

# WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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

August 24, 2017

Vol. 22 – No. 12

## Current Situation

**Cotton** has been hanging in that 5 to 2 nodes above white flower now for several days with just a few fields at hard-cut out with only an occasional bloom in the top node. With this weather pattern I would much rather be hard cut-out, with bolls formed all the way to the top. Watering should really no longer be a looming question for many. I have not been in many fields where I cannot probe wet soil down to +40". With chances of continued rain and influence from a possible hurricane, I think we might be hard pressed to start up any irrigation on cotton and possibly peanuts. This especially applies to late cotton. We are past our effective bloom period, and are primary goal now is to retain bolls on the plant, achieve size and maturity to those bolls. Insect pests in cotton mainly consist of scattered cotton aphids, which have not built any significant numbers in individual fields. This is most likely due to the weather pattern we have been in. This has also given an opportunity for beneficial insects to build. We continue to find bollworms in non-Bt cotton with damage, and occasionally in Bt cotton with minimal damage. We are not picking up much in the way of plant bugs. Because cotton has slowed in its progress due to lower heat unit accumulation I would continue to monitor cotton for another 14 days. By then we should have accumulated 400 heat units past physiological cut-out (5 nodes above white flower).

**Peanuts** are generally doing well in their development. I am seeing an excellent pod load. Flowering is over and unless a peg has already begun to swell into the soil surface to form a pod I would not count on any more pods being formed after this point. I know many fields were sprayed 3-4 weeks ago. With the weather being conducive for disease development you may need to protect them again real soon. Be very careful irrigating in these conditions also.

**Grain Sorghum.** Sugarcane aphid (SCA) numbers still remain very low across the area. Yellow sugarcane aphids and cornleaf aphids have been the most reported insect besides whorl feeding larvae. These aphids so far have allowed beneficials to build in number and hopefully will play a major role in keeping SCA in check. There are several acres of milo which are reaching the boot stage. It is important to check on a very regular basis for SCA.

*Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions about a management plan for worms and aphids in milo or cotton.*

## Private Pesticide Applicators Training 2017 Cochran, Hockley and Lamb Counties

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Morton, Levelland and Littlefield throughout 2017. This training is required by Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam for obtaining the license. A private pesticide applicator is a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state limited-use pesticide or a regulated herbicide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity. This license is not for those receiving monetary compensation for a pesticide application.

To participate in a training individuals must call 806-894-3159 by 3pm the day prior (Wednesday) to the trainings in Levelland; or 806-266-5215 by 3pm the day prior to any trainings in Morton. The trainings will begin promptly at 1pm at the Extension Offices (see addresses below). There is a \$60 fee for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location. Future PAT Trainings:

- August 28 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue
- September 14 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- October 19 Levelland Extension Office 1212 Houston Street
- November 6 Morton Extension Office 200 W. Taylor Avenue

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any educational meetings. Please contact us to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require a week in advance of training.*

### See You On The Radio



**Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 7:45 am.**

**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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The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

# West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference



The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute will host their annual conference on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in Lubbock.

This year represents the 65th meeting of WTACI, an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources.

A detailed list of presentations and speakers can be found at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.

Seven CEUs for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and 7 CEUs for the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) program will be available. CEUs for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) are pending.

Pre-registration is available online at <http://wtaci.tamu.edu/Registration.html>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees. Booth sponsors have various levels available. Lunch will be provided as part of the registration fee.

Opportunities also exist to contribute to the WTACI Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships to students majoring in agricultural fields at many Texas universities.

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute (WTACI) is an unincorporated organization of dealers, industry representatives, agricultural producers, scientists, educators, and agribusiness members who support education and research programs promoting safe and effective use of agricultural chemicals and protection and preservation of the area's natural resources. For more information visit <http://wtaci.tamu.edu>.



# COCHRAN COUNTY

— BIENNIAL FARM FAIR —

SEPT 13TH



COUNTY  
AG BARN

9:00 AM

LUNCH PROVIDED BY  
RIVER SMITH'S

DOOR  
PRIZES

FOR BOOTH RESERVATIONS, CONTACT  
NATALIE SILHAN, 806-266-5215