

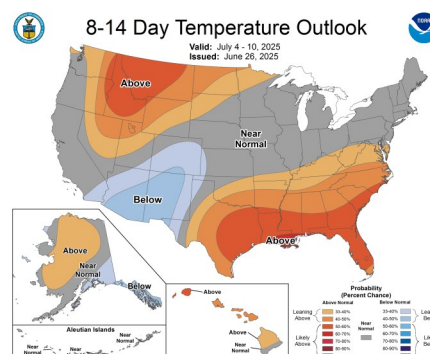
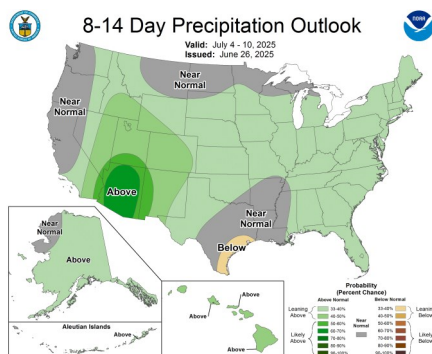
JUNE 27, 2025

## General Status

Rain showers have passed through again this week keeping the countryside green for a bit longer. Amounts were again highly variable and amounts sometimes light, but for these storms I am not aware of any serious weather-related losses despite steady hard winds lasting several days last weekend and some into this week. Weed control and alerts for incoming pests were the news of the week. For our Plains Pest Management scouting acres, no treatments were required for those pests but that is not expected to last long and careful and thorough scouting will remain a must for most of our summer crop acres. Crop development continues at a good pace. Our humidity remains high, and the over-the-top week control is as good as we have seen in some time. That is not to say there are no weed issues. We are seeing plenty of hardened off weeds that are tough to kill and fields short on residual and full of rapidly growing, well-watered weeds trying to take over that no equipment has been able to visit due to field conditions and past time or economic constraints. Meanwhile, a generally good wheat harvest is in a start and stop again pattern. There is a lot going on in the Texas High Plains this week.



Some NW Floyd cotton and SW Hale corn this week.



## Cotton

Most of our PPM cotton fields ranged in stages around pinhead square with a few still lingering at 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> true leaf stage and a few others with match-head squares or a touch larger. For those fields still susceptible to thrips, populations were low and well below threshold but never zero.



One of the Fleahoppers found in S Swisher this week.

Adult fleahoppers were a fairly common

find in our fields with around 1/3 fields having at least one of these plant bugs found. We had a few fields where the adult population was joined with some very young nymphs that were very near our new threshold levels but we did not see any square loss associated with the pest's feeding damage and treatment was not recommended just yet. IF this population of Fleahoppers is doing more than just passing through to a more desirable host or if bene-



A SW Swisher cotton plant growing well through adversity.



Matchhead squares on a PPM plant this week.

ficials do not curb the population enough, we will need to treat promptly, preferably with a product with a very long residual from the looks of the season. Plant bugs, including Lygus, will likely be our pest scouting focus in cotton for quite some time this year. Please note the research driven revision of our flea hopper threshold this year. It is still recommended that fruit loss remain a consideration on the High Plains.

### Calculated Cotton Fleahopper Threshold Using Across Sampling Methods (% infestation)

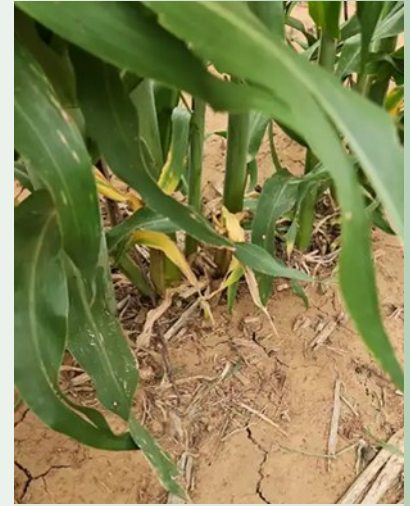
Control Cost (\$/ac)	Market value (\$/lb)	Economic threshold (80% EIL)	Control Cost (\$/ac)	Market value (\$/lb)	Economic threshold (80% EIL)	Control Cost (\$/ac)	Market value (\$/lb)	Economic threshold (80% EIL)
\$10.00	0.50	5.90	\$12.50	0.50	7.37	\$15.00	0.50	8.85
	0.60	4.92		0.60	6.14		0.60	7.37
	0.70	4.21		0.70	5.27		0.70	6.32
	0.80	3.69		0.80	4.61		0.80	5.53
	0.90	3.28		0.90	4.10		0.90	4.92
	1.00	2.95		1.00	3.69		1.00	4.42

A general threshold of 4 to 7 cotton fleahopper per 100 plant terminal could be adopted.

