



## Pest Cast

*The Row Crops IPM Newsletter for the LRGV, a cooperative project of Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cotton & Grain Producers of the lower Rio Grande Valley*

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### **A special Thank you to our Sponsors and others for their Support**

A special thank you to my sponsors, thank you so much for supporting our local IPM program in the LRGV through the donations you have given to the pest cast this year. With it I am able to do many things: write the pest cast, travel to fields, conduct trials, and hire interns to train and scout with me, so big thanks to you all and all you do for our Valley Ag! Thank you to my growers that work with me and allowed us to scout your land, Thank you! Thank you to my colleagues that work with me on a daily basis and to my counter parts in Corpus Christie, Dr. Robert Bowling and Josh McGinty. Also thank you to my county agents Enrique Perez, Brad Cowan, and Matthew Rodriguez and to Gaylon Morgan for your help and support. Also many of our local crop consultants John Norman, Webb Wallace, Cody Johnson, Jason Holley, Jim Trolinger and many more, you guys have been great help this year in my program, thank you for letting me contact you on a weekly basis and for contacting me when there is a pest of concern, it makes me a better entomologist, thank you. It takes a lot to keep this program going and I thank all of you for your support. I thank my student interns this year, which happened to be all ladies: Alma Olguin, Degan Teagan, Tiana Barco, Annie Rincon, and Eileen Taniguchi. Some of my students helped with moth trapping for invasives that came back all negative, others the general row crop scouting, and others helped me with the herbicide cotton stalk trial, Thank you ladies. And a special thanks to Charlie Cook, Beto Garza and Martin Barosso, thanks guys. Thanks to everyone for a very good year.

### **General Situation**

It has been very rainy and wet these past 3 weeks around the LRGV as we receive some much needed moisture. I know here at the Weslaco station we have gotten about 8 inches of rain, same at Hiler farms where I have my cotton stalks herbicide trial going on. In general the east side of the Valley has received anywhere from 5-7 inches of rain and the west side of the Valley about 3-5 inches in most areas. Those who have fall corn planted it has really taken off and looks beautiful.

### **Cotton**

This year was a busy year for cotton growers down in the LRGV with almost 194,865 acres planted. Growers hadn't planted this much cotton since before I came on the scene in 2011. Harvest season was a whirlwind but everyone managed to get their cotton harvested and to the gins safely and in a timely manner. Cotton yields really varied this year. While the general average for irrigated cotton seems to be 3 bales per acre, some yielded less. Dryland yields were anywhere from half a bale to 1 bale per acre but then there were some growers who received those rains at just the right time and were able to make 3 bales per acre like that of irrigated cotton. It was a very hot and dry season for most. While we received some rain in the Valley during the growing season we never really got a consistent rain that hit everywhere all at once, it really varied, hence the variation in yields. Also this year we started out with very little moisture and dry conditions because we received very little rain in the fall last year so any water the cotton did get the ground would just quickly soak it up. Overall, it was a really great cotton

