

WEST PLAINS IPM UPDATE

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



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Current Situation

COTTON A great majority of our cotton acres went in the last week of May through the first 10 days of June. So, very little cotton is yet to square. Earlier planted cotton which survived all sorts of challenges has 1-4 first position squares, with very good retention (+90%). No fleahoppers have been found on cotton causing issues based on my scouting efforts. I can find fleahoppers though in field margins hanging out on silverleaf nightshade; a few Lygus are present as well and other weed species. So, be vigilant and scout frequently. We want to achieve better than 70% square retention after the first 3 weeks of squaring. I will mention that I did find a solitary cotton aphid in a terminal down around Ropesville on Tuesday (6/24), lady beetles were present as well.

Based on plant mapping information our internode length is very tight (average less than 0.5"). When temperatures go back into the mid 90's, if we continue to receive some rainfall, and you get your fertility in place, I might anticipate more rapid growth over the next month. Since we are a few weeks behind ideal growth development, I would highly recommend a light dose (4-8 oz) of a plant growth regulator (mepiquat chloride) over the next few weeks (by July 15). This can help with fruit retention, balance out vegetative growth with reproductive growth, and can enhance maturity at end of season. Also, if we do have a late growth spurt it will be easier to manage having already accumulated some PGR ppm into the plant.

Fortunately, we still have humidity to extend the use of glufosinate (Liberty) herbicide as a burndown for postemergence weed control. Be sure to include a good residual.

CORN Corn leafhoppers have been detected in Lubbock County by Dr. Pat Porter. We are currently using vac detection equipment in area fields to check for presence here locally. For more information on the corn leafhopper and the subsequent red stunt disease it causes go to one of these links:

<https://cdn-de.agrilife.org/extension/departments/ento/ento-pu-229/publications/files/corn-leafhopper-and-the-red-stunt-disease-complex.pdf>

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/corn-leafhopper-and-the-red-stunt-disease-complex/01t4x000008VcS6AAK>

See more on pages 3-4 of this newsletter.



UPDATE: BARKER RESEARCH FARM – Morton

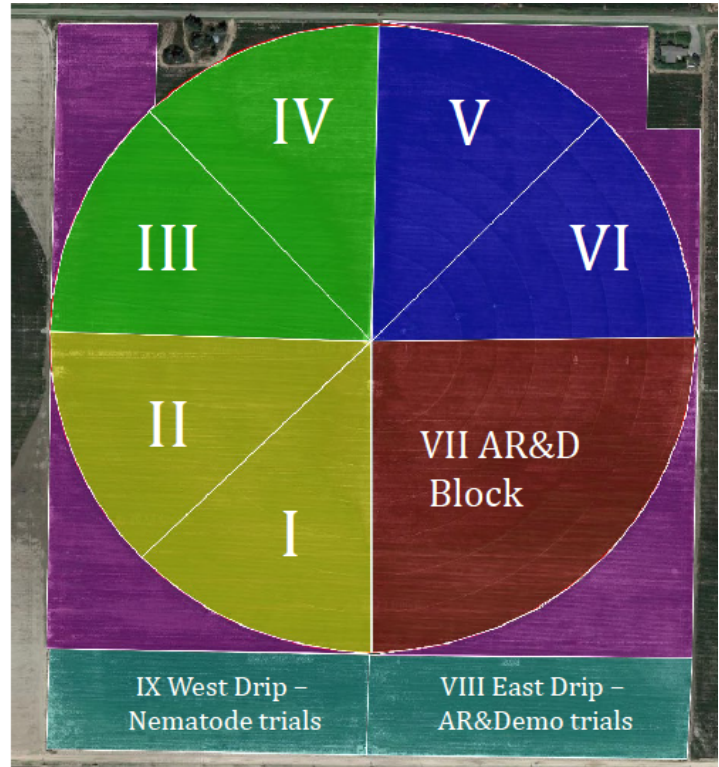
Barker Research Farm

Farming Systems Permanent Trial

- I. Continuous cotton – winter fallow, conventional tillage
- II. Continuous cotton – terminated wheat cover, no-tillage (as needed)
- III. Cotton ('25)-Sorghum ('26) Rotation, no-tillage (as needed)
- IV. Sorghum ('25)-Cotton ('26) Rotation, no-tillage (as needed)
- V. Wheat ('25)-Fallow-Cotton ('26) Rotation, no-tillage (as needed)
- VI. Cotton ('25)-Wheat ('26)-Fallow Rotation, no-tillage (as needed)

