

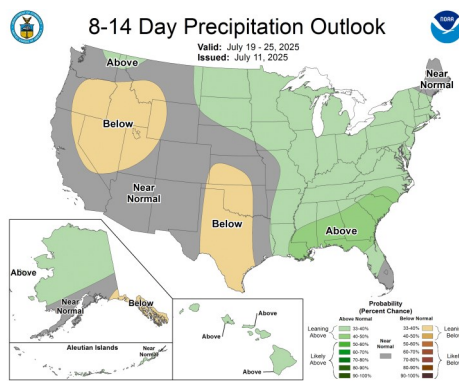
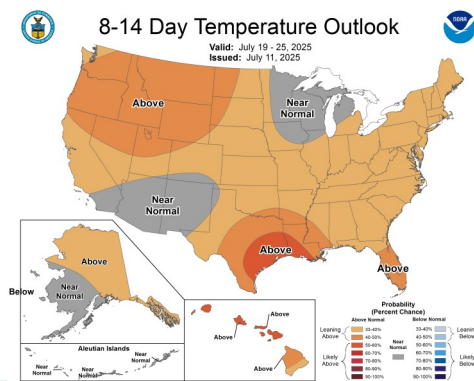
JULY 11, 2025

## General Status

Light cotton showers, with some isolated downpours, dominated the humid weather again this week. Our field scouting goes into overdrive when we fall behind due to weather and serious pest potential is about, covering fields on weekends, holidays, and late evenings to protect our fields. Grain and hay crop fields in these early stages of development are loving the moist environment and cotton does not seem to mind the lighter heat if it is replaced with 'free' moisture and doesn't get too cool. While we have not seen any blooms in our cotton fields yet, I really do not feel this crop is behind a 'normal' High Plains developmental curve and progress is solid. We are still seeing quite a bit of insect activity and there are plenty of potential issues we are scouting for. This week our actual threshold issues were much fewer, but this is behind treatments on a lot of acres last week. Most of our Plains Pest Management field's pest issues were from an inability to get treatment out on pest issues last week due to field and weather conditions. In most of these cases, the delay has been costly in terms of feeding damage but at least we are sure the treatment was not washed off and potential retreatment was avoided.



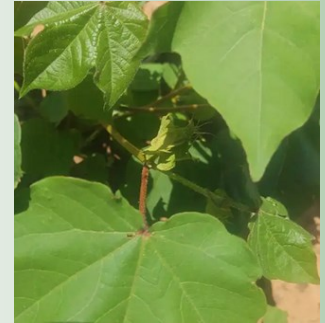
Some of the PPM most southern sorghum in SW Hale, and most northern cotton in NE Swisher developing well.



## Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management cotton ranged in stage from matchhead square through 3/4 grown square. While we are not seeing any blooms yet, I do expect to see a trickle of fields start to sport some by next week with the majority to follow the week after. This is well within a normal cotton developmental curve.

Our main pest focus again this week was the Fleahoppers. Surprisingly we had no new fields reach threshold levels this week. We did have fields that treatments were not able to be made last week due to weather or field conditions. While we feel better about not having to make any retreatments due to weather wash or loss of the treatments, damage



3/4 grown square in central Hale this week.



FH damaged and dropped 2nd position square behind 1/2 grown 1st position square in central Swisher this week.

was incurred in the delay. All fields held some level of Fleahoppers with most being between 2% and 4% terminals infested with fruit drop hovering around 10%. We did pickup Lygus more consistently in more fields this week, but at a lower level with only a slight increase in drop for the Lygus. We will again be watching these pests carefully over the next few weeks. A few aphids and whiteflies turned up in our data sets across the region, but hardly enough to make more than a note of. Currently we are seeing very few differences in overall insect populations between irrigated and dryland fields. Rain-

fall has been able to keep niches similar between the two production irrigation types.



Fleahopper in our data set this week.

Some of our higher irrigation capacity fields already being treated with herbicides or for plant bugs did receive some plant growth regulator treatments added in. These were made under careful consid-

erations for future irrigation potential and or current soil moisture conditions. Very few irrigation systems are currently running while wet conditions continue. However, unless fields were under the higher down-pours this last week, the plants are likely utilizing more soil moisture than are being removed.

