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Extension Ag Team - Fall Planning Meeting
Maricopa Agricultural Center
September 6, 2013
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Kurt, Peter, Pedro, Marco, Lydia, Shawna, Al, Ayman (joined late), Mike, Russ, Randy, Paul.

I. Current and Near Term Problems/Issues Related to Crop Production & Pest Management (Discussion: Agents & Specialists)

- a. Stink Bugs (Peter)
- b. Glyphosate resistance (Bill)
- c. Yuma pesticide incident (Kurt)
- d. Other pest and production issues (all, roundtable)

A. Peter. Stink bug activity and some sprays going on in Safford. Brown stink bug is the main species, particularly bad in Blythe and Parker, parts of central AZ. It was an issue last year, thought it was an anomaly, but now appears to be an ongoing issue. The pest does well in wheat, corn, alfalfa and cotton. In cotton, it is a boll feeder. Need to pop bolls (described in a bulletin), sweep sampling doesn't work. Transmit boll rot organisms and a fusarium that causes hard lock. Under humid conditions, diseases are worse. In alfalfa, they are not damaging, but can occur in large numbers. In wheat, late in the season, they may feed on the seedhead. They feed directly on corn kernels, and could increase risk of aflatoxin. They may feed on any kinds of beans, can blemish melons. Refer calls to Peter or Lydia so they can respond. Lydia is working on commercial demos, one in Paloma. Message to clientele: there is no selective option. Bifenthrin, Bidrin (best results so far), other pyrethroids, etc. Transform, Carbine, Belay are not effective. Mayhem (Diamond) is an IGR, and only controls nymphs, so it won't be a solution. Crop ecology is important. Easier to control in wheat than in cotton. There are some egg parasitoids Lydia has found. Covered this topic in summer workshops.

B. Bill was in Buckeye a lot this summer studying glyphosate resistant Palmer amaranth. 5% solution of roundup Powermax, seemed to be effective in some crops: e.g., cotton and sorghum. Along roadsides, less effective. They have collected seed from potentially resistant plants, will test them in the greenhouse. 3 different situations: cotton growers have gone back to using preplant DNA herbicides, and those fields are looking good. Those that did not use pre-plant but treated pigweed when it was small, it seemed to be effective. Along roadsides.... Corn silage among dairies, see a lot of large pigweed that the growers don't deal with. Individual growers are going to have think about managing their own seedbank and be proactive in management. Pre-emergent Palmer control tools are effective. It may not be a huge issue for our cotton industry if people adopt good amangement practices. Populations in other parts of AZ continue to test out as susceptible. Bill plans to share new data throughout the winter in Extension meetings, talk about best management practices.

C. Kurt: December of last year, broccoli was being harvested at night. Half mile from the field, an aerial application of a herbicide was happening. Some field workers began to smell the herbicide and one worker reported to field foreman that he was feeling ill, but foreman's phone did not work. The field workers called 911. The emergency responders stripped and sprayed the field workers down in the field. The field workers' representative could not enter the field. Days later, the local Yuma press ran some articles about the incident and sought comments from PCA, grower, applicator, etc., and no one would comment. Press went to Jack Peterson at ADA. The

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only violation that occurred was the fact that the foreman had no means to get a call out of the field. If a farm worker complains, they should be removed from the field. Last week there was a meeting about how to handle these kinds of incidents, including handling the press. Participants were mainly labor contractors and first responders. The first responders would like to have training on the different products being used on the field, and how to respond in emergency situations. There are protocols that should be followed that could be included in a training. There was a meeting this week among first responders to determine their needs. We would put together a tailored training for this audience. Peter manages the Pesticide Safety Education Program through the APMC and could put together a training.

Randy. Working with cotton root rot throughout the state, but not seeing much disease. Working with Cotton Inc. Will put together a small field tour on 9/24, Coolidge, Marana and maybe Safford. Randy, Ayman, Mary, Bob Nichols, a few growers and Jack Peterson. They want to get a section 18 for flutriofol (Topguard), cheminova product next year. Will invite Jack Peterson out to view the damage and the field trial results. Have previously seen good results with this product, delaying and reducing disease damage. They are trying different application methods in their trials. Cotton crop looks good throughout the trials. Randy is obtaining a scale for use with round bales. Let him know if you have a need to use it.

