

Row Crop News

Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service
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Contact:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Plunkett".

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NEMATODE SOIL SAMPLING

Now is the time to begin planning for nematode soil sampling. Many cotton and soybean crops are far enough along to show “nematode-infested areas.” Corn and grain sorghum don’t generally show the infestation by having poor growth areas like cotton and soybeans do.

When collecting nematode samples, do the sampling the first of the week—Monday or Tuesday. Then immediately after collecting samples, carry them to the county Extension office for shipment. At the time of collection, place soil into plastic bags and keep those in a cool, but not icy, cooler or ice chest. Samples for nematodes should be done on the bed, and the probe should shear off some of the root system. A one-quart sample is needed for routine nematode assay, which costs \$10.

If soybeans are sampled and cyst nematodes are found, growers will be notified that they may pay an additional fee for a Race determination. Where root knot nematodes are detected in a sample, growers and consultants have sufficient information by which to plan ahead for the coming year.

****Hint:** Treat nematode soil samples like a carton of milk being taken from a store to home. Keep it cool during the transportation time and get it to the shipping point soon after sampling. In other words, do not collect nematode samples and let them dry out or get hot lying on the seat or dash of a truck. Always clean your collection bucket between fields so there is no cross-contamination. Sampling when a crop is harvested is easier than sampling in standing crops of soybean, cotton, or corn.

CONTINUED REPORTS OF PIGWEED ESCAPES

The number of complaints about “escaped pigweeds” in cotton is much lower than reports in soybeans. This is not to say that there are fewer of these pests, but we do have over 10 times the acres of soybeans than we have cotton acres. Remember to mark the field(s) having “pigweed escapes” so that adequate herbicide plans can be made for the field(s) in 2009.

Several of the weed escapes in soybeans this year apparently were not herbicide resistance problems. We have had some weeds come through our hand-sprayer glyphosate applications; so, believe those weeds have resistance. In other plots, we’ve sprayed, weeds died back or died completely after our hand spray treatments. So, in some cases, there may have been application problems, skipped rows, wind blowing product

away from the application site, dust on plants, or even weeds slightly drought-stressed when product was applied.



INSECTS

One cotton consultant described scouting the week of July 28 – August 1 as “boring.” That is good news for that consultant’s growers who have a lot of Bollgard II cotton lines. Another consultant called wanting to know about controlling fall armyworms (FAW)—if they are “wrapped up in red blooms.” That consultant has mostly BGI cotton lines. Still another consultant said it is “eerily quiet” in cotton right now.

Now, there was a flurry of activity and some concern about bollworms and FAW in cotton during the week of July 21 – 26; but it seems the BGII genes took care of the problem without worm sprays being required. That may not have been the case in single-trait Bt cotton.

Plant bugs are picking up and may get heavier as corn continues to dry down in areas surrounding cotton. Still, reports are spotty for treatment thresholds.

Spider mite reports have been few in recent weeks, but dryland cotton may soon have lots of these critters. We are experiencing spider mites in tomatoes, of all things now. In the Master Gardener Youth Garden at the Extension office, spider mites are really damaging tomatoes and are showing up on okra as well—so it is possible that cotton may soon start showing some problems along dusty turn-rows and in dryland fields.

In early July, there was some aphid activity, but that didn’t last too long; probably the cotton aphid fungus took down populations without sprays being needed. (By the way, the UA cotton aphid fungus survey program has closed due to loss of funding.)

MOTH TRAPS

Cotton bollworm and tobacco budworm moth trap catches have decreased dramatically in the county the past couple of weeks—maybe it’s the heat! The chart below shows how things have changed since the beginning of July until the end of July.

SOR	7/3	7/7	7/10	7/14	7/17	7/21	7/24	7/28	7/31	8/5
BB	41	61	12	24	8	4	5	2	2	5
CtDI	101	102	41	63	112	16	46	29	18	49
Lam	68	98	17	37	9	26	19	16	24	18
Per Nite	23.3	21.8	7.8	10.3	14.3	3.8	7.8	3.9	4.9	4.8
NOR										
UAP	130	253	79	103	1	83	12	24	17	63
EP	485	416	593	654	229	184	88	101	63	197
DP	25	45	27	-	23	16	8	-	7	10
Per Nite	71.1	59.5	77.7	94.6	28.1	23.6	12.0	7.3	9.7	18.0

FALL ARMYWORMS

We have been picking up FAW moths in some of the cotton bollworm and tobacco budworm traps in the county recently. For several weeks now, we have experienced FAW populations damaging young wheat beans where weeds, especially grasses, have been left untreated waiting for beans to size up or for growers to decide whether or not to farm certain fields. FAW are quite damaging to cotton crops if left untreated. However, those under red blooms or stuck, dried blooms, aren’t effectively managed with pesticides.

For adequate kill power, FAW must be in open white blooms when treated or must be exposed to the spray material as the worms crawl around on the plants. Once inside cotton bolls, or even in corn stalks, FAW are very difficult to control. Growers and consultants must keep a sharp eye out for signs of FAW as they hatch in fields. Treatment may be necessary at times but may also be avoided if

populations are very low. Good scouting is the answer to the question about treatment or no treatment options/needs.

CORN

-Irrigation Termination: Black layer has formed in many corn fields at this time. This sign of physiological maturity indicates wells can be shut off or moved to soybeans nearby instead of continued pumping on mature corn. Corn should be irrigated until black layer is visible or until the visible starch layer is 75 percent down the kernel.

-Corn Smut: There has been an overabundance of corn smut in the county and state this year. This fungal disease could have blown in during the week or ten days of extreme windy conditions a month or so ago. Smut organism will lie on the soil waiting for next year's crop to be planted. No till and stale seedbed corn should be avoided if possible, and corn should not be planted behind corn to avoid smut organisms from this year's crop.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 13 - Rice Research and Extension Center Stuttgart Field Day

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RREC Field Day Program Stuttgart, Arkansas 13 August 2008

Field Tours

Tours start at 7:30 a.m. - Last tour leaves at 9:30 a.m.

Tour A - 1 hour via trailers, leaves *every half hour* starting at 7:30 a.m.

- 1) **Breeding** - Clearfield Lines; Potential Conventinals - Gibbons, Moldenhauer
- 2) **Fertility** - Minimum N and other fertilizer to keep costs down - Slaton, Norman
- 3) **Biomass Energy** - Sadaka
- 4) **Soybean** - Lespedeza Worm - Lorenz; Asian Soybean Rust - Monfort

Tour B - 1 hour via bus, leaves 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

- 1) **Row Rice** - Agronomics - Anders; Smut - Brooks
- 2) **Weeds** - Levees- Norsworthy; Soybean Herbicides - Scott, Ross

USDA Lab Tour - 1 hour via trailer, leaves 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Topics: Genetic Markers, Cooking Quality, Diseases, Vitamin A

Extension Activities

Three tents will have family-oriented activities:
ATV Use; Wildlife; Food Preparation

Inside Program (Granary)

Posters - View All Morning:

- Authors must be present with poster from 9 to 10 a.m.
- Each poster will have a written summary handout, author contact information

10:45 a.m. - Welcome - *C.W. Deren (UA)*

USDA Update - *Anna McClung (USDA)*

Board Updates (Corn, Soybean, Wheat, Rice)

Featured Speaker - *Andrew McKenzie (UA)*

What is "Basis" and what does it mean to the farmer?

Comments from the Division of Agriculture –
Dr. M.J. Shult (UA Vice-president for Agriculture)

EAT !!!