

FORT BEND COUNTY



Agriculture Newsletter

2016 Acreage Reporting of PRF and Perennial Forage (grass intended for grazing or hay)

Dustin Wright, County Executive Director - USDA Farm Service Agency

Inside this issue:

2016 Acreage Reporting of PRF and Perennial Forage	1
Post-Harvest Pigweed Management	2
Bermudagrass Stem Maggot	3
2015 Fort Bend County Hay Show Rules and Information	4
End-of-Season Summary	5

Dates to Remember

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Fort Bend County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline for PRF/Perennial Forage. Programs that require certification of PRF and/or Perennial Forage include the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage Program (PLC).

Perennial Forage includes but is not limited to grass, alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, clover and mixed forage intended for hay or grazing. PRF includes acreage insured as PRF with crop insurance.

The acreage reporting deadline for PRF/Perennial Forage for Fort Bend County is November 15.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting date/s:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is complete.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendars days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing" or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

NAP policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Fort Bend County FSA office at (281) 232-6898.

John Lady

John Gordy
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
1402 Band Road, Suite 100
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
Office: (281) 342-3034
John.Gordy@ag.tamu.edu
http://fortbend.agrilife.org/

Agriculture Newsletter

Page 2

Post-harvest Pigweed Management is Key for Minimizing Weed Pressure in the Following Year

Muthu Bagavathiannan, Assistant Professor of Weed Science, College Station Peter Dotray, Professor of Weed Science, Lubbock; Paul Baumann, Extension Weed Specialist, College Station Gaylon Morgan, State Cotton Specialist, College Station

Palmer amaranth and waterhemp (known as pigweeds) have been spreading rapidly in Texas row crops and several of these populations are likely resistant to glyphosate herbicide. Producers are increasingly recognizing the importance of pre-plant and pre-emergence residual herbicides and multiple modes of action to help prevent/manage glyphosate resistant pigweeds in their fields. However, much of the emphasis is focused on in-season management of pigweeds, while little attention has been given to managing late-season weed flushes that come up at and after crop harvest.

Pigweeds have a tremendous ability to emerge season-long, which includes after crop harvest following rainfall or irrigation events. Depending on the location and crop grown, there may be ample time for late-emerging pigweeds to produce mature seed prior to a killing frost. In particular, there is a huge potential for pigweed seed production in Texas following the harvest of corn, sorghum and other early-planted crops. Pigweeds can flower even when they are only few inches tall and only need about two weeks from flowering to seed maturity.

Experiments were conducted in College Station and Lubbock to understand the seed production potential of Palmer amaranth (both locations) and waterhemp (College Station) as they emerge at different dates late-season. Pigweed seedlings were monitored weekly starting August 19 in College Station and September 11 in Lubbock, at which point the majority of corn and sorghum were already harvested in these regions. The first flush of Palmer amaranth that came up after crop harvest produced on average about 20,000 seeds/plant in College Station and 500 seeds/plant in Lubbock. Palmer amaranth produced mature seeds even when they emerged as late as mid- to late October in both locations, with about 10 to 20 seeds/plant. Likewise,

waterhemp produced about 800 seeds/plant when they emerged during the first week of September in College Station and seed production continued for as late as mid-October (about 8 seeds/plant).

These observations are noteworthy because even if a pigweed plant only produces few seeds, considering the tens of thousands of pigweeds that emerge in an infested field, there will be millions of seeds going back to the soil. Given the damage that pigweeds cause to crop production, even these small numbers of seed can

make a significant impact in future growing seasons. It is extremely important that growers include post-harvest pigweed management as part of their weed management program. It may mean an additional pass of herbicide application and/or cultivation, but the efforts are well worth it and is a good investment in terms of better weed control and yield protection in the subsequent season. Growers may use herbicides such as Liberty Gramoxone, or MSMA tank-mixed with a residual herbicide such as Dual, Warrant, or Direx for longer pigweed control. Future cotton technologies may allow late in-season use of 2,4-D Choline and/or dicamba. Be sure to spray the weeds when they are less than 2-3 inches tall and keep the plant-back interval in mind while choosing residual herbicides. As always, please read and follow label instructions when making applications.