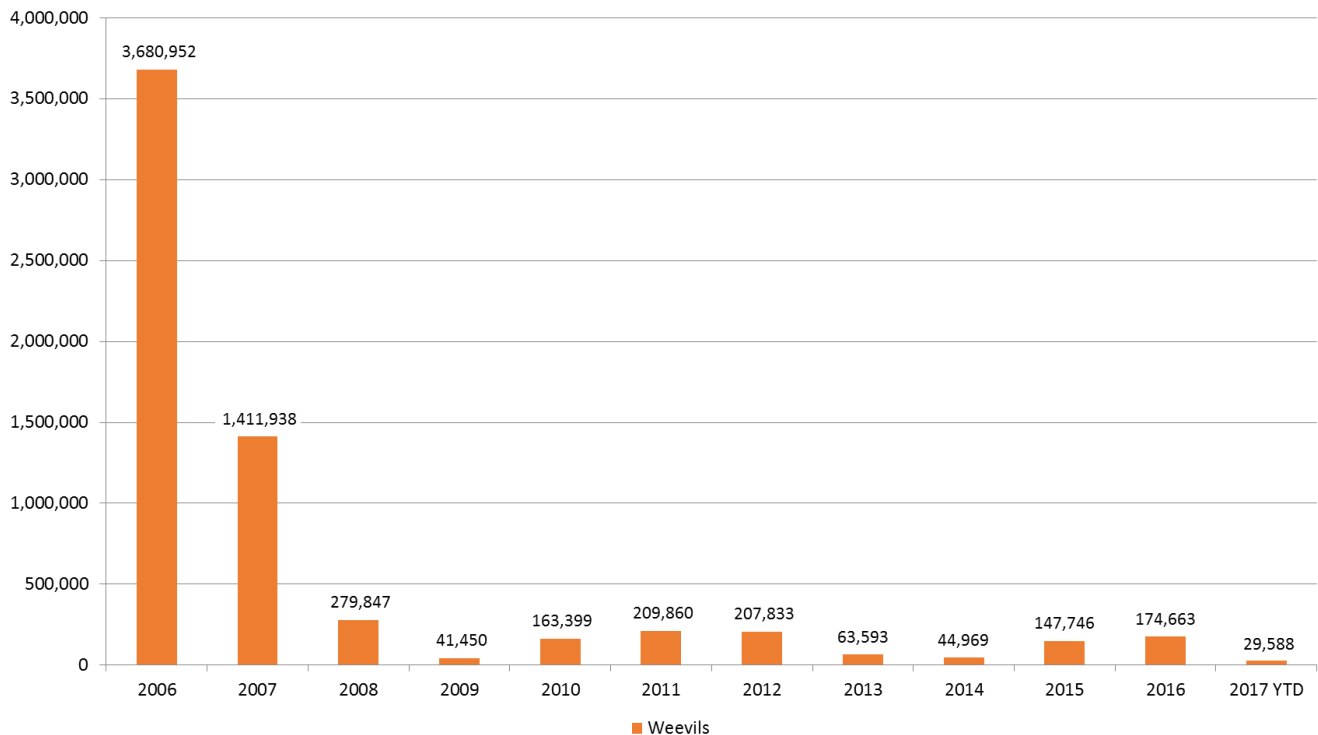
season this year despite many pests and dry conditions. In the paragraphs below Edward Herrera shares an update on the boll weevil program as well as some awesome graphs. Thanks Edward.

