



## 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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### Wishing you a Happy Retirement Dr. Enrique Perez

As the growing season comes to an end so does the dedicated career of an amazing colleague and friend of mine, Dr. Enrique Perez. Dr. Enrique Perez started his career in 1981 in Cameron county as an assistant agent where he managed a very active 4H program, he then quickly moved on to become county extension agent in Starr County in 1983. It was there he made his first impact in educating on farm safety establishing the program “Safety in the Workplace” where he conducted on average 12 trainings annually to reach and educate the Spanish speaking community of safety on the farm in which after 6 years it was documented that 90% of the agriculture related accidents declined during this time that Dr. Enrique Perez initiated this program. While in Starr County he conducted numerous onion and melon demonstrations with commercial growers. He then went on to serve as the Cameron County Extension agent (program leader) in 1998 for another 20 years to date serving as an active leader establishing many key programs that have touched and impacted the lives of many in the community. Just to name a few of the programs that Dr. Enrique Perez has established and conducted throughout his years of service in environmental stewardship are:

- Conservation tillage practices
- Establishing first official Master Gardener Association
- Rain water harvesting program
- Pesticide Safety Training Meetings
- Multi-County Cotton and Grain Pre-plant Conferences
- Cameron County Crop Cotton/grain Hybrid tests- Result Demonstration Research
- Bull gain test and Heifer Development program
- Master Rancher program/class
- Soil Testing program
- Vector Management Training for Municipalities, School Districts, and Governmental Agencies
- And many, many more programs

During All of this he managed to receive both his masters and Doctor of Education while being a very busy extension agent as well as a husband and father. I am honored and happy that I was able to work the last 5 ½ years alongside such a man of great integrity. I think I can speak for all of us when I say I am in Awe of all that you have done for the community that we love so much! We wish him all the best in his retirement as I am sure he will be just as busy if not more so. Thank you, Dr. Enrique Perez, for all your years of service in not just Cameron county but the whole LRGV!



**Dr. Enrique Perez, Ed.D., County Extension Agent- Agricultural & Natural Resources**

**Thank You Sponsors for your Support!!!**

Every year is different and brings on new challenges and I am so grateful for the awesome support of monetary donations we received from our Sponsors this year. Thank you Sponsors! The money we receive for the Pest Cast helps us to fund our research and IPM scouting program in the LRGV. Your support is what makes our local row crop IPM program run smoothly allowing us to give weekly updates on current pest and crop conditions. Thank you for your continued support and contributions that have allowed me to ensure we have a strong IPM program for our cotton and grain producers of the LRGV!

**Thanks also to...**

Thank you to my Valley growers for allowing me to work with you on various projects and for allowing us to scout your fields. Also many thanks to you Webb Wallace and all your help this year. A big thank you to Rick Hernandez, Jason Holley, John Norman, Jim Trolinger, Beto Garza, Martin Barossa, Edward Herrera, JoAnne Long, Alma Olguin, Tiana Barco and Christian Cruz for all your help this year!

**Cotton**

Cotton is being harvested as quickly as possible now with the September 1 deadline for cotton stalk destruction right around the corner. It is very hot and dry as everyday we have seen temperatures in the 100s for the most part and if not, the heat index surely surpassed that. This has helped the later planted cotton to catch up in maturity. So far from growers I have heard yield varied greatly. For most irrigated growers they have had any were from 650 to 1500 lbs. of cotton per acre, with most landing between 750 to 1500 lbs. cotton/acre. In dryland it was a different story with some cotton not even emerging but for those dryland growers who had cotton emerge they had anywhere from 350 to 500 lbs. cotton/acre. The rain we received in June that was left standing in some fields really affected some growers as their cotton ended up rotting and others who had late cotton seemed to benefit the most from that rain spell.

**Valley CO-OP Oil Mill**

**VALCO**

**Report #4, Date: 08/20/2018**

**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.			
			08/07/2017	(Final) 10/16/2017	(Final) 10/10/2016	(Final) 10/26/2015
		(2018)				
Cameron	10,824	20,545	12,740	161,159	119,119	55,964
Hidalgo	7,571	21,666	8,562	109,191	69,047	40,780
Willacy	4,753	11,246	13,252	110,353	101,897	31,292
Valley Total	23,148	53,457	34,554	380,703	290,063	128,036

<u>Gins with reported data</u>		<u>Total</u>
Cameron County	4	3
Hidalgo Country	4	3
Willacy County	3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>

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

For 2018 acreage we had maximum of 213,549 acres planted into cotton. As you know there were issues with dryland acreage in that lots of acres were zeroed out thru insurance and not carried to harvest. Information that has been reported shows approximately 85,506 acres will not be carried to harvest. There have been some acres destroyed recently that will not be harvested so possibility of additional acres not harvested still exists. For the difference we show 128,043 acres that will probably be harvested. Of that approximately 50% have already been picked as of August 22nd.

In weevil numbers we are in line with last year's captures at same time of season with 17,716 weevils reported year to date. Areas that continue to be a challenge to control weevil reproduction are areas with limited access. It is encouraged for Producers to continue working with their Program by leaving access around perimeter of fields allowing implementation of program protocols, have better control of weevils and eradicate as soon as possible. Overall our Valley growers have done and continue to do an excellent job controlling boll weevils in the LRGV.