### 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 & Sorghum

Our corn ranged in stage between V2 and R2 with most hovering just under tassel stage. Corn leafhopper scouting, identification, and treatment decisions/planning predominated our corn efforts again this week. We have nothing new to report and most of the available information can be had through Dr. Kern's Corn Leafhopper Updates. The latest can be found here: <https://on.soundcloud.com/Yaa1mlfNApYgN1p7Ya>

In our fields the corn leafhoppers are still difficult to find, and, because they are in the area, and it is the disease transmission potential that is the concern, each field has a management plan discussed with each producer that is based upon their risk aversion about the situation. In most of our plans, we are more aggressive in treatments for our younger fields that should be the most susceptible. Several young, pre-V8 area fields have already been treated. These fields should be the most susceptible for the full impact of the disease complex these leafhoppers transmit. Post tasseled fields are treated if we are finding corn leafhoppers in field before R2 stage.



A definitive Corn Leafhopper photo by Dr. Porter.



View of a healthy leaf from a SW Hale corn field in pollination this week.

Most of our typical corn pests are relatively quiet, while there is plenty of insect activity in our corn. We had another slight increase in spidermites but all of our fields are well below threshold. We seen a slight increase in common rust and a few more fields show symptoms of late season decline (LSD), a relatively new disease moving into the area that has nothing to do with the corn leafhopper.

We are experiencing a massive increase in earworms and some fall armyworms in our tasseled and pollenated corn. This is an ongoing flight and could be a very large population of moths based upon our trap numbers from both our moth monitoring efforts. While some of these moths are local, it is also likely most were blown in with moisture from the Gulf area and could represent several problems, some soon, others farther out for



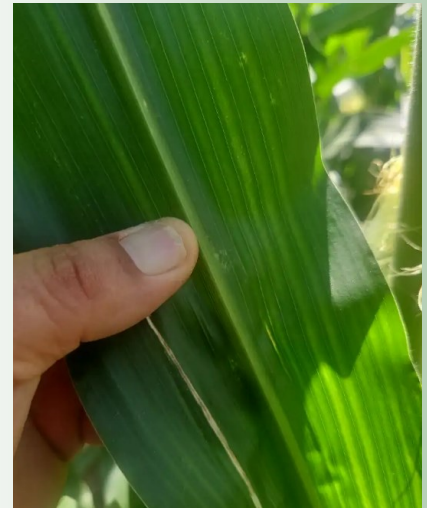
1st instar worm on corn silks from central Hale this week. Additional eggs can be seen in the background.

cotton, late corn, and sorghum. So far we are only seeing ear tip feeding in our corn which is of limited economic importance to all corn except fields for vegetable production. It was not uncommon to find dozens of earworm eggs near the



CEW moth in SW Hale this week.

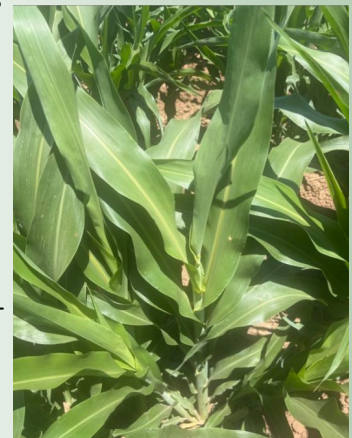
zero leaf and on or near the silks this week. The bollworm/earworm's cannibalistic nature should keep this potential damage to tip feeding only unless the corn field is planted with only 2 Lepidopteran Bt traits. It has been shown that worms feeding on varieties with the older 2 Bt traits often ultimately limit their cannibalistic movement patterns. The caus-



Tiny BGM colony at -3 leaf in SW Hale this week.

es are debatable but likely it is due to limited impacts on somewhat resistant worms or sublethal and variable doses of the two toxins from the kernels. Ultimately this can result in multiple worms per ear and damage from sickly or resistant worms stretching down the ear much farther than usual from the tip. We have not seen different feeding patterns in variety lines containing the third VIP trait or non Bt corn. If excessive damage from earworms are found in VIP trait fields, please let us know as soon as possible. We could be dealing with a new situation and we will need to evaluate that population of worms as soon as possible.

There is also a lot of activity in our area sorghum. Our PPM fields ranged in stage from V8 through VX nearing flag leaf. Fall armyworm damage is our most significant issue in our fields this week, but it is not as heavy as our recent trap catches would have indicated and still well below thresholds. We are picking up some bollworms / corn earworms in sorghum whorls too, but about 95% of our whorl feeding in sorghum this week is coming from the FAW. We have another increase in corn leaf aphids, not to be confused with sorghum aphid, but beneficials are building with this minor impact aphid for our more severe aphids that arrive later in the season. Yellow sugarcane aphid damage is holding steady from barely noticeable to a few plants with a few yellow leaves on bottom but is in most fields.



Flag leaf starting to peak from a few plants in S Swisher.