**On behalf of S. Edward Herrera, Zone Manager, Lower Rio Grande Valley Zone boll weevil Update:**

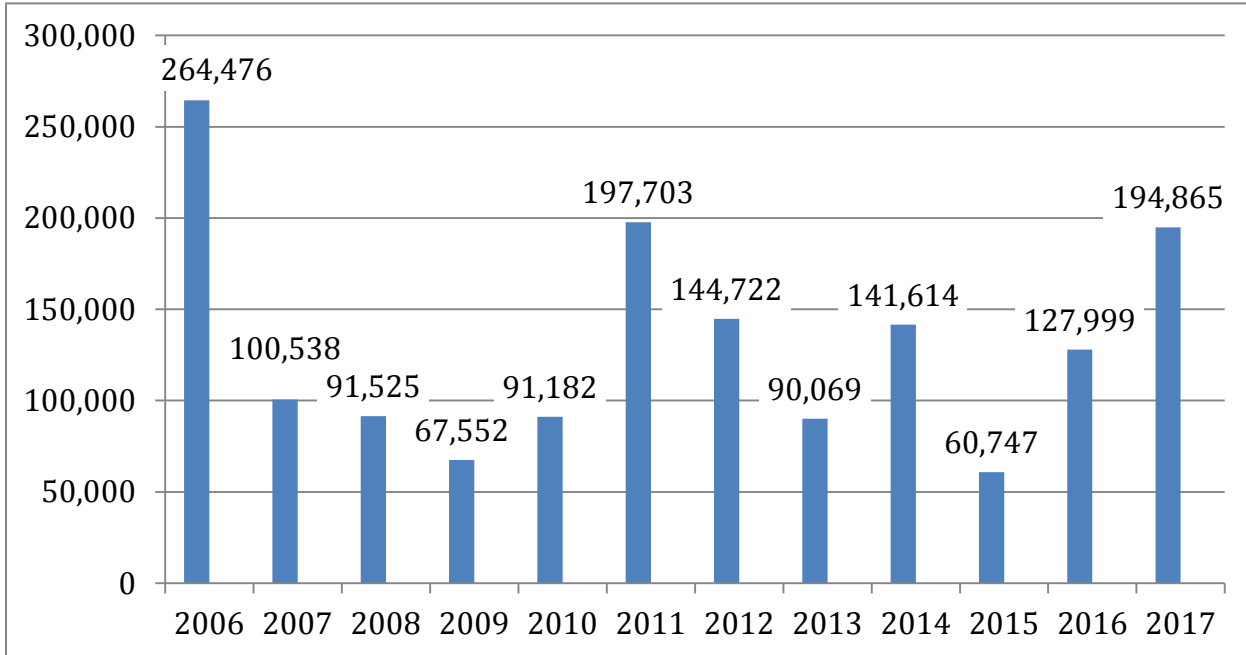
So far this year we have made significant progress with reduction of weevil numbers. From last season to the current date we are showing over 80% reduction in weevil numbers. One factor that greatly assisted with the program's progress was that Producers were more program conscientious in allowing access to entire perimeter of cotton acreage. With that said, one challenge that could have an adverse effect on current progress is that we are still working with approximately 5,000 acres weekly that are out of compliance with stalk destruction regulations. Producers continue to work towards bringing these fields into compliance but with recent rains challenge remains. Failure to comply with stalk destruction regulations is very detrimental to program's progress and is most significant at beginning of following season due to not having a host free period where weevils cannot gain sustenance and reproduce in cotton.

For the Tamaulipas program it continues to make significant progress in their eradication effort. Tamaulipas' reduction in weevil numbers continues and it has had a very positive effect on the Texas program. Producers in the Tamaulipas area have been very instrumental in cooperating with program's implementation and their weevil numbers reflect that.