Seed head production in late-emerging pigweeds following corn harvest.

Bermudagrass Stem Maggot

Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Forage Extension Specialist, Soil & Crop Sciences, Overton, TX <u>vacorriher@ag.tamu.edu</u> Allen Knutson, Extension Entomologist, Department of Entomology, Dallas, TX Larry Redmon, State Forage Extension Specialist, Soil & Crop Sciences, College Station, TX

The bermudagrass stem maggot (Atherigona reversura), a new pest of bermudagrass forage in Texas has been reported from Jasper, Comanche, Rusk, Denton, Lee, Lavaca and Waller Counties in 2015 so far. The bermudagrass stem maggot is native to south Asia (from Japan westward to Pakistan) and was first reported in the United States in Georgia in 2010. This pest only infests bermudagrass and stargrass (Cynodon spp.). The fly (yellow with black head) lays its eggs within the stem of the bermudagrass plant. Once the egg hatches the larva, or maggot, (white with black head, 1/8" – 3/16" long) moves to the last plant node and consumes the plant material within the stem. This stem damage results in the death of the top two to three leaves while the rest of the plant remains green. This gives a stand of bermudagrass the appearance of frost damage. The amount of damage seems to be dependent on growing conditions as well as the point during regrowth when the flies lay their eggs. If there are good growing conditions with good soil fertility and moisture the loss seems to have minimal impact on dry matter yield. However, if forage production is limited by poor soil fertility and dry soil conditions more damage can result. The shoot stops elongating as a result of the insects damage. In response the plant may grow another shoot from a lower node of the damaged shoot. This new shoot can also be attacked by later generations of the bermudagrass stem maggot.



Bermudagrass Stem Maggot (Photo courtesy of Joe Janak)

Most producers will typically see the resulting damage before finding the pest. Producers are less likely to see damage in a grazing pasture since livestock will keep forage grazed down.



Bermudagrass Stem Maggot Fly (Photo Courtesy of Dennis Hancock, The University of Georgia)

Management recommendations for hay meadow damage are to harvest hay as soon as possible to reduce the yield impact. If damage is found within 1 week of the name of the property that

the normal harvest stage, proceed to harvest the crop as soon as weather conditions allow. Once the damage becomes apparent, the crop is unlikely to add a significant amount of yield. If damage is observed within 1 to 3 weeks after a harvest, it is also likely that the crop will not add a significant amount of yield. The damaged crop should be cut

and baled and removed from the field as soon as weather conditions allow. Leaving the damaged crop in the field will only compete with any attempts by the plant to regrow and decrease the opportunity that the next cutting will have to accumulate dry matter.

A foliar application of any pyrethroid (beta-cyfluthrin, cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin and zeta cypermethrin) insecticide labeled for bermudagrass can control the bermudagrass stem maggot. However, guidelines on the economic return on controlling this new pest and timing and frequency of insecticide treatments have not been clearly defined.



Damage caused by the bermudagrass stem maggot (Photo courtesy of Richard Waligura, Waller County, TX)



2015 Fort Bend County Hay Show Rules

- 1. Hay must be produced in Fort Bend County by the producer entering the sample, and must have been processed through a baler.
- 2. Entries must be a complete, conventional square bale, <u>OR</u> enough forage from the middle of a round bale to completely fill a paper feed sack. Please do not bring a complete round bale.
- 3. To submit a hay show entry, bring your samples to the Fort Bend County Extension Office, or to one of the three locations below:

Damon Farm and Ranch 3406 County Road 364N Damon, Texas 77430

Samples will be accepted between <u>Monday, October 5 and Monday, October 12.</u> Damon Farm and Ranch is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday.

