

“Ag Happenings”

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Farley Farm Supply

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have weeks to go before harvest then spraying is your only option, fortunately



the insecticides we use are fairly cheap.

Cotton Progress

The cotton crop has made great progress over the last few weeks. As you can tell from the picture cotton on the lower limbs is starting to open up or crack as we say. It takes 60 heat units to move from a cracked boll to open up the next one. Today we are accumulating about 20 heat

Armyworms in Bermudagrass

It started just a few weeks ago but they were vicious! Armyworms are named well because they can march across a field, eating most of the forage as they go. These caterpillars do little damage until they reach about an inch long and then they can eat a lot of grass quickly. We found them in bermudagrass, either in irrigated fields or fields that had weekly showers.

What do you do? If possible cut the field for hay. Removing the food source causes them to move or die. If you still



units a day so about 3 days from a cracked boll to open the next one. At 50-60% of the bolls cracked then we begin to consider using boll openers and defoliants to move the crop along and so we can get it stripped. The problem we



have is pulling the “trigger” too soon which will affect lint quality in immature bolls. In this picture the uppermost boll is too immature and even though we may open it, the lint quality can affect the whole bale. The bottom boll is about to open.

We have chemicals to open bolls, defoliate the plant, and combinations of both but which to use depends on how quickly you need to harvest and how the weather is reacting. Needless to say, we try to look at a field before making any decisions!!

Bermudagrass Stem Maggot (BSM)

There are very few diseases or even insects that hurt bermudagrass but you have already learned about armyworms and now I have to tell you about another insect problem, bermudagrass stem maggot (BSM). This insect is a recent import from Asia coming into Georgia around 2010. It has since moved east

until this year when it has been found in several parts of Texas.

Recently a local producer brought by a



sample of bermudagrass that had dead leaves near the top of the plant. I emailed Dr. Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist to ask if he knew of a reason for this and immediately he suggested it might be BSM. On a Georgia website I found a good description of the insect and pictures of what they do and it matched our problem.

This is caused by a small fly that lays an egg on the stem which hatches a maggot that then burrows into the stem causing



the leaf to die. It takes about 3 weeks for it to complete the life cycle.

What can you do? At this time the only treatment is cutting because we don't know enough about the insect to know how to treat. It is not hard to spray for flies but we don't know when they come to the field and how long they stay. As we get more information we will be sure to keep you informed.

Planting Small Grains

It is that time of year when we plant small grains for grain, forage for cattle or for wildlife plots. All we are waiting for is a good rain and then things will get really busy.

This year we have changed things up a little and added grain carts to help producers who want to plant lots of acres quickly.

We have both bulk wheat and oats that you can get in a grain cart or in large tote bags.

If you don't need a grain cart then we still have plenty of small grains and ryegrass in bags to be picked up.

We also sell Austrian winter peas and



turnips if you want to make a wildlife mix or add to your grazing mix.

Guar Harvest

As you can see in the picture, guar is slowing maturing as a crop. Guar is a fairly short season crop maturing in about 110 days. This took me by surprise since



I wasn't ready for it to drop leaves and turn yellow so quick. As the plant accumulated enough heat units and the days got shorter it began to lose leaves. The plant will soon be nothing but green stalks which we will kill in preparation for final harvest. We anticipate beginning harvest in the next two weeks.

Soil Samples

Don't forget that we are glad to come and take a soil sample for you. We only charge for testing the soil, not taking the sample. We take a sample and send it to A&L Labs and have the results back in days.





Pecan Weevil

The pecan weevil lives in the ground for at least two years before it emerges as an adult. The adult can fly but prefers to walk up the tree from the ground and begins finding nuts. The weevil has a long snout that it uses to puncture the pecan and either feed or lay an egg in the hole. This egg hatches out and the grub or larva feeds inside the nut before boring a hole in the shell and dropping to the ground. The hole you see in the picture is the result of the weevil leaving the pecan. The female weevil can feed in a pecan in the water stage but she cannot lay an egg in the

pecan until the nut has the gel like substance inside. We are currently going from the water stage to the gel or dough stage in many pecans.

It takes 5 days from ground emergence for a female to start laying eggs. Females lay eggs in an average of 22.7 nuts per female. It doesn't take too many weevils to mean a lot of damage. For many commercial growers even one weevil is too many. These early emerging weevils can be costly but the late weevils can end up in a sack of salable pecans which is a real problem.

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Bob Whitney

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