Last Sunday brought some very needed rain to the area. We had 2.61 inches of rain at the weather station near Wastella. Others have indicated amounts of just under two (2) inches and up to three (3) inches. This will be good for planting, but will cause a flush of weeds. Better to have the moisture and deal with the weeds than do without the rain.

Dr. Calvin Trostle, Extension Agronomist with Texas Cooperative Extension - Lubbock, has received several inquires about grain sorghum for 2007, particularly since contract prices are in the $6.50/cwt. range. He has assimilated and updated information for both irrigated and dryland production. He has organized several workshops to be held throughout the South Plains to discuss seeding rate and planting date, hybrid selection, insects, herbicide options, sharing limited irrigation with other crops, etc. He will be at our Lower Rolling Plains Ag Conference on April 11 at Western Texas College in Snyder. Other dates and locations for the workshops will be listed at the end of the newsletter.

The following information is from an updated article by Dr. Trostle entitled “2007 Grain Sorghum Hybrid Suggestions” and from Dr. Billy Warrick and Dr. Brent Bean.

**Hybrid Selection Highlights**

*Greenbug-resistant hybrids* - Few, if any commercial hybrids have resistance to the biotype I greenbug, which has become the most common biotype since 2001, replacing the biotype E greenbug. There is also the biotype K greenbug, but it is rare. The use of Gaucho as a seed treatment and other at-planting insecticides may provide protection against greenbugs (biotype E, I, and K) for up to 60 days. Other products are available as post-emergence foliar treatments if greenbug infestations become heavy during the growing season.
Standability - Factors contributing to sorghum lying down late in the season are 1) poor hybrid, 2) to high plant population, and 3) not throwing dirt on bottom of plants before plants get too tall for cultivation. Planting in bottom of bed instead of on top may improve standability.

Seed Price - Be willing to purchase a hybrid that has a proven history of good yields, drought tolerance, etc. for your area.

Seeding Rates - Dryland with good soil moisture plant a maximum seed drop of 30,000-35,000 seeds/A (~2 lbs/A) for a stand establishment of 21,000-28,000 plants/A. Stand establishment is about 70% of the seed drop but will vary depending on planting and moisture conditions. If soil moisture is fair to poor reduce the seeding rate to 25,000 seeds/A. For early July plantings with low available moisture further reduce seed rate to 18,000-20,000 seeds/A and plant a medium-early to early, drought tolerant hybrid. A seeding rate of 26,000 seed/A on 40-inch rows would mean only 2 seeds per foot. For 30-inch rows, 26,000 seeds/A would be about 1.5 seeds per foot. Yield results show the lower seeding rates are agronomically and economically less risky than higher seeding rates because they usually outyield higher seeding rates in normal and especially dry years.

Seeding Rates - Irrigated with projected seasonal irrigation of 3-5 inches plant 40,000-45,000 seeds/A with good soil moisture or 30,000-35,000 seeds/A with poor soil moisture. If full season irrigation (14-16") is available seeding rates can be up to 80,000-90,000 seeds/A.

Herbicide Caution - If you used Staple as a Cotton herbicide in 2006, then you do not plant sorghum in 2007 on those fields. If you are planting sorghum in 2007, then be aware you will not be able to follow with cotton in 2008 when the herbicide Peak is used on the sorghum field. Also, there are several cautionary statements about coarse soil types, date of use, and amount of irrigation/rainfall after application of atrazine or herbicides that may contain atrazine. The herbicide propazine under the label of MiloPro may be available for use in grain sorghum in 2007. It has been federally approved last week, but the Texas Department of Agriculture will have to file some paperwork to before propazine can be legally used in Texas.

