A lot of the cotton has bolls up to the top of the plant, but there are still some fields which have recently achieved cut-out. These late fields will have some bolls which will not be safe from worm damage for another couple of weeks. Since September 1, we have accumulated 154 HU’s or on average 15.4 HU’s per day. And this cold front is not helping out any. Refer to last week's newsletter for more detailed information on heat units and cotton susceptibility to insect damage. Rainfall since Sunday night has varied from a low of 0.2 inches to a high of 4.0 inches.

Grain sorghum harvest was getting into full swing before the rain and wet conditions. Fall armyworms and cotton bollworms are still being found in sorghum heads. Some producers have already planted wheat or another small grain while others have been busy with land preparation.

Moth trap numbers this past week in Jones (near Stamford), Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry county have been averaging less than 10 cotton bollworm moths per night. The trap in Jones county, near Plainview, averaged 35 bollworm moths per nights. Generally, with the maturity of most of the cotton, fields should be safe from worm damage. Joseph Vasek, Sales rep for Helena Chemical Co., came across a late planted field with fairly high numbers of stink bugs. The stink bugs (Conchueloa, Green, and Rice species) may be coming from matured grain sorghum fields. Stink bugs infestations are generally clumped near field margins. Feeding cause small bolls to shed, seed damage, and lint staining. Treatment thresholds are when there are one (1) or more stink bugs per six (6) foot of row or when 20% of the small bolls have internal stinkbug injury and stink bugs present. Any of the pyrethroid or other insecticides labeled for stink bug should provide good control.

Currently, cotton aphids are not a problem, but could build up before harvest. Once cotton begins to open the aphid threshold is lowered significantly (10 to 15 aphids per leaf). Take time to check fields after bolls start to open.

Week before last, a portion of the newsletter was devoted to destroying volunteer wheat and weeds to prevent and reduce insect pests in small grains. I mentioned that Hessian fly had been reported last spring in Nolan and Haskell counties. This insect can cause significant grain losses when fall infestations exceed 5 to 8 percent or spring infestations exceed 20 percent infested stems. Therefore, implementing management practices now will help reduce infestations this fall and subsequent damage. Newly emerged and young seedlings are usually injured.
more than older, established plants. Injury occurs from larvae (maggots) feeding under the leaf sheath on stems at the plant crown or just above a node. In younger plants, tillers will be stunted and can die. If infested tillers survive, their growth and yield will be reduced. Serious infestations may cause significant stem lodging or breakage which makes harvesting the crop difficult. **The most effective way to manage this pest is to prevent infestations in the fall.** Wheat is the preferred host, but barley, rye, spelt, and emmer may be infested. However, oats are not a host of the Hessian fly. The following management practices will help prevent establishment of the Hessian fly:

- **Grow wheat varieties that have genetic resistance.** Resistance is not immunity, and there are different levels of resistance among varieties, because some races, called biotypes, of Hessian fly have developed and can survive on certain resistant varieties. Refer to IPM newsletter vol.10, no. 17 on August 30 for a listing of susceptible and resistant wheat varieties.

- **Plant wheat later in the fall to reduce the number of fall infestations.** Ideally for managing Hessian fly, wait until October 1 to plant wheat for grazing and plant after October 31 for grain production.

- **Guacho® or Cruiser® are labeled for use as seed treatments and can be used with delayed planting and resistant wheat varieties.** These seed treatments will also be effective in controlling greenbugs.

Since it took so long to get wheat harvested last spring and a lot of the wheat stubble has not been destroyed, the number of Hessian fly surviving the summer could be relatively high.

Also, with the number of **fall armyworms** we have had in cotton, grain sorghum, and forage sorghum, it would be advisable to delay planting small grain crops as long as possible. We have the potential to have heavy fall armyworm infestations this fall. The threshold for controlling fall armyworm is not very precise, but **control is suggested when there are four or more larvae 1 inch or longer per square foot and when their damage is threatening the stand.** Some of the insecticides labeled for Fall armyworm control are Sevin® 80S, Sevin® 4-Oil, Sevin® XLR Plus, Baythroid® 2, Proaxis®, Warrior®, Lannate® SP, Lannate® LV, Methyl parathion, Pencap-M®, Tracer®, and Mustang Max®.

Greenbugs could become a problem on seedling wheat and later in the season. With the increase sorghum acres this year, more greenbugs could move into wheat this fall. Seed treatments of Gaucho® and Cruiser® are effective in controlling greenbugs, but have no affect on fall armyworm control.

### Miscellaneous

This will be the last weekly issue of the IPM newsletter, but other issues will be published as needed for harvest-aid treatments, etc. And, we will not be having anymore weekly growing meetings. This past season has been one to remember with the insect pressures in cotton and grain sorghum. I have enjoyed the grower meetings and hope the information provided at the meetings and in the newsletters have been helpful to you. If something comes up and I can be of assistance, just give me a call.