## Corn and Sorghum

Our grain fields ranged in stage from seed yet to be planted up to V12 with most between V7 and V10, although I have seen some area corn starting to tassel. Things were relatively quiet in sorghum with some additional corn leaf aphids found, some light fall armyworm feeding, and some light damage from yellow sugarcane aphids being noted.

While we did not have any corn treated this week, or any insect news from our fields, it held the lion's share of focus this week with the corn leafhopper being found in Lubbock County at the Research Center this week by Dr. Pat Porter. This is just down the road from our most southern corn fields. Our PPM scouting efforts doubled trying to spot the arrival of this important pest insect in our PPM scouting



Light YSCA damage on vegetative sorghum in SW Hale this week.



Corn Leafhopper found in Lubbock this week by Dr. Porter.

program fields and our additional CLH monitoring

corn fields scattered across Hale and Swisher Counties, complete with traps. We have inspected quite a few hoppers this week from our and samples and photos brought to my office, but none have been the corn leafhopper. One of the issues that make scouting for this pest is that we have many, many other species of leafhoppers in our region. Each hopper has to be viewed carefully for correct identification. It is not helped that this particular species of leafhopper is very introverted and does not like to be viewed closely or handled. Early infestations like to 'hide'

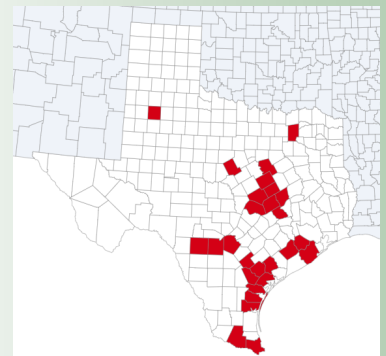
deep within the whorl, making scouting for them unique.

They can be described as very 'flighty', which could actually help in identification. Still as of this writing all has been negative for the corn leafhopper. I should note that additional samples that have just been dropped of in my lab that were collected today. I will be surprised if we have not

found this pest locally by next week.



Checking for CLH this week using Dr. Kern's vacuum method of vacuuming potential hoppers from the whorl.



Updated Texas CLH positive map provided by Dr. Kerns yesterday.



All other insect pests in corn for have been fairly hard to find, with some light fall armyworm feeding on non-Bt plants aside. Unfortunately, this is not all I have to report for corn in our area. This week we found symptoms of LSD (late season decline) disease in a pre-reproductive corn field. To prevent confusion it must be stated that LSD is not related to the corn leafhopper that we know of. This is another issue completely and, as a bacterial disease, has been spreading across the High Plains with serious impacts for several years now, albeit heavier a bit farther north where more corn production acres lay. We have identified it in our local corn before, but never pre-tassel. This is where serious issues begin with this plant disease. If the symptoms occur early during vegetative stages, and are widespread through the field, it will result in devastating yield loss. As of this week, I am estimating that the field we found with symptoms showing about 1/50 plants exhibiting those symptoms. These symptoms will be a watery, jelly appearance between veins of exposed leaves (please see photos). For additional information dealing with



LSD symptoms found in Hale County corn this week.



