Texas Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Crops Scouting and Pest Management Program

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF EXTENSION EDUCATION

CONTACT: Office of the Director
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Ph. 979.314.8200 | Email: extension@ag.tamu.edu

MINIMIZING PESTICIDE USE WHILE IMPROVING NET RETURNS

- The impetus for integrated pest management grew out of concerns over insect resistance to insecticides and possible environmental harm related to using a purely insecticidal approach to insect control.
- Integrated pest management is a sustainable approach to managing pests that combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to minimize economic, health, and environmental risks.

AGRILIFE EXTENSION'S RESPONSE

- Collaborating with the Texas Pest Management Association, Texas Department of Agriculture, and the USDA, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research established the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in Texas in 1972.
- Methods used to control agricultural pests include growing resistant plant varieties, monitoring fields, implementing pest thresholds, and using cultivation practices that minimize pest damage.

- 12 AgriLife Extension IPM Agents and Extension IPM Program Specialist support field and forage crop, and pecan producers in 31 Texas counties by providing crop monitoring, weekly scouting reports, and assistance in making pest-management decisions.
- AgriLife Extension IPM agents also conduct on-farm applied research to evaluate new technologies and demonstrate them to producers.
- Information gathered through local crop monitoring, applied demonstration, and research is disseminated to producers through educational programs.
- In 2023, AgriLife Extension IPM agents and Extension IPM Specialists conducted 175 educational programs, scouted 61,500 acres of corn, wheat, grain sorghum, pecans and other crops and shared information on IPM methods with a combined circulation and viewing audience of 555,212 people through newsletters, blogs, and radio, newspaper and TV interviews.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Survey results from 321 producers managing 270,000 acres indicate an average increase in net returns attributable to the IPM crop scouting program of $19 per acre. This translates to a total increase in annual net returns of $5.1 million.