GENERAL SITUATION

At the weather station, there has been no appreciable rainfall accumulations for 30 days. With these dry conditions cotton fields are showing moderate to severe moisture stress, particularly in our sandier soils. A good 1 inch rain would be a great help in finishing off this cotton crop. Temperatures have remained in the upper 80's to the mid 90's during the day and from the 60's to 70's at night. This has resulted in 15 to 20 HU’s per day. Through September 15, there has been 2400 HU’s accumulated from May 1 and 1529 HU’s from June 30.

Cotton maturity for the most part has passed cut out with a few fields at 2-3 nodes above white flower. Bolls are beginning to open in more fields across the area.

COTTON INSECTS

Bollworm are still present and we continue to find eggs and larvae in the field. However, Fall armyworms (FAW) and Beet armyworms (BAW) are the primary insects of concern throughout the Lower Rolling Plains. Also, I was scouting a field west of Colorado City that had a high number of Cabbage Looper larvae mixed with beet armyworms.

Fall armyworms can be easily confused with bollworms because both have hair on their body and can be colored similarly. But, FAW have four sclerotized spots on the eighth abdominal segment and an inverted “Y” when you look at the head. The beet armyworms do not have hair on the body but there is one distinct black spot on the side of the body behind the head.

When infestations are present this late in the season, the decision to apply chemicals can be difficult. As long as the larvae feed on leaves and squares the damage is of...
no consequence. And when on bolls, larvae would have to be damaging a lot of small bolls to justify the cost of an insecticide treatment. The Texas Cooperative Extension guide for managing cotton insects recommends a threshold of 20,000 small larvae per acre. Chemicals, such as Steward (10 oz./ac), Tracer (2.5 oz./ac), or Intrepid (6 oz./ac), should provide adequate control if a treatment is needed.

Again, as mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter, the fall armyworms and beet armyworms may pose a threat to wheat until there is a freeze. Also, in Mr. Richard Minzenmayer’s newsletter to producers in Runnels and Tom Green counties, he reminded them to destroy volunteer wheat and grassy weeds. They provide a place for the armyworms, greenbugs, Hessian flies, and wheat streak mosaic virus to establish.

The Annual Mitchell County Ag Appreciation Day and Crop Tour will be held on Thursday, September 22nd.

Agenda
9 a.m. - Registration in the Thompson Room of City National Bank.
9:30 a.m. - Board Buses for Tour Stops
    Stop #1 - Cotton Variety Trial
    Stop #2 - Cotton Verticillium Wilt Trial
Return to Thompson Room
12 Noon - Meal catered by Bama’s
After Lunch Presentations:
    Keith Hiser - FSA Updates
    Steve Shrode - EQIP and Salt Cedar
    John Senter - NAIS Premise ID Update
    - Private Pesticide Licensing

Dr. Billy Warrick will be available to discuss cotton varieties at the variety trial
Dr. Terry Wheeler will present an overview of the verticillium wilt trial.
Contact John Senter (325-728-3111) for information.

This is the last regularly scheduled newsletter for this growing season. Additional news will be posted about any upcoming meetings and/or any problems in wheat.

Heat Units Accumulated to September 15, 2005 for each Selected Date.

<table>
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<th>From</th>
<th>Total Heat Units (DD60)</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/30</td>
<td>1529</td>
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I would like to compliment this year’s scouts (Amber Purcell, Coy Sanchez, and Valerie West) for a job well done.

Thanks are extended to Ferdie Walker - Jones Co., Travis and Tony Turner - Mitchell Co., Jimmy Joy - Nolan Co., and Larry West - Scurry Co. for allowing us to put moth traps in their fields. Additional thanks to Ferdie Walker for counting moths after our scout went back to school.

Also, I would like to thank the producers and businesses for hosting the grower/turn-row meetings.

Appreciation is also extended to the following businesses and organizations that provided financial support for this year’s IPM program:

**Jones County**
- Farmers Co-op Gin - Anson
- Farmers Co-op Society - Stamford
- Ericksdahl Co-op Gin
- Radium Gin

**Nolan County**
- Roscoe Co-op Gin
- UAP - Roscoe
- Gary Pieper Crop Insurance Co.
- Helena Chemical - Merkel
- Roscoe Bank

**Mitchell County**
- Board of Economic Development
- Producers Co-op Gin - Colorado City
- Co-op Gin Association - Lorraine
- City National Bank - Colorado City

**Scurry County**
- Scurry Co. Producers Association