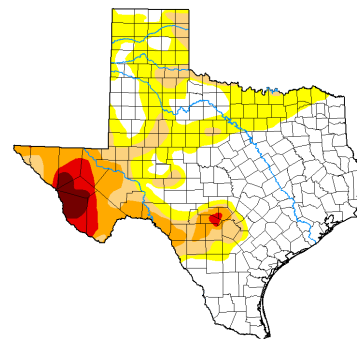


AUGUST 9, 2024

General Status










Most of our area crops continue to race through their thirstiest stages of boll and grain development in the high heat. Our fields are running the full range of possibilities from near desiccation through near rank. Most are holding onto as much as they can with few problems above drought to damage or hinder fruit production. Those with some level of irrigation and / or summer history of decent rainfall are hanging on to all potential they possibly can for the moisture available. Some of our more southern acres received some beneficial rainfall just last night. According to Pivot Track, these rainfall amounts ranged between 0.04 and 0.8-



Area cotton field in early absolute cut-out, but hanging onto all fruit possible.

not aware of any damage from that storm yet and every drop will likely count as almost double benefit during this critical crop stage window. On the pest front, there remains plenty of insect activity in most fields but we did not have any pest reach economic levels again this week. This activity is coming from multiple species with individual field situations varying.

Extended Forecast for Plainview TX

Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night
								
50%	20%							
Low: 64 °F	High: 91 °F	Low: 69 °F	High: 99 °F	Low: 71 °F	High: 99 °F	Low: 70 °F	High: 99 °F	Low: 71 °F
Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear

Cotton

Our PPM scouting program cotton ranged in stage from a late 1st bloom through a hard absolute cut-out.

Around 50% of our fields were just reaching or hovering just above absolute cut-out of 3.5 nodes above white flower (NAWF) and holding as many bolls as moisture available would allow. We did have a few very rare fields that were still above physiological cut-out/peak bloom/peak water use of 5 NAWF. One of these fields came in at 7.2 NAWF while in the 3rd week of bloom indicating a hard to believe need for plant growth regulation. This situation is the exception to the general rule, has decent irrigation capacity and did receive decent rainfall during July.



A few area fields remain above absolute cut-out.

Lygus and bollworms remain our main focus when scouting this week. Lygus remained steady compared to the week before with some level of population in about half our fields. Bollworms, or at least their eggs, were a much more common occur-



No worm found here but this damage to a dropped boll is likely from a small bollworm in S Hale this week.

rence compared to last week. I still would not call the worms widespread or heavy but we are experiencing an increase in moth trap numbers which will be looking for a viable host to lay eggs into. With older corn starting to mature and not many late corn or sorghum fields, many of these moths will be settling for cotton, probably irrigated, this month. We should be scouting for them, in all Bt technologies, over the next 2-3 weeks intensely.

We are still finding some stink bugs across the area but they appear to be more attracted to grain crops at the moment. Aphids and spidermites in cotton were a bit more common, especially in the southern portions of Hale, but still rare. Neither of these secondary pests were heavy enough to trigger official per leaf counts, but a rare West Texas Cotton Pest was. Whiteflies, in a few fields in the eastern portion of our area, were averaging just under 9 whiteflies per upper leaf. Whiteflies are rare pests in our area but not unheard of. In fact, we have been noting populations that are well below threshold levels for over 30 years, usually so light they were not

they were not worth mentioning. As a general rule of thumb, we should be able to manage them the same way we do cotton aphids with about 50 per leaf being economic. I am unaware of any modern efficacy data on the two species of whiteflies in our fields. The link to our Managing Cotton Insects in Texas can be found here: <https://lubbock.tamu.edu/files/2022/07/managing-cotton-insects-in-texas.pdf>

Our beneficial populations remain active in most fields this week, even the drier fields.