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](mailto: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:*



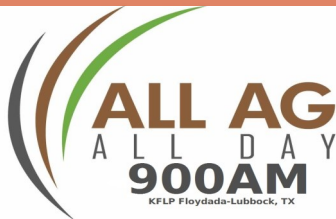
**PEST PATROL**

**BLAYNE REED**  
IPM Extension Agent  
Texas A&M University



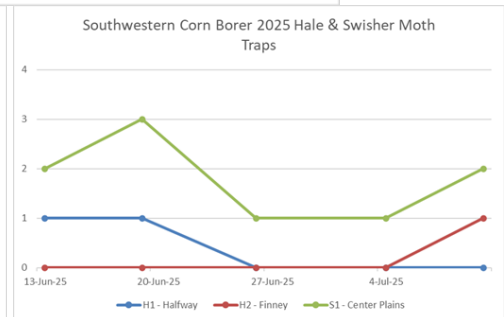
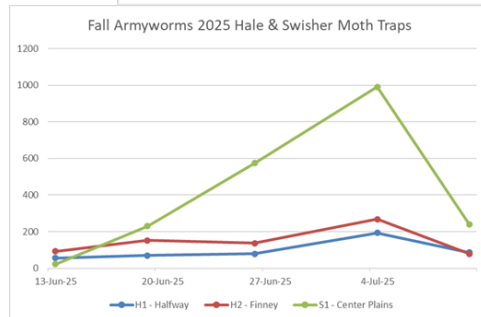
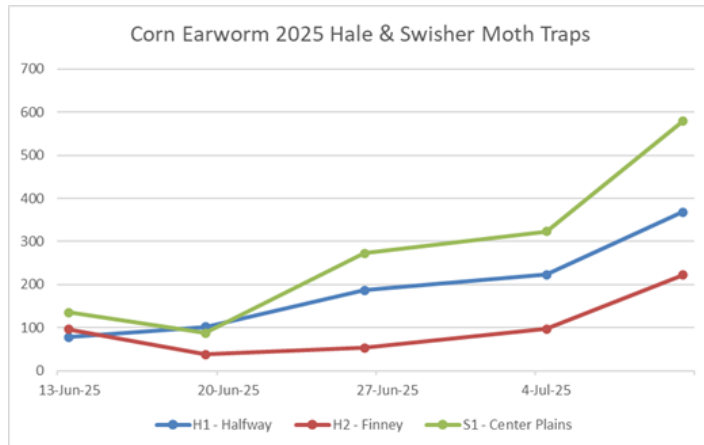
Sign up for alerts

syngenta.

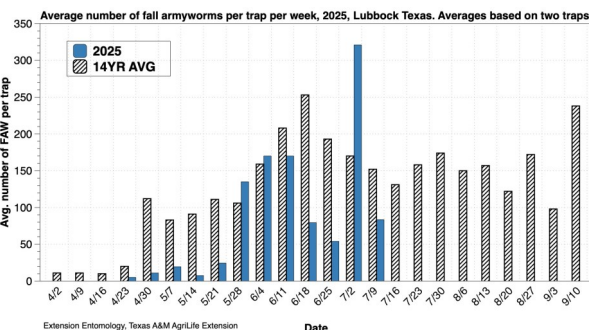
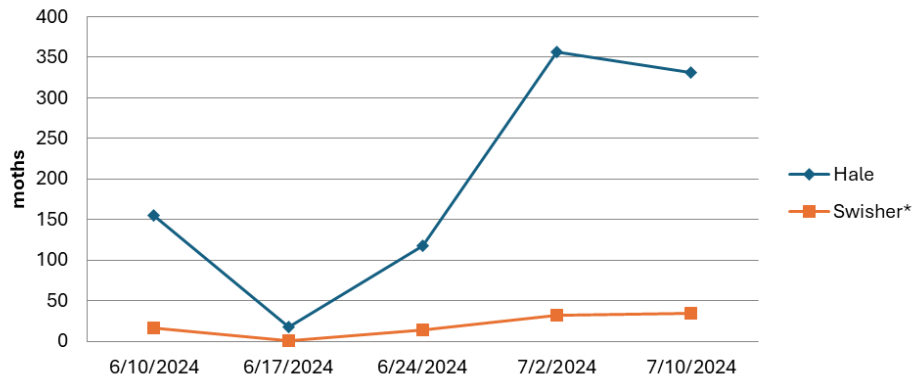


The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive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

Our corn earworm/bollworm numbers are way above recent normal numbers in both of our monitoring efforts and we are still finding low numbers of southwestern corn borer moths, which we need to be on the lookout for in corn this year. We have not caught any western bean cutworms in any of our TCP corn pest traps.



## 2025 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches Set Locations



*Blayne Reed*

This work is supported in part by the Crop Protection and Pest Management, Extension Implementation Program [award no. 2021-70006-35347/project accession no. 1027036] from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture.