

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

General Status

It has been a bit cooler this week with a few more spotty and highly selective showers. Amounts have been generally light with a few localized areas getting notable amounts. Some in single doses, others in repetitive light rainy days. There are a few more chances in the forecast for tonight but certainly no flash floods with plenty of acres probably missing out leaving potential wheat acres looking to future rain potential before planting dry acres. The majority of our crop acres are finishing up or at least developing passed most insect damage with an early harvest a likely possibility. There remains plenty of threat pests and issues in the area for the late fields to be concerned with for several more weeks. So far, very few of the plethora of threats have manifested into serious issues this year, but as other fields dry, pests may cluster on young and active production fields. There even remain some active threats for more mature fields this year that will likely prompt a need keep us at least spot visiting them until harvested.



Some of the area hay and late grain fields that will remain at risk for active pest populations this month.

This Afternoon	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
High: 79 °F Slight Chance T-storms	Low: 56 °F Mostly Clear	High: 81 °F Sunny	Low: 53 °F Clear	High: 84 °F Sunny	Low: 53 °F Clear	High: 85 °F Sunny	Low: 52 °F Clear	High: 87 °F Sunny

Cotton



NE Hale field finishing up on time this week.

As of today all of our Plains Pest Management field scouting program cotton is 'passed' economic pest damage. These fields are ranging from about 20% open boll down to absolute cut-out with most being at less than 5% open. The title of 'passed' economic insect damage does not truly mean what it once did for the area when bollworms and Lygus were typically our last pest issues for the season. With an active population of stink bugs in the area, this 'stage' is not as true in title anymore. Bolls will remain at risk for stink bugs almost until they pop open, and we are still finding ample stink bugs, of multiple species, in the area and in our regular scouting this week. We are also still finding light but widespread and lingering cotton aphid populations plus a few lingering spidermites in a few fields. All three of these can cause economic damage over the next several weeks.

Over the next few weeks we expect to start harvest aid evaluations. While doing so we need to remain vigilant for these two pests. In our program we will be continuing spot checks for these pests while starting harvest aids. If these pests are in consistent numbers, we will need to evaluate bolls for percent boll damage for stink bugs, number of aphids per leaf, and determine how much leaf damage mites are causing and if that damage is robbing boll development.