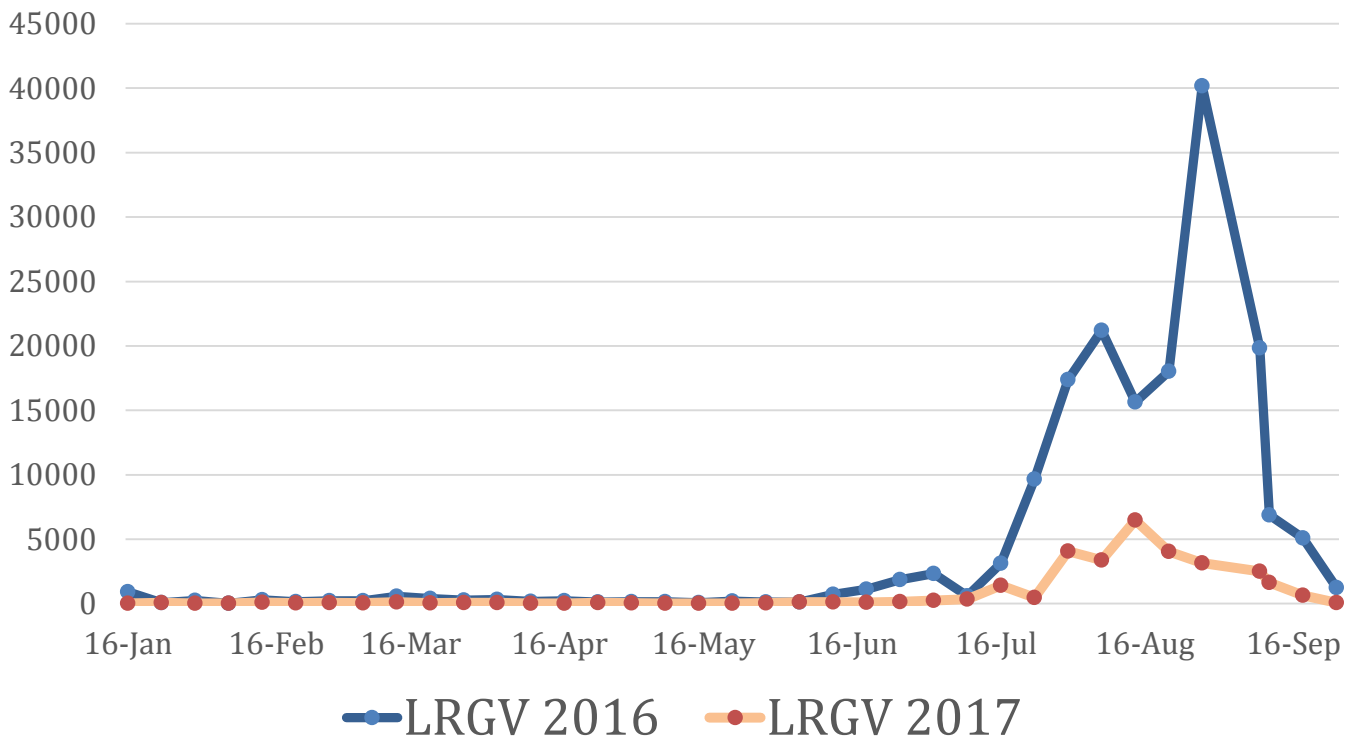
**LRGV Total Weevils 2006-2017**



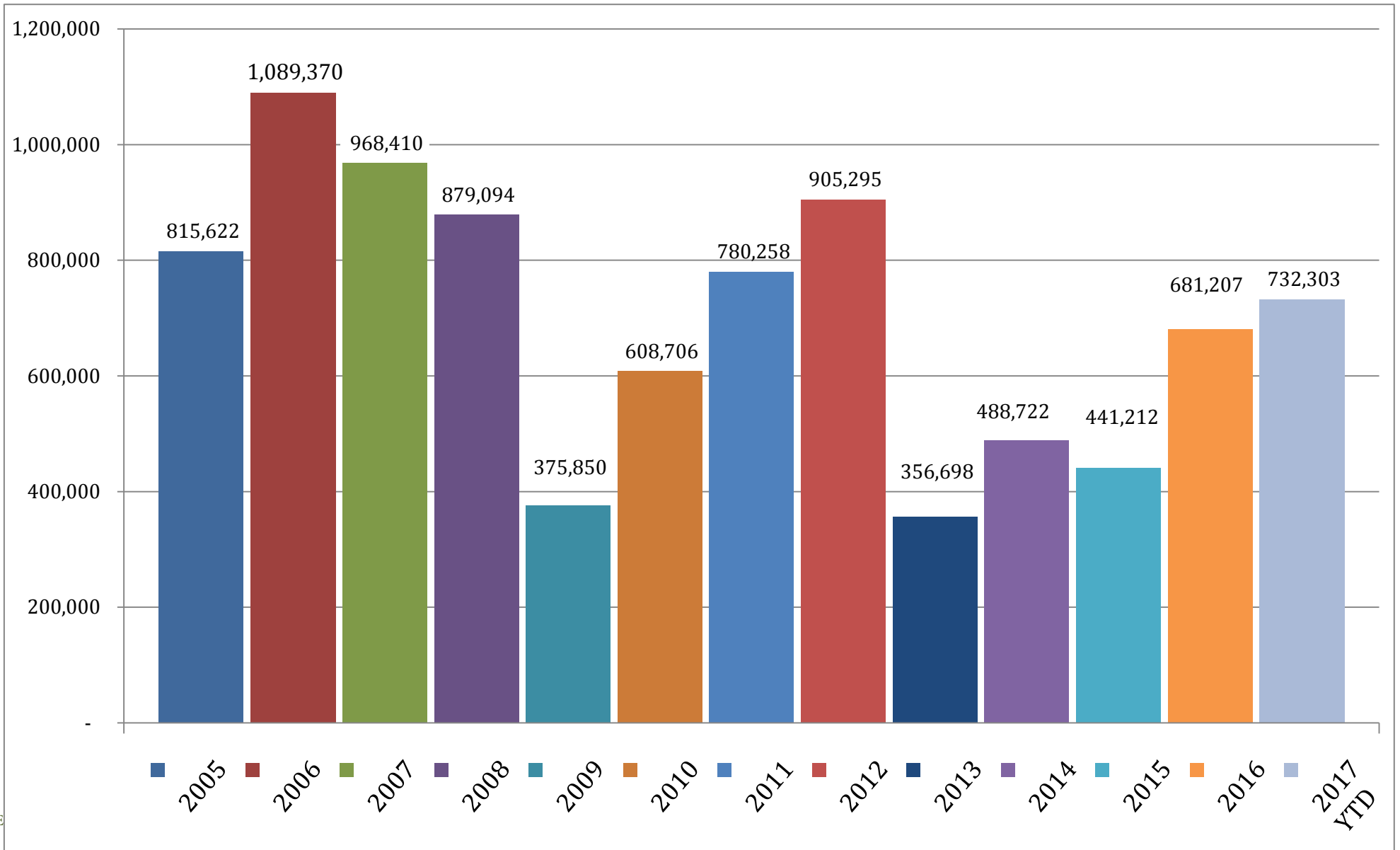
### LRGV Cotton Acreage Comparison over the years