#### **Stalk Destruction**

One very important deadline that is coming up is September 1<sup>st</sup> which is stalk destruction deadline. Any cotton that remains hostable after this date will be in violation of regulations and subject to fees.

Another serious challenge that will be monitored is harvesting equipment leaving Lower Rio Grande Valley area and traveling North into other Eradication Zones. Persons moving equipment will be responsible for equipment to be clean and not harboring weevils.

For information within different zones on stalk destruction deadlines and equipment movement you can visit TDA or TBWEF websites for rules and regulations. \*Growers who want to control cotton regrowth with herbicides should consider using a combination of 2,4D + Sharpen for the best control as past trials I have done have shown that this combination works the best.



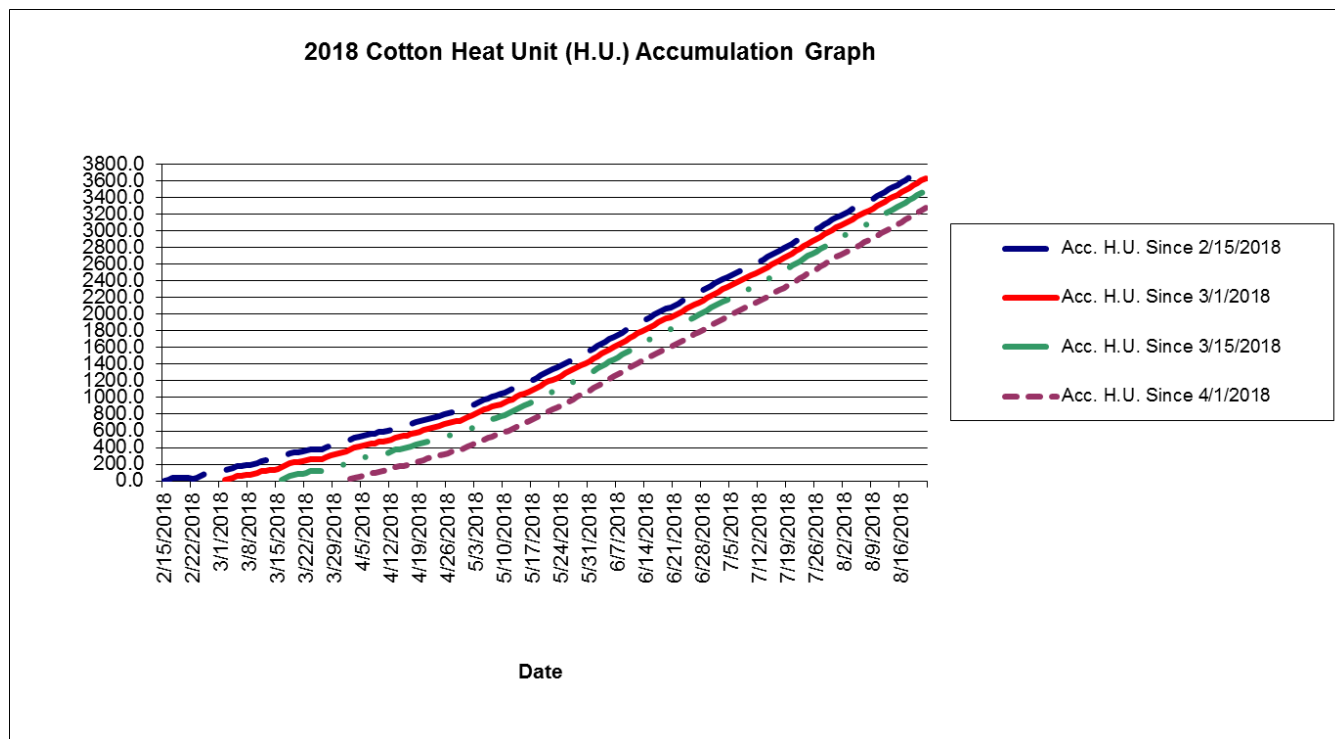
**Figure 1: Cotton stalks being destroyed**

#### **Grain Sorghum**

Grain sorghum growers did fairly well this year given the severity of the drought. Irrigated grain sorghum growers were averaging about 6,000 lbs./acre and in dryland it varied from 700 lbs. to 2000 lbs. per acre. After calling several growers it appears 92% of growers did not have to spray for sugarcane aphids this season while the other 8% seem to have sprayed near harvest due to a late infestation. It was incredible this year to have almost no growers needing to spray for sugarcane aphids as compared to previous years battling the sugarcane aphids. About 65% of the Valleys growers had to spray their sorghum

for sugarcane aphids at least once during 2017 growing season while in 2016 it was 85%. Either way growers need to be diligent during the off season to control Johnson grass and volunteer sorghum so that way we lower the overwintering populations of sugarcane aphids for next year.

Again thank you all for a good season and look forward to next year. Take care. Danielle Sekula



## Thank You 2018 IPM Pest Cast Sponsors!

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