

WEST  
PLAINS  
IPM  
UPDATE

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



August 10, 2023

Vol. 28 – No. 12

### Current Crop and Pest Situation

Not much has changed over the last couple of weeks in cotton other than the physiological state of the cotton itself. A high percentage of our cotton acres are near the 5 nodes above white flower (NAWF) point (physiological cut-out). I would not let your guard down for a while longer, especially in cotton which has late growth, non-BT cotton, or may have excessive nitrogen levels. Most cotton will need to be monitored for insect pests till the last week of August. The real late acres which just started blooming will need to be monitored till mid-September. Cotton is generally safe from most pests when approximately 400 heat units (about 20 days) past the 5 NAWF have accumulated.

Cotton aphids would be one insect which could develop up through boll opening. Currently, many fields have small colonies of cotton aphids which are being held in check by very good numbers of beneficial insects.

Cotton irrigation is still very critical with very limited isolated rain showers. Cotton is still using +0.25" per day. This will not go down much for at least another 10 days. At peak we were using near 0.30" per day just a week or so ago. Evapotranspiration remains high with the current weather pattern. Hopefully temperatures will moderate, and the chance of rain increases. Forecasts indicate this change might occur over the next ten days. These late rain chances are why we build a plant growth regulator (mepiquat chloride) into the plant earlier in the season.

Weeds continue to be a concern for many. Be careful in your enthusiasm to spend too much on these weeds. First ask yourself if these weeds are just cosmetic at this point or will their seed production haunt you in the future (i.e., morningglory, marestail) or cause you harvest problems. Young flushes of weeds, however, control may not be necessary. In some situations, you might just save money for a good harvest aid program and be prepared to do a much better job next year with residual herbicides.

**Peanuts** remain healthy. Flowering has slowed considerably with the heat which is continuing. Pod development is making good progress and remains healthy. I am not seeing much in the way of insects like worm feeding on foliage or spider mites. I would be scouting for mites with this hot weather.

**Grains** - Sorghum aphids have not been confirmed here yet. I am seeing banks grass mites very consistently in grain sorghum. However, the six-spotted thrips are keeping this pest somewhat in check.



## 2023 FARM BILL Congressional Update

**Join us for breakfast**  
Thursday, August 17, 2023  
8:30am - 9:30am  
South Plains Implement  
601 E State Hwy 114  
Levelland, TX 79336



Stakeholders and constituents in the agriculture community are welcomed for a discussion covering congressional updates and the 2023 Farm Bill.  
RSVP to (806) 894-3157

**Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19th District)**  
**Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-TX-13th District)**

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### Private Pesticide Applicators Training Set in Levelland on August 17

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer the required private **Pesticide Applicators Training (PAT) in Levelland on Thursday, August 17**. This training is required by the Texas Department of Agriculture before taking the exam to obtain 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 16)**. The training will **begin promptly at 1:05pm at the Extension Office 1212 Houston Street, Levelland**. There is a **\$60 fee** for training materials. This is only the required training. Testing will be conducted at a separate time and location.

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension seeks to provide reasonable accommodation 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.*





## IPM COTTON SCOUTING & MAPPING CLINIC SERIES

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

Hockley, Cochran, and Lamb Cos. IPM Program

Opportunity to learn or refresh how to scout for pests and how to map the cotton plant.

1 hour IPM - TDA CEU

Cotton Map & Harvest Aid School #4

August 25, 9-10 am

Barker Research Farm, Morton

If questions contact Kerry Siders at 806 638-5635

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September 21, 2023

## COCHRAN COUNTY FARM FAIR

COUNTY SHOW BARN  
1883 FM 1780 MORTON TX 79346



BOOTH REGISTRATION  
9:00 A.M.

BOOTH RESERVATIONS  
CONTACT: SHAY BUTLER  
806-266-5215

FREE LUNCH PROVIDED BY  
RIVER SMITH'S 11:30 -1:00

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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## West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute Annual Conference Set for September 14

***Pre-Registration Deadline is September 8***

The West Texas Agricultural Chemicals Institute will host their annual conference on Thursday, September 14, at the Scottish Rite Event Center, located at 1101 70th Street in Lubbock.

This year represents the 71st 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.

Topics to be discussed at the conference include:

- Weed control in herbicide-tolerant sorghum.
- New chemistries for weed and brush control in range and pasture.
- Endangered Species Act overview.
- Beltwide cotton IPM research focus.
- Semi-arid Agricultural Systems Institute research update; and
- Australia cotton production overview compared to West Texas cotton production.

A total of 7 Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) CEUs are pending currently.

Pre-registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/3QuDE7G>. On-line registration fees are \$75 for conference attendees and must be completed by September 8. Booth fees start at \$300. On-site registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., the day of the conference, and will cost \$95 for attendees and \$325 for booth sponsors. 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.

Contact Scott Asher at [scott.asher@basf.com](mailto:scott.asher@basf.com) for questions about the program and CEU's. If you have trouble or questions regarding registration, contact Kara Bishop, 806-792-4904 or [kara@plainscotton.org](mailto:kara@plainscotton.org).

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***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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