Grain Sorghum Hybrid Maturity - Select a hybrid from the maturity range and days to ½ bloom that will best fit your planting date and seasonal moisture conditions. Try to target the planting date so flowering and peak water use is outside the historical hottest times of the year or when sharing irrigation with the peak water demand for another crop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relative Maturity</th>
<th>Days to ½ Bloom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>≤ 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium-early</td>
<td>59-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>64-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium-long</td>
<td>69-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long (full season)</td>
<td>≥ 74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Last Planting Date - The last recommended planting date for sorghum maturity class in the Lower Rolling Plains region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Medium maturity</th>
<th>Early maturity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borden, Scurry, Jones, Fisher, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Taylor</td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>July 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grain Sorghum Hybrids - the following list of hybrids have been in the A&M sorghum testing program for several years and have been determined appropriate for either dryland or irrigated conditions. However, there may be other good grain sorghum hybrids that are appropriate for this area, so do not hesitate to ask you seed dealer about new releases. **This list is a general guide and is not an endorsement of any one hybrid or company by Texas Cooperative Extension.**

- NC+ Y363, 371 (watching 7C22, 6B50, 5B89)
- Monsanto: DeKalb 40Y, 44 (bronze)
- Sorghum Partners (Novartis) KS 585
- Golden Acres 737 (formerly Cargill)
- Richardson 9200Y
- Watching 85Y34, 85G01, 85G46, 85G85 (these are Pioneer’s current suggestions to replace 8505, which is no longer available in 2007)

- Monsanto: Dekalb DKS54-00; Asgrow A571, A570
- Crosbyton Seed 1489 (not marketed directly as a Crosbyton hybrid, but marketed through other companies; contact Crosbyton Seed Co. for dealers carrying this hybrid line)
- Pioneer 84G62
- Frontier 647E?
- Texas A&M: AT3778 x RT430, AT2752xRT430, AT399xRT430 (Plainview)
- Hybrids to watch: NC+ 8R18, NC+ 7R83

No hybrids are on both lists for irrigated and dryland. Differences in maturity greatly affect choice of hybrid based on whether irrigation will be used.

**Forage Sorghum** - Dr. Brent Bean and Dr. Ted McCollum from Texas A&M Research and Extension Center at Amarillo, has an article which summarizes six (6) years of testing forage sorghums under irrigated conditions. Some of the sorghums performing well compared to corn silage were Richardson Dairy Master BMR and its sister line Moss Seed Millennium BMR and conventional (non-BMR) lines NC+ Nutri-Cane, Richardson 700D, and Dekalb (Monsanto) FS-5. Contact Dr. Bean by phone (806-677-5600) or e-mail (b-bean@tamu.edu) to get the complete list of forage sorghums tested.
Concho Valley Cotton Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2007. PLEASE CALL: Tom Green County Ext. Office at 659-6522, Runnels County Ext. Office at 365-2219 to register and for additional information.

The Lower Rolling Plains Ag Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at Western Texas College, Fine Arts Building, Snyder, Texas. The morning session will cover the Farm Bill, Biofuels impact on grain production and feed prices, and TDA laws and regulations. There will be two (2) concurrent sessions after lunch, one (1) for row crop production and one (1) for livestock production. PLEASE CALL: Nolan County Ext. Office at 325-236-9011, Mitchell County Ext. Office at 325-728-3111, or Scurry County Ext. Office at 325-573-5423 to pre-register and for information.

**Grain Sorghum Workshops**

March 20, Flagg in southwest Castro. Co. at Ag Supply offices, 8:30-11:00 AM. Further info. from Castro Co. Extension Office, (806) 647-4115.


March 23, Levelland, sponsored by Farmer’s Co-Op, 8:30-11:00 AM. Meeting at the Hockley Co. Fairgrounds, 1921 Black Gold Road, just off FM 300 1 mi. West of U.S. 385 in Southwest Levelland. Further info. from Hockley Co. Extension office, (806) 894-3159.

March 27, Tahoka, Community Action Transportation Center, 1629 South Ave. J, 1:00-3:30 PM (preceded by Extension’s water management meeting and lunch). Further info. from Lynn Co. Extension office, (806) 561-4562.

March 28, Brownfield, Terry Co. Extension office conference room, 209 South 5th Street, 8:30-10:45 AM, (806) 637-4060.

March 30, Denver City, Community Center on West 15th Street across from the park and swimming pool. Further info. from Yoakum Co. Extension office, (806) 456-2263, or Gaines Co. Extension office, (432) 758-4006.