

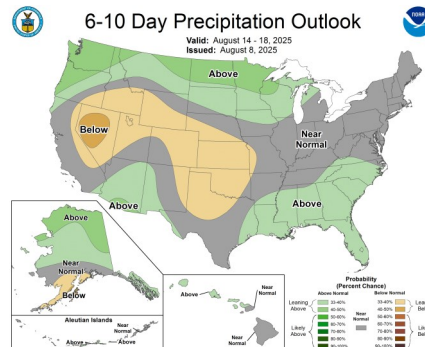
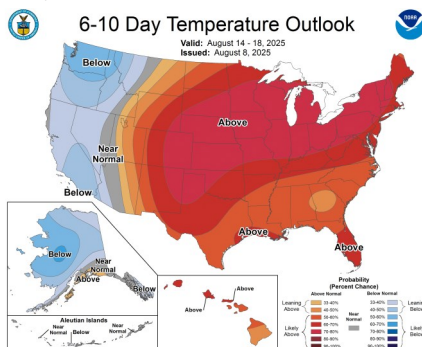
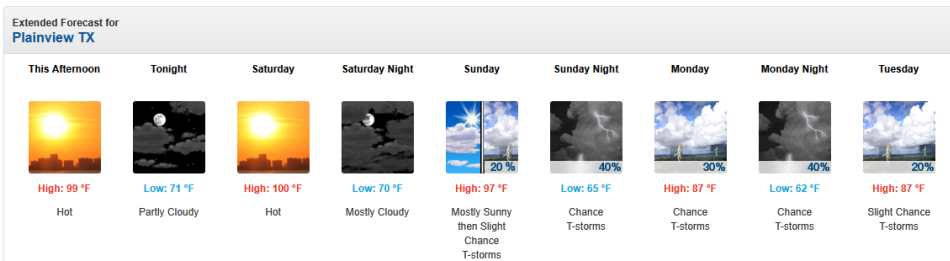
AUGUST 8, 2025

General Status

High heat and dry winds have returned to the High Plains production fields just in time for peak water use, or close to it, for just about all of our major summer crop fields. Irrigation systems that had been able to rest for much of the summer are running full tilt this week, some unable to keep up and some keeping lush fields a little uncomfortably vegetative for the calendar date. It is fairly easy to tell how the summer rainfall varied by the amount of stress on the crops in different areas as many start to look to the sky for the next relief. There has been quite a bit of discussion about a shortened amount of heat units thus far this year, compared to recent years, but I am not seeing fields very far behind, especially in the grains but cotton seems to be tracking normal also. On the pest front, pressure continues with the next pests in line to attack the next plant stage with each field housing unique pressure levels.



2 Fields with similar irrigation capacity only about 5 miles apart this week showing rainfall differences.



Cotton

Our Plains Pest Management scouting program cotton this week ranged in stage from 7.7 NAWF (nodes above white flower) and 3.67 NAWF and already almost absolute cut-out. Both extreme stage situations have been setting squares to bolls as well as possible, fruit load depending upon what has been saved from earlier fleahopper damage. As of this week, I have not noted any fruit loss due to drought stress yet. Our plant measurement data indicates higher stress in some fields this next week. Without heavy supplemental irrigation or relieving rainfall soon, stress related drop will commence soon and heavy. On the lush fields, our data indicates a need for plant growth regulators. In this heat and important crop timing, irrigation capacity, boll load, and even other crop needs of each field is being taken into account before any recommendations are being made.

Our primary pest this week was again Lygus. Most fields came in with 1 Lygus per 6 to 13.5 row feet, and below threshold. Most of these Lygus were nymphs with just a few adults mixed in. In a few cases, predictably near recently mowed roadsides and managed bardiches, a large number of adult Lygus moved into a few of our nearby fields increasing the Lygus population to 1 Lygus per 1.12 to 2.25 row feet and well above threshold. Damage and fruit loss increased with the population to unacceptable levels and these fields had to be treated this week.



Adult Lygus caught this week.



Nabid beneficial this week.

Other cotton pests continued to increase in our fields this week also. We found bollworm eggs in around 50% of our fields this week. This increased to 100% in and around the Claytonville and Providence areas. In the heaviest area we found over 20,000 eggs per acre. It has been a number of years since we have had egg lay that heavy. We do not spray eggs on the High Plains, we have too much natural mortality from beneficials and the environment. We had no field over threshold for worms but did find subthreshold numbers of small worms at less than 1000 per acre and much less than 1% fairly often in non Bt fields from these small worms. We continue to find very light aphid populations and various species of foliar feeding caterpillars in various fields. Beneficials, if previously managed well, are having an impact on current pests. We will have to see if they can handle the pressure that the bollworms seem to be bringing this year.



