General Situation

Seems we finally got our first good rain! It rained Sunday about 2 inches throughout the Valley. In some areas east of Mercedes through San Benito and Harlingen they had a little heavier rainfall of 3-4 inches. On Monday we continued to have traces of rain. With the rain came a decrease in pest activity. Also we are an average of 200 heat units behind normal this time of year compared to the last 2 years because of the cold fronts we keep getting bringing night temperatures down to the upper 50s, lower 60s.

Cotton

This week in cotton we have good reports of little insect pressure due to the recent rains. Spidermite populations crashed and aphids were nowhere to be found either. The low fleahopper activity we were seeing last week seems to have been beaten by the rain. However, they are not gone, just temporarily dislodged, so we want to keep an eye out for fleahoppers in the next 7-10 days. They may emerge back from their host plants. Cotton throughout the Valley has anywhere from 2-6 squares so it’s going to be very important to keep fleahopper populations in check to avoid blasted
squares. Fleahopper adults are 3mm in length, oval shaped and yellowish/green in color. Fleahopper nymphs are incredibly small compared to adults and are translucent white to light green and get darker green as they feed. The nymphs have big light purplish/red eyes and long antennae. When scouting for fleahoppers you have to be subtle and not let them see your shadow because they scurry off real fast.

Grain Sorghum and Corn

In grain sorghum no insect activity was reported but do keep in mind that mid-May is right around the corner and so we want to be prepared to look for midge at that time. Some sorghum has already started to mature quickly changing head color, while the majority of grain sorghum will be blooming pretty heavy these next 2 weeks. Corn maturing well with ears and browned silk. Only reports of corn earworm eggs being found at 10% infestation were reported.

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Traps inspected for current week: 28,974

BEET ARMYWORM TRAPPING

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Traps inspected for current week: 66
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