

Texas A&M AgriLife in the North Region



August 13, 2015

Welcome to the dark side!!!!

One of the things I love about living in the Texas Panhandle is the dry climate and cool summer nights. Don't get me wrong, this summer has been just what the doctor ordered following a number of years of drought and record heat but somewhere in the middle would suit me perfectly. I heard on the radio that Amarillo has received 27" of rainfall this year and our average is somewhere around 18" per year. We are 3" from a record year and with projections for an above average fall and winter, I'm betting on 2015.

Unusual years create job security for all AgriLife CEA-AG/NR employees in the North Region because we have the answers to issues. Everyone looks to us when there are unusual issues popping up. If you think back to small grain head blight, replant decisions due to a cool and rainy spring, weed control plans and re-plans, crop decisions, irrigation decisions, etc. and the verdict is a very challenging crop year. I suspect it has been just as challenging on the horticulture side as well. Recently, there have been some new pests show up that I want to talk about; sugarcane aphid and cotton bacterial blight.

Sugarcane aphid showed up late on the South Plains last year and I know some of the IPM agents were busy dealing with it last minute and have been holding their breath for a repeat performance in 2015. On the south plains, it has been an all-out assault on identifying this pest and getting the word out to producers, consultants, private business, and commodity groups about how to handle this issue. This week, several of the D-1 agents worked with Dr. Bynum to identify the first sightings of these pests in the Panhandle in numbers above threshold levels. It has been an outstanding job by all of you working with this issue. You have prepared your producers and continue to deal with this highly productive, "sticky" pest. Keep up the good work.

We have the same opportunity with a new pest issue on ***Cotton with Bacterial Blight***. We conducted a training last week and sent information about this issue early this week. If you have cotton, you need to be prepared to help. The help you give producers in this instance will be long term but just as important and will answer some questions about the lesions, chlorosis, and shot hole leaf appearances in their fields. This is because it is showing up on varieties that have immunity and resistance to Race 18 strain of bacterial blight. The assumption here is that we may have a new race or strain of bacterial blight working on cotton and haven't dealt with that issue in about 30 years. This is why we need samples, per protocol sent this morning, mailed or delivered to Drs. Wheeler and Woodward. The blight is showing up on most all cotton varieties but we need samples on only those mentioned by Dr. Woodward in the previous email. This is because we only need samples from varieties that are immune to Race 18 in order to isolate the new problem. We are absolutely **not** singling out these varieties or companies but selecting them because of their immunity and to narrow the sample. Get those samples in ASAP so we can determine the severity of the issue.

At the end of the day, I want you to know how extremely proud I am of your efforts to resolve problems and help producers with decisions. During crisis situations is when our "network" is at its best and when we show our worth. Agents and specialists make a difference every day in someone's life but this year you have been "rock stars". Thanks for all you do!

Danny Nusser, Regional Program Leader—North Region

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Upcoming Small Grains, Corn, Sorghum, Dairy Retreat

It's almost time to get after it again with a new set of commodities with Feed Grains on August 24 and Cotton on August 27. Below is the tentative schedule for Monday, August 24.

8:00 a.m. – Registration (Old Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo)

8:30 a.m. – Opportunities with Irrigation Education – Dr. Charles Hillyer, Irrigation Specialist

Discussion related to their goals and weed control on Right of Ways -- Pat Brinkman,

Texas Department of Transportation

Results Head Blight samples on Small Grains – Dr. Ron French

10:00 a.m. Break into groups for discussion related to program indicators, result demonstration opportunities, and professional development plans.

Small Grains – Varieties

Haying, Grazing, Silage

Disease and Virus

Weed/Insect Pests

Economic Risk Management

Sorghum/Corn

Hybrids

Soil and Water Relationships

Fertility

Insect/Weed Pests

Forage/Hay/Silage

Noon – Lunch Furnished

1:00 p.m. – Multi County and Regional Planning

Regional Small Grains (Farm Show)

Regional Irrigation Program

Regional Sorghum Programs – Floydada and Dumas areas

Corn Meetings with Pioneer

2:30 p.m. – Specialist Scheduling

Rooms for Symptomology Training on August 28th

So far I have heard from Dale Dunlap, James Graves, Katy White, and Terry Millican. If you need a room following the retreat and prior to the training, **I will need to know by this Friday, August 14th**. We will turn rooms back after that date.

Danny Nusser, Regional Program Leader—North Region

August Dates to Remember

August 15 – District 2 Swine Training – Levelland

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August 15 – District 2 Swine Training – Levelland

August 17 – Required face to face planning (agents with plans not approved by August 7) in Amarillo

August 19-21 – District 2 TCAA Retreat – Ruidoso, NM

August 24 – Corn/Sorghum/Small Grains/Dairy Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling) Amarillo

August 27 – Cotton Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling) Lubbock

August 28 – Symptomology Training – Lubbock

August 29 – District 2 Sheep/Goat Clinic -- Lamesa