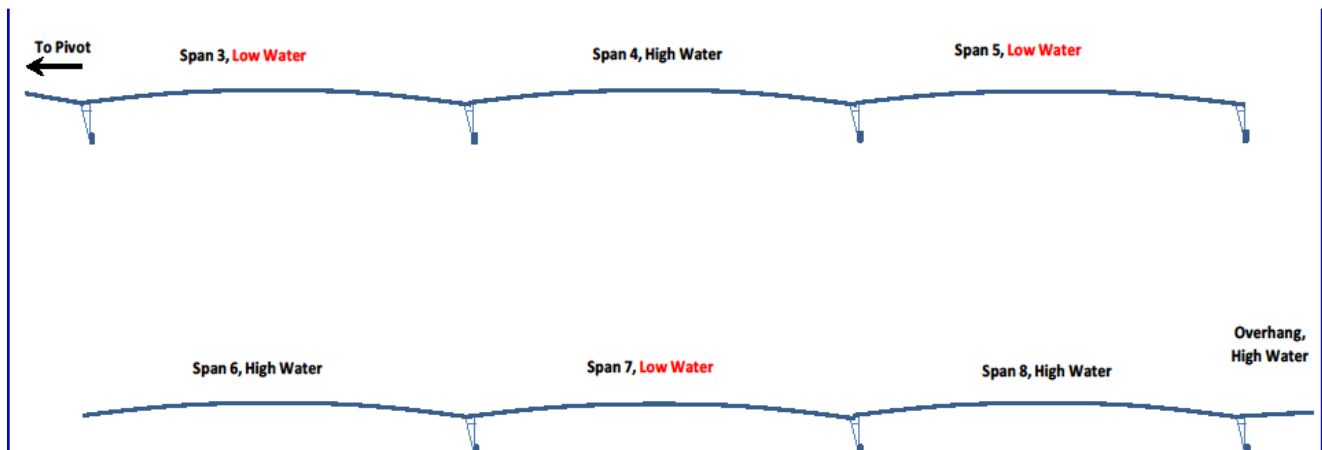
AR&D Under Pivot and Drip

- VII. AR&D Block, conventional tillage, pivot irrigated
- VIII-IX. AR&D Block, tillage as needed, drip irrigated



Pivot Irrigation System

Water in center two spans are off, except to establish permanent grass stand. In 2025, pivot repackaged to 340 gpm (all wells).





If you are interested in receiving the High Plains Pest Management Audio Updates on a weekly basis click on this link and sign-up to receive notifications of the reports:

<https://www.texasinsects.org/signup-high-plains--south-plains.html>

For those of you using an Android phone you may not be receiving the weekly notification that a new report has been released due to a setting on your text messaging system. I am troubleshooting the issue currently as I am having an issue with my cell phone as well. Stay tuned for a fix.

Corn Leafhopper Update

Here is the latest audio report from Dr. Kerns on the corn leafhopper in Texas:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-766365640-259391064/clh-update-6-25-2025b>

Corn Leafhopper (CLH) Identification



Ashleigh Faris, PhD
Field Crops Extension
Entomologist & IPM
Coordinator



Department of Entomology
& Plant Pathology

Dalbulus maidis (DeLong & Wolcott) (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae)

- Yellow to tan (dark & light morphs)
- 3-4mm in length
- 2 prominent round, black spots surrounded by white halo on vertex



Leafhoppers Confused with *D. maidis*

Aster leafhopper adult



(P. Beauzay, NDSU)



Macrostelus quadrilineatus
Aster leafhopper, six-spotted leafhopper



Grainella nigrifrons
Black-faced leafhopper



Exitianus exitiosus
Grey lawn leafhopper



***Balclutha neglecta* + other *Balclutha* spp.**



Grainella fitchii



Planicephalus flavicostus/flavicosta
(lighter variations)

CLH Identification: Observations in the Field

- Adults dart quickly; nymphs wingless
- Reside in whorls at early V stages
- Move to underside of leaves
- Sooty mold may be sign of high infestation



A.M. Faris



Exuviae & Sooty Mold



A.M. Faris

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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