

Dickens County Ag. Newsletter



July 2013



2013 PRODUCERS SUMMIT

This year's annual Producer Summit was held on July 1 at the Spur Community Center. Based on the questions asked and discussion points, I think the event was relevant and timely. A big thanks goes out to the meal sponsors; Spur Security Bank and Capital Farm Credit and Spur Farmers Coop for providing the building. Participants received 3 CEU's. This year's event featured two new guest speakers. Kevin Johnson of the TCU Ranch Management Department presented on Beef Cattle Health and Nutrition while Michael Willson of the NRCS office in Spur conducted a demonstration on soil infiltration with regards to soil condition and organic matter content. Make plans to attend next year and/or contact your Ag. Committee members to request specific programs. Serving on the committee are Clayt Bridge, Heath Givens, Robert Van Meter and Bedford Jones. A special thanks goes out to them.

Chemical Mesquite Control:

AN UPDATE

(The following information was also presented at the 2013 Producers Summit by James Lewis, NRCS, Spur)

For some time now, producers have been depending on Remedy and Reclaim as the key chemicals for mesquite control. Recently, Dow has released a new product under the label – Sendero. It is available locally and appears to

have the improved results to support its claim to be more effective with a lower application rate than the Remedy/Reclaim, which requires mixing and can cost more. DuPont is in the trial phase of its up and coming product, currently referred to as MAT – 28. Unlike the Dow chemicals, trials reveal that MAT-28 will not be mesquite specific and is useful with the control of a wide range of pestilent brush species and is thought to be more effective as a late season application. A local result demonstration is currently underway that will hopefully be a conclusive measure of the effectiveness of Remedy/Reclaim at various application rates as well as Sendero and DuPont's MAT-28. This is a two year evaluation

Cotton Crop Update

(Taken from the latest issue of FOCUS on South Plains Agriculture)

The May 2nd freeze, resulting in later than usual planting, crop damage from June hail and wind events, and the continued severe drought conditions in the Texas High Plains and Panhandle make it difficult, if not impossible, to generalize the current cotton crop conditions. Some of the irrigated crops that either escaped significant hail/wind damage or were planted into a cover crop are at early bloom, but they are still slightly behind as blooming typically starts in early July. As for the remainder of the crop, growth stages vary greatly across the region under irrigated production systems and range from pinhead to candling square stage. The condition of the remaining dryland cotton crop also varies greatly across the region as a result of the sporadic and scattered rainfall events observed to date. Those locations that received rain and got a stand established are struggling and in need of additional moisture to continue, or in some cases, resume growth and development. Unfortunately, in most cases, these dryland cotton crops exhibit skippy stands and are well behind developmentally. The fate of many of the remaining dryland acres is yet to be determined. At the time of this writing, July 17, much of the region has received, or is currently receiving, some rainfall from a system that is moving slowly across the area. According to the Texas Tech Mesonet website, 72 hour rainfall amounts range from a trace to just over 6" across all of the station locations. Plainview currently has observed 6.21" over that time period. Other locations with high rainfall amounts include

Denver City (3.95"), Sundown (3.54"), Plains (3.13"), and Wolfforth (2.75"). The Lubbock TTU and the Reese Center stations have reported 1.96" and 2.34", respectively over the past few days. Irrigated producers should get benefit from this slow moving steady rainfall event. With occasional breaks in the clouds, the potential for square shed should be minimized. Extended periods of cool, cloudy conditions can result in square shed. To date, percent square set under irrigated production systems has been exceptionally good across most of the region. This is attributed greatly to the light early season insect pressure that has been observed. Additionally, due to the lateness of the current cotton crops, and the uncertainty of additional rainfall, it is highly recommended that timely irrigation, insect control, and weed management decisions be made in order to maintain the current set fruit. With good growing conditions for remainder of the season and an open fall, good yields of high quality cotton is very possible in the Texas High Plains and Panhandle regions.

BEEF CATTLE RESULT DEMONSTRATION

A local beef cattle result demonstration is currently underway by the direction of Sonja L. Swiger, PhD, Extension Livestock Entomologist. Horn flies are one of the most important pests to the livestock industry. Controlling horn flies is a must in the United States and can be very time consuming and costly. Horn fly adults are blood feeders that consume between 30 – 40 blood meals per day. The adults remain in constant contact with cattle until oviposition, therefore providing control opportunities. Lack of adequate horn fly control can lead to weight loss and eventually economic loss. Resistance and inadequate control efficacy of ear tags has been documented leading many producers to look for alternative control options, since then newer chemical combinations have been implemented. Many producers now turn to pour-on products, back rubs, dust bags and sprays for horn fly control.

Our role in this trial involves two herds geographically separated. One herd has been tagged with treated ear tags while the other will be monitored without any control measures. Fly counts taken from May through November will be used to determine the efficacy of common pesticides on horn fly populations. Last year's demo was not conclusive because the fly population did not meet the threshold for

accurate data analysis. This could be in part due to the drought. At Dr. Swiger's request, we will conduct this result demonstration for a second year.



2012 COTTON TRIALS

On May 16th four varieties of cotton seed was planted at the McGalliard's Steele Hill farm. This year's result demonstration is in compliance with required experimental design format necessary for accurate data analysis and publication. A stand count was taken on July 12 and determined that all varieties were at the pinhead and match head stage of bowl development at the 9th node of vegetative growth. Based on information gathered from technicians, the Dickens County plot was considerably ahead of the plots viewed so far. A multi-county crops tour is again tentatively scheduled for this fall. CEU's will be available in each participating county.

Down the Road . . .

Put the following dates/events on your calendar:

September 23 (tentative) – Crop Tour, locations in Dickens, Motley, Hall and Briscoe Counties with 6 CEU's available.

October 15 – Wildlife Field Day, Paducah.

For more information about these and other extension programs, contact the extension office at 623-5552.

Thanks for your dedication to agriculture and supporting the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Dickens County.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brendle, CEA-Ag
Dickens County Extension Office
P.O. Box 9
Dickens, Texas 79229
Office: 806-623-5552
Cell: 806-269-6497