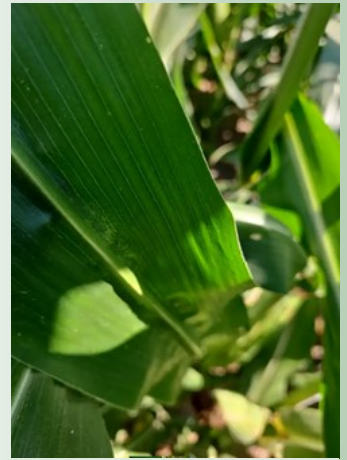
Bolworm egg and worm

Corn



Corn in SW Hale this week.

Our PPM corn ranges in stages between a late V6 and a short season variety at full dent. Most of our fields are at late dough nearing early dent. Corn pests have been fairly quiet. Our largest pest of concern remains the Banks grass mite. In some of our fields, the mites have almost



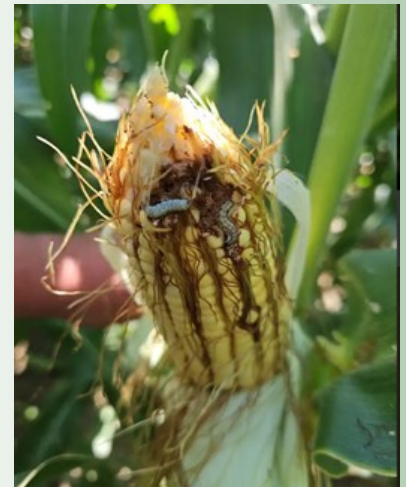
Substantial BGM colony above ear leaf in SW Hale this week.

crashed due to beneficial populations. This is field by field.

In others, the mites continue to slowly increase with higher

pockets within fields. Many of the mite specific predators are not nearly as heavy in fields with mites increasing. Our highest mite rating on our 0-10 mite damage rating scale was 3.33, very near threshold. However, with what is likely only 2-3 weeks away from silaging, we are hopeful the moderate population of beneficials can hold the mites down long enough.

Bollworms, or in this case corn earworms, moths remain active in multiple areas and highly attractive to younger corn fields, including those still in dough stage. We are still finding multiple egg lay per plant on lush fields. We are starting to see multiple medium worms per ear and perhaps a lessening of their cannibalistic nature, but we have not noted any feeding more than tip feeding in our 2-trait Bt fields. Corn



Corn in SW Swisher with multiple CEW per ear, but still only tip feeding.



Possible corn stunt symptom in older corn that hopefully has mild impacts. We may see split ear leaf collars normally.

leafhoppers remain in the news and finding adults and nymphs in older corn is common, but we are still only finding them at less than 1 per plant in our older corn.

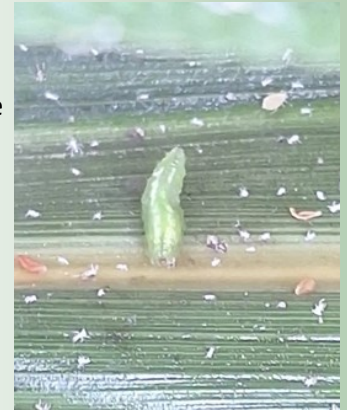
They are hard to find in our late whorl stage corn, which has been treated for them once. We have sent samples off to the lab to determine if any of the disease carried by these hoppers were transmitted into any of our corn. It is far from threshold, but we did find 1 hatched southwestern corn borer egg this week. No worm was found following a destructive search. This was in the area of Finney where some SWCB moths were trapped this week.

Sorghum



Older sorghum in S Swisher this week.

Our PPM sorghum ranged in stage from a thirsty 50% bloom to dough with most fields being in the last stages of bloom through early dough. We found no midge in our sorghum but did have another uptick in headworms with the vast majority being bollworms with a few fall armyworms as a minority. None were near threshold but as fields move into dough, pressure seems to be increasing with most fields having some head feeding. Our highest pressure was only 0.39 small worms



Syrphid fly larva aiding in finishing off a SCA colony this week in SW Hale.

per head with beneficials clearly having an impact on the small worms. We are finding some light Banks grass mite populations in select fields and we are still finding active yel-



Sorghum aphids after increasing to threshold this week in S Swisher.

low sugarcane aphids in most fields. We still have a lingering corn leaf aphid in a few fields that could now prove a distraction for predators away from the more serious aphid pests of the sorghum aphid.

We have started picking up very light Lygus and a few stink bugs in our fields but these are all well below threshold.



Single stink bug in one of our sorghum data sets this week. ET is around 6 per head.

We had a few more fields reach threshold for the sorghum aphid, or the pest formerly known as the sugarcane aphid. In

general, the aphids are steadily increasing to reach the threshold of 30% of plants infested with 50 or more plants (post boot) 2 – 3 weeks after we detect the aphid in each field. So far, this is not a runaway population we once noted when the aphid arrived and the threshold and treatments seem to be working well.



