I received a call from a producer in Moore County yesterday. While walking down a row of his sorghum field he saw spots of honeydew drippings underneath some sorghum plants and the heads of these plants were covered with honeydew. He remembered reading about the sugarcane aphid (SCA) from a previous newsletter and decided to call. The field was located just west of Dumas.

What is interesting is that plants with honeydew were in one row and were not as mature as other plants in the field. Also, SCA numbers were very low. The producer and I only found two small colonies on two leaves and a couple of individual aphids on two other leaves. But, there was too much honeydew in the heads for the few aphids that we found. From what our fellow entomologists have seen down state and in other states, I was expecting to find greater infestation levels all across the field. What may have contributed to the low aphid numbers is that the top leaves of the plants had freeze injury (leaf die back) from a light freeze last Friday. It is difficult to actually say what impact the freeze had on the aphid population, because we did not know about this field prior to the freeze. The weather service was predicting another freeze last night in the majority of counties north of Amarillo. Hopefully, with the freezes and predicted colder temperatures any surviving SCA will be held in check until our sorghum fields can be harvested.

In the last issue of the newsletter, October 22, http://amarillo.tamu.edu/files/2010/11/PPU-V6i16-10-22-2014.pdf, information was given about management options for SCA infestations. One of these options was to use Transform insecticide for aphid control. However, the Section 18 emergency use exemption for this product expired October 31, 2014. This means that, in the event, SCA do present a problem there are two remaining management options this late in the season.

1. **Harvest early**: Take the dock at the elevator rather than loose so much yield to the aphid. This aphid can also cause serious lodging and ‘gummy harvest’ issues and losses pushing 60% of yield potential.

2. **Harvest aid the infested sorghum field**: Treatments of Aim or Roundup might help dry the plant faster and leave the aphid with nothing to feed upon. This was tried with limited success in the LRGV in 2013.

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