LSD found in older Swisher corn in 2020 and 2024.

this bacterial LSD plant disease, please follow this link to download the fact sheet that Dr. Ken Obasa put together a few years ago:

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/lateseason-decline-disease-of-corn/01t4x000008XgnAAAS>

We will be tracking this LSD and the CLH issues closely this week. Follow Plains Pest Management on the social media platforms of Facebook and X for more or follow us on our blog, the Plains Pest Bugoshere, for rapid details and other pest issues as we discover them at: <https://>

[halecountyipm.blogspot.com/](https://halecountyipm.blogspot.com/)

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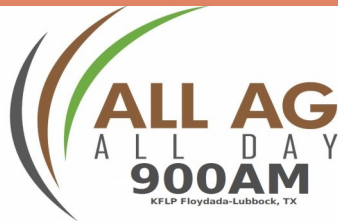
**PEST PATROL**

**BLAYNE REED**  
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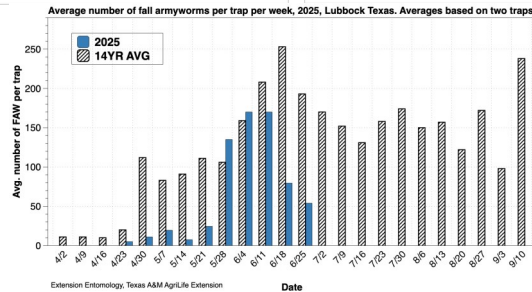
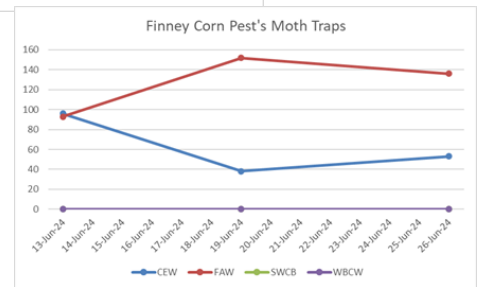
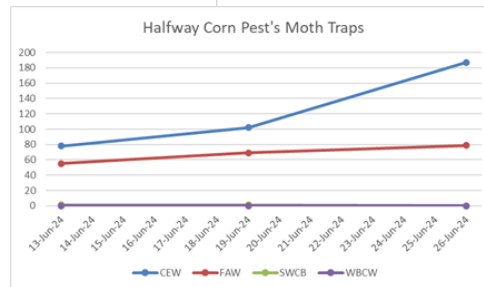
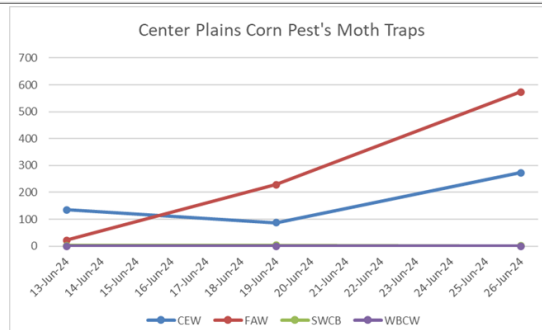
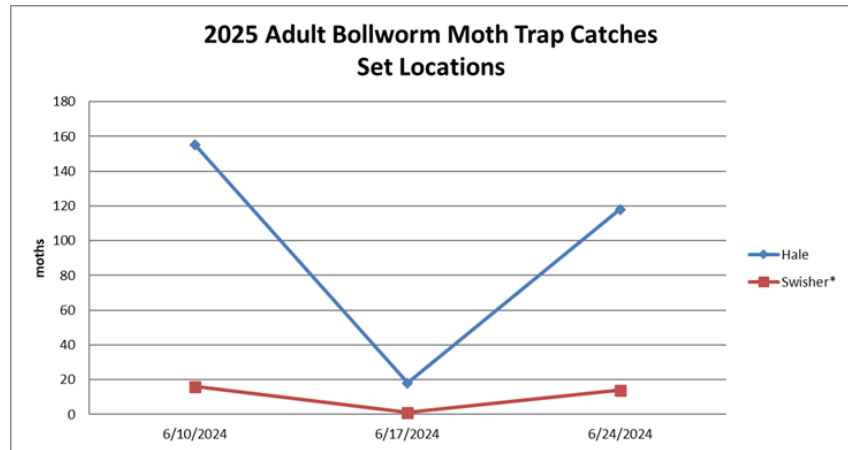


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Note, we have found southwestern corn borer moths in very low numbers for 3

weeks straight near Center Plains. Due to potential Bt resistance issues that could move into our area from SW New Mexico, we need to be scouting thoroughly our Bt corn for this pest also. The new fact sheet for this pest can be downloaded for free

at: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/southwestern-corn-borer-in-texas-field-corn/01tQn00000AiaV3IAJ>



Blayne Reed