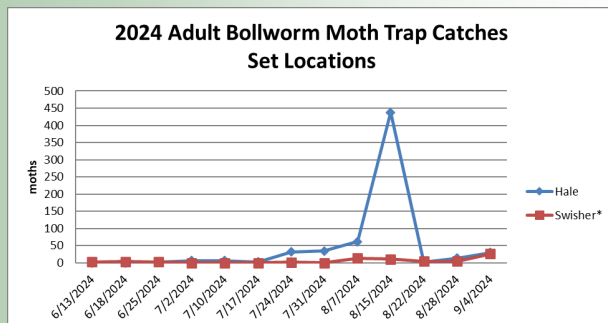
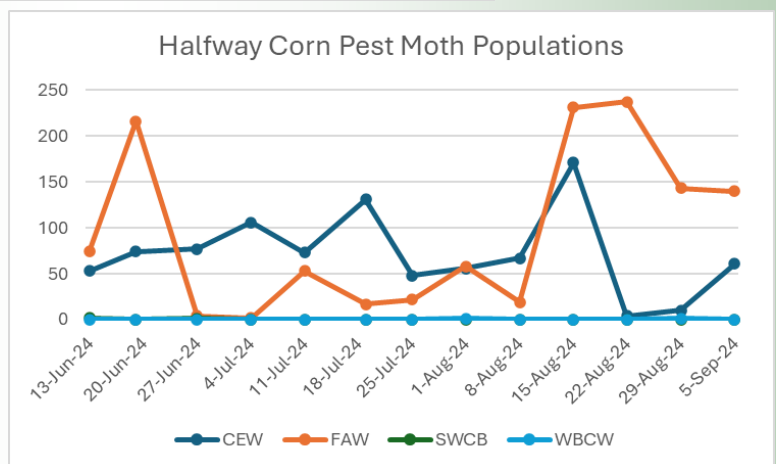
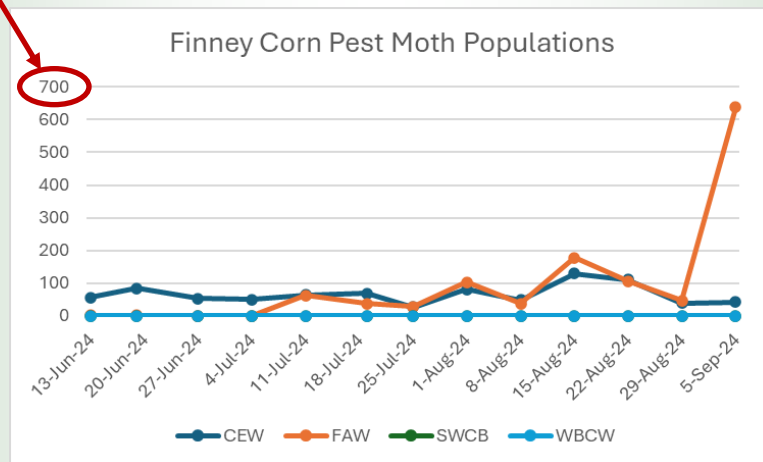
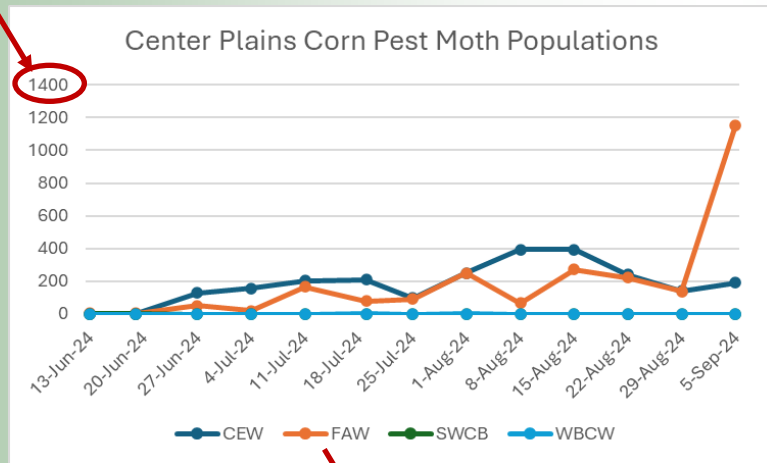
Stink bug found in S Swisher this week.



Late and lush field treated for Lygus last week.

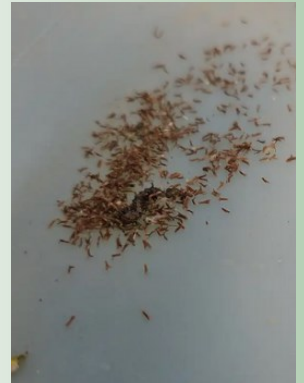
These were not the only pests we found in our fields this week. Lygus are maintaining healthy populations in the later and or lush fields. We even had a few fields reach 1 Lygus per 0.9 row feet in one case. However, in all of our Lygus fields this week the pest was only feeding on fruit with no chance of developing harvestable fruit before an average freeze date. Considering our recent and predicted heat unit accumulation, and no or very little feeding on fruit that could make found. Of the fields treated last week where we did find Lygus starting to feed on harvestable bolls, control was outstanding.

While our moth trapping data suggests bollworms / corn earworms / headworms are still attempting to become a threat, very little evidence was found in any cotton field pertaining to bollworms with all but a late couple of fields being too far developed for worms to establish. These pests seem to be focusing on our late grain fields. If these numbers translate into egglay, any late grain field will receive pressure and could need treatment. Our Texas Corn Producers traps came in at a very high point for fall armyworms in some locations during this last week of trapping while corn earworm remains high.



Grain Crops

Our late millet fields are in bloom stages while our late corn are in silk to early blister. Headworms are certainly attracted to both types of fields and should be attracted to late sorghum as well. Our millet fields peaked at 0.19 small headworms and 0.05 medium and large headworms per head. All of these worms were corn earworms with no fall armyworms found on the heads. Some Fall armyworms could still be found feeding on the millet leaves where their damage was harmless for now. No other pests of note were found in our millet fields.



