is around 12 per leaf.



Stink bug in Swisher this week.



One of several Lygus from a heavy pressure fields' drop cloth this week. This nymph's escape was blocked for a photo op. Note the additional younger **Lygus nymphs** and beneficial **minute pirate bug adult, nymph** and **spider** in the image. The minute pirate bug and spiders would prefer bollworms if available. In this field, 6,000 eggs per acre last week resulted in no worms this week but nothing slowed the Lygus.

Despite the threat of stink bugs and aphids on our older fields and open cotton, Lygus and bollworms remained our primary pest concern in all lush fields. Lygus continue to be found in most of our lush fields and at concerning levels for this late in the season. In a couple of cases the Lygus increased to 1 Lygus per 1.14 row feet and 1 per 1.47 row feet this week. In these fields we reluctantly felt that the Lygus, mostly young nymphs, were feeding on fruit that the plant would otherwise mature out as the fields were finishing their 'natural' fruit shed from cut-out and heat stress and treatments were recommended. In a few other fields, natural cut-out shed was still ongoing and Lygus populations were not causing or feeding upon fruit the plant looked to be otherwise holding.

The full threat of the bollworms has not materialized in our fields. We continue to still find some egg lay but in far fewer fields than last week and very few surviving larvae. Egg and young bollworm preferring

predators such as minute pirate bugs, crab spiders, and Nabids continue to be found in respectable numbers in irrigated fields.

Other Lepidopteran pests such as beet armyworms and loopers were harder to find this week while spidermites remained steady but light.



Bollworm egg from central Hale this month.

Grain Crops

Our older corn has been silaged and our grain sorghum has developed passed economic pest damage and only needs to stand for a forthcoming harvest. Our late whorl to boot/bloom stage millets largest threat come from drought. Our more advanced field did have 0.38 headworms, all fall armyworms, per exerted head and the later field did have some additional foliage damage from the same species. We will be watching this issue closely this week, as should any late sorghum fields in the area, but no other pests were noted here.



Millet in SW Hale this week.

Our late corn is from VX near tassel or green silk stage this week. Any rainfall this week should benefit these fields greatly as they are in or very near peak water use. We noted a few Banks grass mite colonies on some of the lower leaves this week but they were accompanied by a decent population of mite specific predators.

Corn disease and corn leafhopper update-

I have very little new information to share although quite a bit of time and effort has gone into better understanding how widespread these issues are. I would like to clarify that the corn leafhopper and its plethora of diseases it is known to transmit is not thought to be linked to LSD (late season decline) at this time. It is possible they could be linked or could become linked but it is all speculation at this point. Today, those are considered separate issues until proven related.

I can also share that we have confirmed that the species of leafhopper, the corn leafhopper, is as of this week in our late planted corn fields. In the provided photo, note the two dark spots between the eyes. These spots might not be visible shortly after the insect molts. I see no indication or symptoms of any new diseases or LSD yet, although the fields are not disease free (or drought free), we note no additional or symptoms of the 'invasive' diseases yet. This might not mean much as several plants are thought to behave asymptomatic anyway. We will be watching and likely testing fields as they develop.



Corn leaf hopper in central Hale this week. They do seem more active and 'flighty' than most leafhopper species. This one did not want its photo taken.



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PEST PATROL

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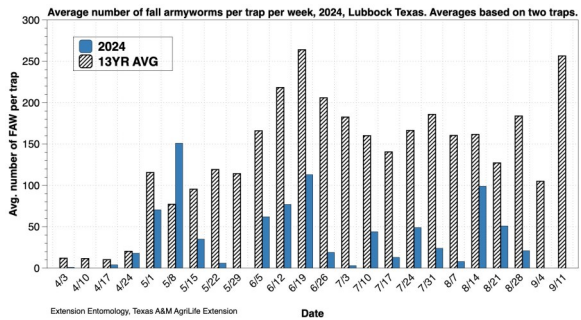
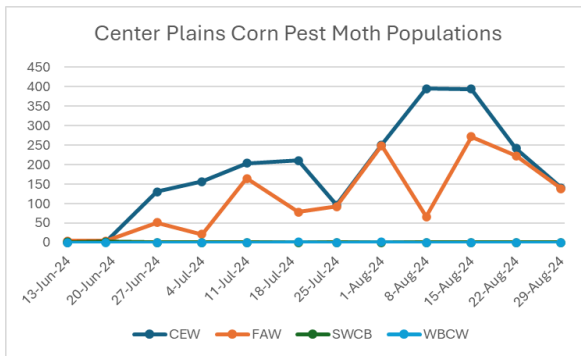
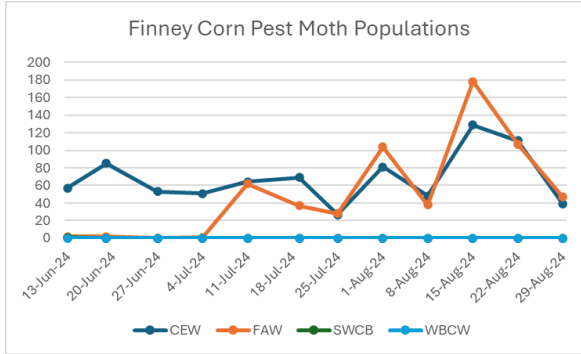
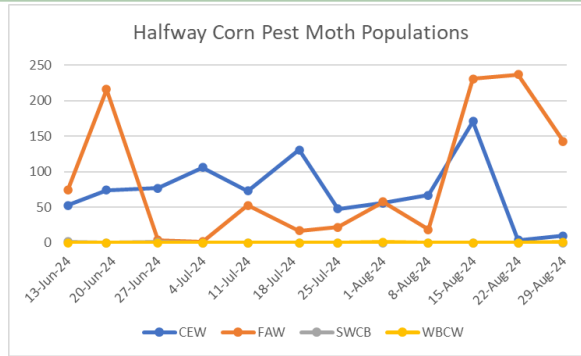


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