Corn, Sorghum, & Millet

Our two groupings of corn ages continue to develop well but under heavy irrigation efforts. Our older corn is mostly entering early dent stage or late dough stage and our younger corn is around V8. In our young corn, we are finding sub-economic fall armyworm feeding in refuge whorl plants but not much else beyond the heat is disturbing the young corn. Our older corn will start to become less attractive to bollworms/corn earworms very soon and we have not noted any western



Small to moderate sized BGM colony at about -4 leaf this week in NW Hale.

bean cutworms and few fall armyworms on the ear. Banks Grass mites remain an issue for the older corn but the beneficials are slowing them greatly despite the heat. We had no field rate over a 2 on our 0-10 mite damage rating scale for the

week in an environment they should have population explosions in. The race to the finish line is on between the mites and harvest, with the beneficials holding a lead for now in our fields for harvest. We did note a slight increase or spread of the new LSD (late season decline) in one of our fields this week with early symptoms starting to show on more plants. I do not see this as an economic issue this year in our infected fields, but we need to take

note for our records and potential future management of which fields have been infected by this disease.

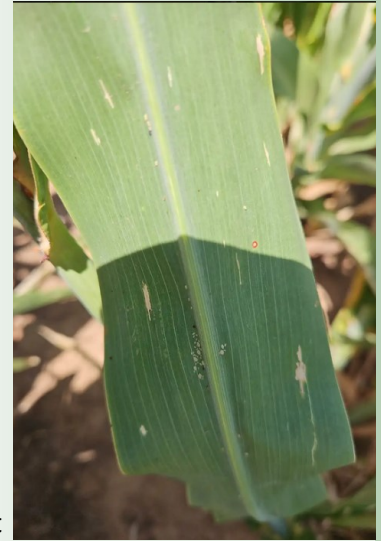


When evaluating your beneficial levels for any field, include parasitoids and insect diseases along with your predators.



Early LSD symptoms.

Our sorghum fields are all in a late dough stage showing quite a bit of color but still not near black-line. Headworms and sorghum aphids (pest formerly known as the sugarcane aphid) remain our scouting focus. Drought in a couple of our sorghum fields are limiting pest activity but in our lushest the sorghum aphids made serious advances this week. They are officially over 30% of plants with sizable colonies of 50 threshold



SCA colony in S Swisher this week with several parasitized aphids visible and other predators nearby.



Light FAW damage to whorl stage millet this week in SW Hale.

for headed sorghum at 31.5%. Luckily much of our previous sorghum aphid research strongly indicated that once the grain starts showing color, it would not be economic to treat them unless they are threatening the upper half of the plant, which they are not.

There are also strong evidence in this case of serious beneficial activity including parasitoids and disease aiding in the aphid's control.

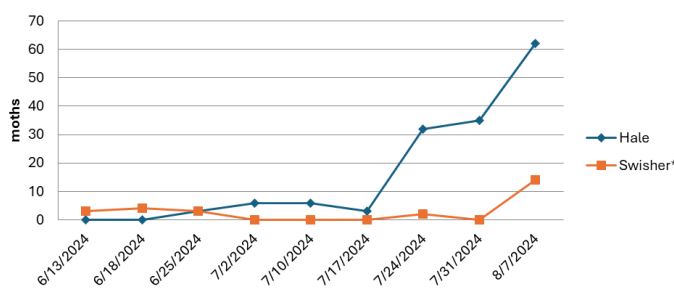
Fall armyworms are currently hitting everything currently in whorl stage, which our millet is. The damage ratings all remain below 5% foliage loss with 30% being the threshold level. While we do not have any sorghum at this younger stage

today, there should be several area fields these fall armyworms need to be watch in.



Swisher and Hale Traps this week.

2024 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches Set Locations



Our Swisher bollworm moth trap is still experiencing grasshopper interference. Despite this, the moth numbers were high enough to have 14 surviving moths this week. Hale is on the increase

also. While increasing and indicating the presence of a moth flight, these numbers are a small fraction of historical bollworm numbers, which could return. They are also much lower than the Texas Corn Producer traps we are monitoring near corn fields, a primary host for the pest.

