



St. Francis County

Cotton IPM Report

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Our cotton crop is still behind. Rainfall fell over nearly all of our county and ranged from 0.5 – 2.5 inches. Fruit retention is good in most of our fields. Hopefully, most of our cotton will be blooming next week. Cotton sheds naturally, and we have never been able to keep all of the fruit through the bloom period. However, as much as possible stress should be managed to reduce the severity of the shed. Appropriate nutrient levels, adequate moisture and practicing IPM are the main factors to reduce stresses as much as possible.

Insects Scott Akin

Plant bugs – As more cotton begins to bloom, more nymphs will be found compared to adults. It’s time to be picking up the drop cloth now, if you haven’t already. Monitor populations over the coming weeks. If you are nearing a spray, remember that plant bug control can become more challenging as the cotton laps in the middles due to lack of penetration of insecticide into the canopy. Normally, we would have some plant but efficacy data to share by now, but due to the slow plant bug season, we have not been able to find a “good spot” for testing. Bad news for crop entomologists, but we had rather have it this way.

Bollworm moth flights are still variable. Trap counts in St. Francis County are down from last week. Traps that are near corn fields are catching more bollworm moths. Remember to look deep into the canopy of blooming cotton for both eggs and larvae—particularly on dried bloom tags (see photo). Heliothine eggs can be hard to see on dried blooms when in the red-ring stage, so be extra careful.



SFC Trap Counts

Except where corn borer is noted, trap counts are: tobacco budworm/ bollworm.

	7/01	7/03	7/08	7/11
Dillahunt	0-1	5-8	11-64	4-164
Belle Meade	0-0	9-6	4-16	9-21
DeRossitt Farm	27-138	15-108	18-144	16-51
Madison	11-15	9-5	3-12	4-36
Linden Island	3-66	0-13	0-18	0-21
SFC 742	11-85	5-62	5-65	5-45
Yocona Rd	41-97	2-58	10-78	1-55
Caldwell	9-22	1-7	4-22	0-38
SFC 858	16-88	5-78	8-69	1-47
SFC 130 (SW corn borer)	11	95	210	78
Chappell	0	1	1	2
Danehower Farm	NA	10	49	20