### 2016-2017 LRGV Captures



**Lower Rio Grande Valley Zone : Total Acres Treated Season Long**



Below you will also find the Valley CO-OP Oil Mill ginning report for this week for this year. Thank you VALCO:

**Valley CO-OP Oil Mill  
VALCO  
Report #13, Date: 10/9/2017  
Rio Grande Valley Cotton Ginning Report and Comparison Chart**

County	Week Ending	Total to Date Ginned	In comparison with total to date for same week ending in year shown.			
			10/10/2016	(Final) 10/10/2016	(Final) 10/26/2015	(Final) 11/10/2014
		(2017)				
<b>Cameron</b>	11,653	154,540	1	119,119	55,964	120,865
<b>Hidalgo</b>	5,087	105,642	0	69,047	40,780	62,019
<b>Willacy</b>	0	110,353	1,554	101,897	31,292	113,950
<b>Valley Total</b>	16,740	370,535	1,555	290,063	128,036	296,834

<u>Gins with reported data</u>		<u>Total</u>
Cameron County	4	3
Hidalgo Country	4	2
Willacy County	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>

**Grain Sorghum**

Grain sorghum growers did a great job managing the sugarcane aphid this year. Many applied a spray application at least once to control sugarcane aphids. Yields in dryland were really good this year. Some growers I talked to yielded anywhere from 3500 to 5500 lbs per acre on average but in dryer locations we did receive lower yields of 1500 lbs / acre. Irrigated sorghum yields varied but most growers were yielding about 3700 to 6500 lbs/ acre.

**As we head into next year...**

As we finish up the year just a reminder to control cotton regrowth, and hostable stalks. It's so important to help us start the new growing season with low boll weevil numbers. I have been evaluating my herbicide trials and what I can tell you is that Sharpen works very well especially with all this rain in keeping hostable cotton numbers down and 2,4 d as well when you can get an application in that will not get rained on for about a day. Also it is important to rid fields of volunteer sorghum as they too harbor sugarcane aphids for the next growing season. Again Thanks everyone and take care, danielle sekula.

**Thank you Research Grant Sponsors**

**Cotton Inc.**

**Texas Grain Sorghum Board**

**USDA NIFA iPiPE CAP grant**

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