

# WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

News about  
Integrated Pest  
Management in  
Hockley,  
Cochran, and  
Lamb Counties  
from  
Kerry Siders

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## 2021 *West Plains IPM Update*

The *West Plains IPM Update* is a newsletter which provides news of insect, weed, and disease pests, and crop management suggestions for Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties. The newsletter is written weekly during the growing season, from June through September. The newsletter will keep you abreast of current pest activity, natural enemies, biological and cultural control tactics, and chemical control options. The newsletter will cover cotton and other major crops grown in the area.

If you know of someone who would like to be included on the email list to receive this newsletter, please have them send me their email address. If your email address changes in the future, please send me an address update. If for some reason you would like to be taken off the list, please let me know.

### **Hockley and Cochran IPM Scouting Program**

1. Field scouting for insect, weed, and disease pests in cotton, peanuts, and other crops.
2. Weekly scheduled intervals.
3. Individual field pest report provided.
4. Management suggestions with emphasis on proactive IPM methods.
5. Management suggestions available upon request for irrigation, growth regulators, fertility, harvest aids, and other agronomic considerations.
6. Fall soil sampling for cotton root-knot nematode management suggestions.
7. Irrigated cotton scouting \$7/acre, peanut scouting is \$9/acre. Pricing for dryland and other crops available.
8. Prorated refunds of scouting fees for loss of crop due to natural causes.
9. Contact Kerry Siders, Extension Agent-IPM for more information at 638-5635(mobile) or 894-3150 (office).

## Please Consider This:

~ Sprayer calibration will ensure proper rate of crop protection chemicals, good coverage, management/control of the pest, and efficient use of input cost.

~ Remember the goal of protecting crops from pests (weeds, insects & disease) are to limit yield loss, not to increase yields.

~ The use of technology such as Xtend, Enlist, Flex, and Liberty is no substitute for a good base herbicide program consisting of a preplant incorporated and at-plant preemergence herbicides.

~ The use of Bt technologies (Bollgard, Widestrike etc.) does not excuse you from checking your crop for worms on a weekly basis.

~ The advice of a professional consultant on a weekly basis is even that much more important in time of economic concern and maximizing necessary production inputs.

## STICKING TO THE BASICS IN 2021

- Use minimum tillage where feasible.
  - reduced tillage on dryland
  - cover crop/reduced tillage on irrigated
- Fertilize for realistic yield goal.
- Variety selection - adaptability, storm proofness, value added traits based on need, disease tolerance.
- Plant density - on 40" use 2-5 seed/foot with dryland at low end, irrigated high.
- Soil temp 65° F for 10 days at 6".
- Do not cut thrips control and nematode control.
- Use appropriate weed control program, do not skimp on this one.
- Get the most from available water – furrow diking a must in conventional till.
- Timely irrigation is a must.
- Be very careful in use of plant growth regulators, if at all.
- Pray for rain, low costs, and higher commodity prices.

**West Plains IPM Update** is a publication of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service IPM Program in Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Counties.

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# AUXIN TRAINING & PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

WHEN: Wednesday, **April 28**

WHERE: **Mallet** Event Center, Levelland

WHAT:

1. **Auxin Training** - begins **10am**, cost \$15; this is the required training to apply Xtend and Enlist herbicide technologies, 1 Laws & Regs CEU
2. **Pesticide Applicators Training** - begins **1pm** that Wed. 28<sup>th</sup>, cost is \$60; this is required training to obtain the TDA Private Pesticide Applicators License; to participate **you must RSVP** to 806-894-3159 by the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



For more information contact the Extension office in Hockley County at 806-894-3159.