First discovered SCA colony in a

Texas Corn Producer—corn pest moth trapping

We still have not found any WBCW to date. While numbers are low, we have caught some additional SWCB this week. We should be on the lookout for this old-time pest due to resistance issues that could move into our area.

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

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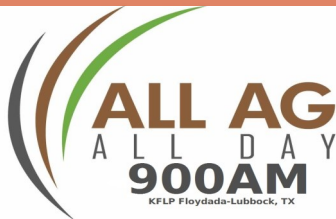
PEST PATROL

BLAYNE REED
 IPM Extension Agent
 Texas A&M University



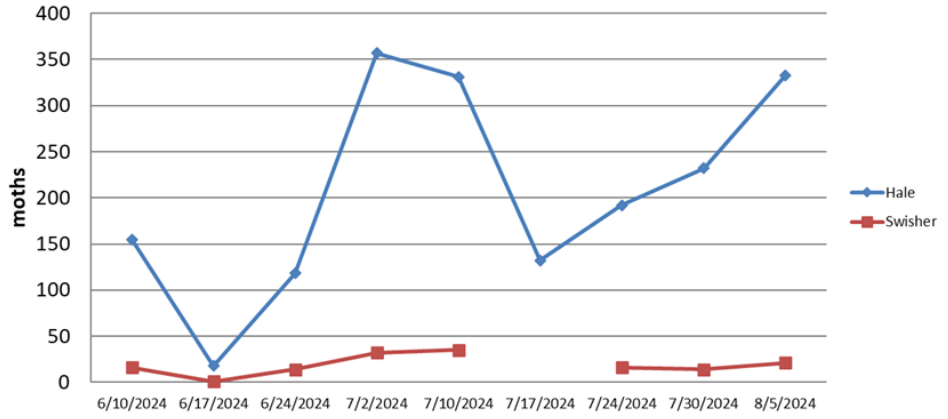
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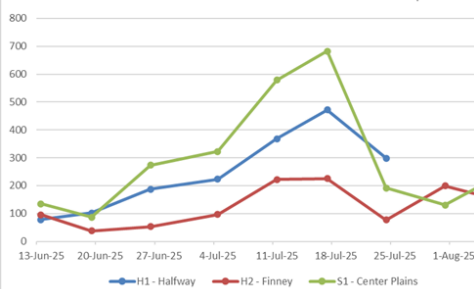


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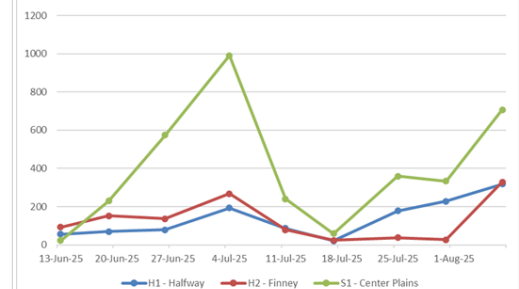
2025 Adult Bollworm Moth Trap Catches Set Locations



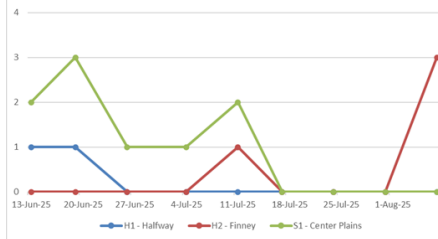
Corn Earworm 2025 Hale & Swisher Moth Traps



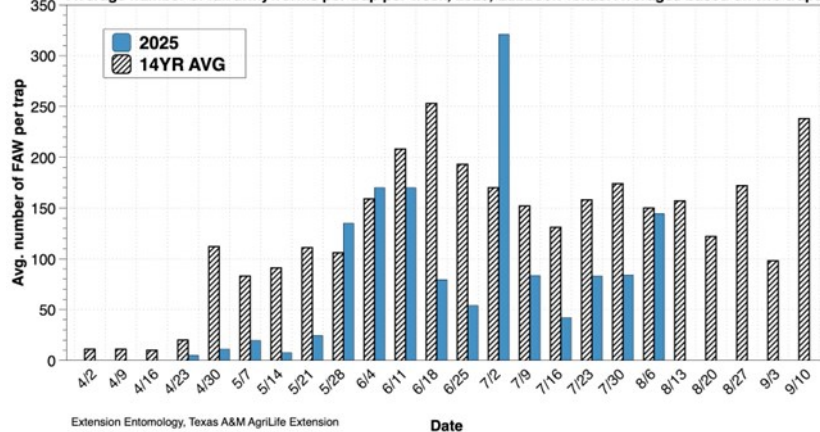
Fall Armyworms 2025 Hale & Swisher Moth Traps



Southwestern Corn Borer 2025 Hale & Swisher Moth Traps



Average number of fall armyworms per trap per week, 2025, Lubbock Texas. Averages based on two traps.



Blayne Reed