Dale Scott, Coordinator for Pesticide Product Evaluation and Registration with the Texas Department of Agriculture, has announced that Sulfoxaflor (Transform© WG) has been authorized by EPA for use to control sugarcane aphids in grain sorghum. This Section 18 Emergency Exemption is effective from April 24, 2014 to October 31, 2014. All documents (EPA authorization letter and Transform© label) is available on the TDA website (http://texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Pesticides/Section18Exemptions/Section18ExemptionsNoticesandLabels.aspx). One change in the label is that the pre-harvest interval is 14 days from the last application.

Hopefully, those of us in the Northern Rolling Plains, Southern High Plains, and the Texas Panhandle will never have to deal with the sugarcane aphid. The attached map shows those counties where the aphid was detected last year. There could be some expansion of the aphid this growing season, but we do not know if the aphid will make it to our area. We will need to on the lookout in case it arrives. What we do know is the entomologists in the Texas Gulf Coast has reported the aphid successfully overwintered there.

Our appreciation goes out to Dale Scott for working with EPA to get this emergency Section 18 exemption for Transform©. The grain sorghum producers that already have the sugarcane aphid are extremely glad to have this product and we will be too, if this unwanted pest makes it our way.

The sorghum aphid Melanaphis sp. was detected in 38 counties and parishes of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Mississippi in 2013.