Crop Production Services 2443 Spur 529 Rosenberg, TX 77471

Samples will be accepted between Monday, October 5 and Monday, October 12. Crop Production Services is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday.

Arcola Feed 6215 FM 521 Rd Rosharon, TX 77583

Samples will be accepted between <u>Monday, October 5 and Monday, October 12</u>. Arcola Feed is open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

- 4. Entries will be limited to 3 entries (hay samples) per producer.
- 5. Hay show classes are as follows:
 - 1. Bermudagrass
 - 2. Non Bermudagrass
- 6. No Entry Fee. Testing results will give you % crude protein, % ADF fiber, and % TDN (energy).
- 7. All hay becomes the property of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Fort Bend County.

The hay show will take place on <u>Tuesday</u>, October 27, 2015 at The Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Building D. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. A meal will be provided. There will be no charge. Please RSVP by Friday, October 23, 2015. More information will be sent out in early October. If special program accommodations by participants are needed, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program.

For more information about the Fort Bend County Hay Show, or to RSVP contact:

Brandy Rader at 281-342-3034

End-of-Season Summary

John Gordy, County Extension Agent—Agriculture and Natural Resources

With early season surplus rain and planting delays followed by an especially dry period, only again to see regular rains slowing cotton defoliation and picking, this has not been a year without its challenges for both row crop and cattle producers. As we are at the end of the summer and the beginning of the fair, It seems like there may finally be a light at the end of the tunnel. Corn and sorghum have been harvested and pro-

ducers are diligently working to complete cotton harvest, now that there is some dry weather forecasted for the near future.

In terms of county acres, grain sorghum saw the largest percent increase in planted acres from 2014 to 2015, and corn saw the largest percent decrease. The table on the right provides an overall summary of planted acres for 2014 and 2015, based on USDA reported acres as of September 1 of this year.

	2014	2015	% Change
Corn	13,470	7,602	-44
Co on	33,293	24,481	-26
Sorghum	25,675	37,202	+45
Soybeans	2,985	2,245	-25
Rice	5,011	5,141	+3
Total	80,434	76,671	-5

As far as applied research and result demonstrations go, things are mostly wrapping up—the county sorghum, corn, and cotton plots have been harvested, as have the corn Afla-Guard trial, cotton root rot demonstration, and soil nitrogen result demonstration. We also have a pasture weed control plot where we are collecting data for several common weeds treated with selected herbicides.

Also, despite generally low populations of sugarcane aphid in sorghum during the normal growing period (thankfully), we were able to get a late planting and use re-growth for some ongoing threshold and insecticide efficacy studies where we have ample aphid populations. You can see below the difference between an untreated plot (left) and a treated plot (right), in terms of overall health and maturity. I would estimate that less than 10% of sorghum acres in Fort Bend County were sprayed for sugarcane aphids this year, which is very fortunate for producers, considering how everything else has gone. With that in mind, don't strike aphid sprays from your budget for next year as they will likely continue to be a pest in this area.



Effect of sugarcane aphid populations on grain sorghum—Untreated (left) versus treated (right). Photo taken September 16.

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service — Fort Bend County John Gordy, County Extension Agent– Ag/NR 1402 Band Road, Suite 100 Rosenberg, Texas 77471

STANDARD PRESORT
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
ROSENBERG, TEXAS 77471
PERMIT NO. 51





DATES TO REMEMBER

September 26: Beef Symposium at the Fair—Veterinary Feed Directive Update

October 5—October 12: Dates for Sample Submission for 2015 Fort Bend County Hay Show (See Rules on Page 4)

October 27: Fort Bend County Hay Show

November 15: Deadline for PRF/Perennial Forage Acreage Reporting

John Gordy, CEA- Ag/NR John.gordy@ag.tamu.edu (281) 342-3034 Fort Bend County Extension 1402 Band Road, Suite 100 Rosenberg, Texas 77471

Find us online at: http://fortbend.agrilife.org

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 281-342-3034 for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.