Small headworm found in one of our millet fields this week.

All of the late corn fields are experiencing extreme earworm pressure, also just from the corn earworm. On one particular leaf, 19 bollworm eggs were counted. So far in these fields, this has only resulted in mild tip feeding of the ear and worms have only been limited to the historically typical 1 worm per ear and not economic thanks to the cannibalistic nature of the worms. We hope that holds but Bt type and, more prominently, number of Bt worm traits influences this heavily.

Spidermites can also be found in all of our late corn fields, but still well below economic levels. Rust and gray leaf spot notably up ticked this week with damper weather and morning dew but came from virtually zero and is not a concern yet. The largest news in corn this week remains the corn leafhopper and the diseases transfer potential. I should reiterate that if diseases have been transferred to our late corn, it occurred early in the vegetative growth stages. Last week we confirmed these 'new' leafhoppers in our fields. One field is notably much higher than the other fields. In this heavier field, we began to see some symptoms of at least one of the diseases transmitted by this pest. This was in a circular pattern some distance in the field and along selected sections of one field edge. This could be an indication of an earlier infestation site where the pest first landed in the field and began feeding, transmitting the disease during that critical vegetative stage window.

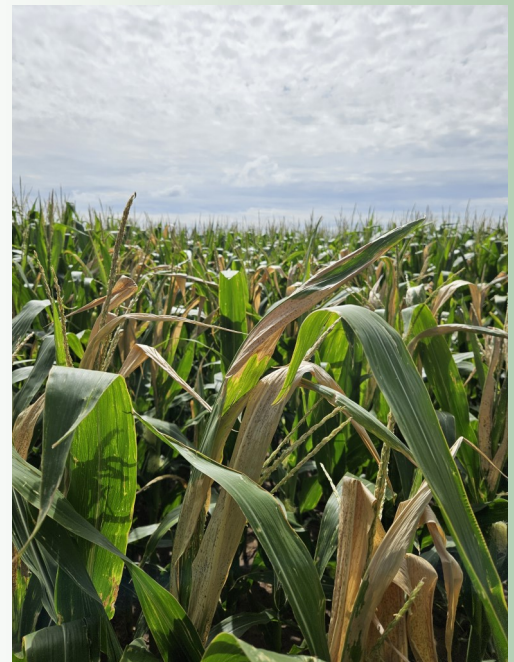


Image from inside a circular area exhibiting disease symptoms of stunting, rapid desiccation, and reduced pollen production. Reminiscent pattern of an early insect establishment and infection site.

We hope you can join us!!!



Hale / Swisher Field Day

September 24, 2024

Tentative Agenda

3 CEUs

- 9:00 Meet in Kress/Registration/Sign Up
- 9:15 Travel to Trial Field (Reed Farms)
- 9:25 Understanding and Managing West Texas Agriculture with Diminishing Resources – Trials, Descriptions, Concept, and Lessons Learned
- 10:15 Swisher County Irrigated RACE Trial
- 10:45 Swisher County Dryland RACE Trial
- 11:15 Irrigated Plants Per Acre Trial / Dryland Plants Per Acre Trial
- 11:45 IPM Updates and Research Results
- 12:15 Dismiss



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Speakers & Hosts

Blayne Reed – EA IPM Hale & Swisher

Dr. Jourdan Bell – Agronomist, Amarillo

Dr. Suhas Vyavhare – Entomologist, Lubbock

Jeremy Reed – Cooperating Producer, Reed Farms



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PEST PATROL

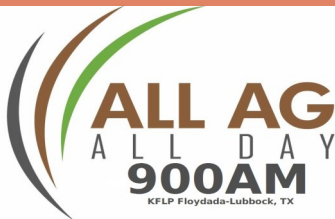
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On this week's High Plains IPM Update, we shared the latest learned information about the corn leafhopper and the diseases transmitted and shared experts from the fact sheet Dr. David Kerns and the Texas IPM Team is currently working on.

Here is the link to that update if you are interested: [https://on.soundcloud.com/](https://on.soundcloud.com/Mn52y)

[Mn52y](https://on.soundcloud.com/Mn52y)

We hope to see you at the field day on September 24th!

Blayne Reed