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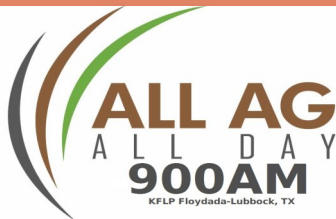
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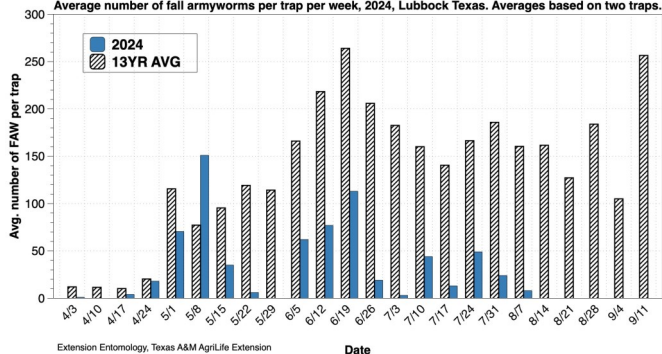
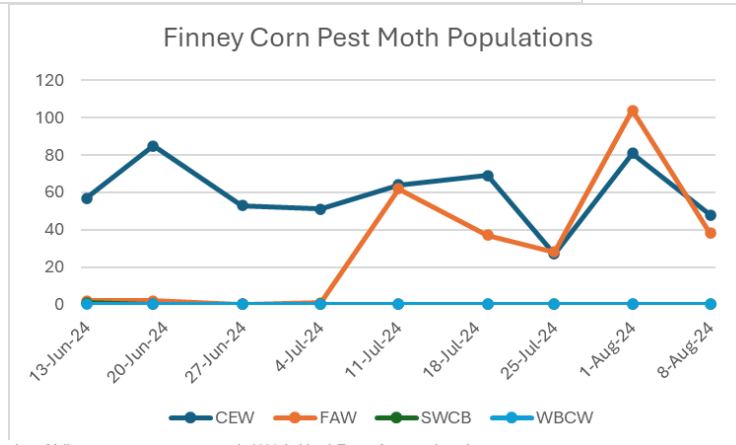
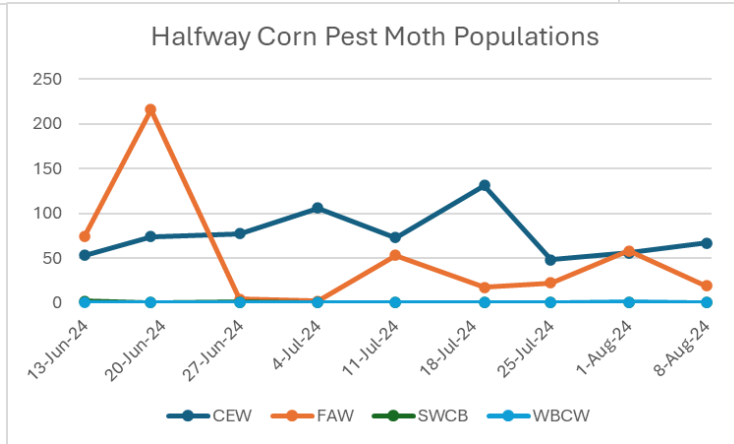
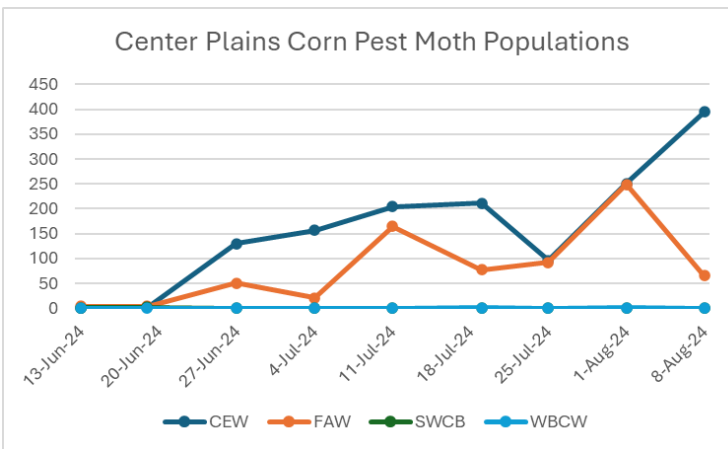
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Blayne Reed