Shawna. Water issues in Pinal County, there have been community forums that growers are interested in. With housing market picking up, there is conflict between agriculture and development. She would like to focus on water conservation. Kurt is involved in a committee in Yuma that is responding to a recent Pacific Water Institute report on future water shortage. Agriculture in basin states will have to give up a million acre feet of water in 2017. Yuma uses the most and the committee is discussing where they can cut water use in agriculture: perhaps the Yuma Mesa area. Goal will be to preserve the vegetable industry. The committee is writing a rebuttal to the report but also planning for large cuts. CAP will have to give up a lot of water as well. People are reporting lower corn silage yields this year. May be attributed to nitrogen, or maybe to heat stress during tassling.

Ayman. Cotton is doing well. Pest issues are with whiteflies in some areas, stink bugs in some areas. The past few weeks, there are a lot of questions about alfalfa varieties and silage sorghum. Ayman is urging people to revise the Arizona Alfalfa and Forage Association. He has had some good feedback from them and hopes they will rejuvenate the group. This could help to fund needed research. A lot of pigweed issues in alfalfa on West side of Phoenix. More spraying in alfalfa for insects than there has been in many years. Ayman has talked to people from Electric District #8, who seem very interested in doing something, either locally or to re-form the state association. The last person who worked with ED8 on research was Steve Husman. Sorghum questions range from planting to harvest: variety selection, enhancing harvest, etc. What research information is available to support growers for this crop? Not much. Mike did 2 studies with silage sorghum, one on irrigation, one on nitrogen. Shawna did a variety trial for sorghum last year, but had a hard time getting the seed companies to participate. There is a national sorghum check off that funded Mike's previous trials. Could be a source of future funding.

Yuma: cotton crop was looking good until recent rains in Yuma, which is impacting harvest and also quality of cotton. Yuma growers have formed a committee called the Yuma Center of Excellence. They have raised about \$1million, some of which will be made available for research. Part of the allocation will be to hire a director for the Center of Excellence, with the

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goal of growing the fund for research, for Yuma-specific problems. Perhaps in the next 6 months, may see a call for proposal released. Since the SW Ag Summit in March, Kurt and others including Rod Wing, Cheri Kobota and Matt ___ have discussed the idea of creating a plant breeding and phenotyping center in AZ. This fall there will be a \$5 million grant request. In May, at County extension Directors meeting, it was suggested by Silvertooth that some counties should combine their business centers. They are talking about combining business offices of Yuma and LaPaz counties. Amy Parrot will be stepping down soon, so this will likely happen quickly. There will be a regional director (yet to be named) and then a Chair, who will be based in LaPaz County. The likelihood of an Ag Agent in Parker is becoming very remote. There may be an FCS Agent located in Parker. They are also talking about regionalizing Mohave, Coconino and X County as well. Southwest Ag Summit Feb 26-27, Arizona Western College. Planning is in the works. Bruce Gwynn is a contact person for the planning committee.

Ayman: ArizonaAg.com blog was produced as part of the Extension SPI grant. The idea is to provide timely information to clientele and to collect information on how people access information for evaluation purposes. Currently, he has about 125 users, all in AZ. It is best used to provide short, timely information on a regular basis.

II. Programs To Address Current/Near Term Issues (Discussion)

Expert from Georgia, Phillip Roberts, will be doing 2 workshops, October 17 in Blythe and Oct 18 in central AZ. Main focus will be on stink bugs. Oct 18, Ayman wants to combine stink bug presentation with a small field day. Or we may do a specific stink bug focus. There will be a lot to see in the field in terms of boll damage around that time.

Shawna

9/30 & 10/1 – might try Coolidge & Marana. Topics: Alfalfa, economic / marketing. Did shorter meetings in the summer and had favorable comments. What about the idea of initiating a regular timing for meetings? It may help to avoid conflicts and create awareness.

Ayman

- 10/18 Farmer field day at MAC to be combined with Stink Bug meeting. Just Ayman, Peter, Bill and Phillip Roberts.
- 11/15, 18 or 20. Field day at Broadway & Airport.
- Possible field day in Paloma in Dec to show Peter's replicated trials

Randy

10/9 Safford Field Day.

Kurt

- Parker meeting: Alfalfa, wheat, cotton, 9/24. Bill, Paul, Ayman, Peter, Pedro, Mike, Shawna are all available. Kurt will coordinate an agenda.
- Pre-season Yuma and Parker. Dec 18, 19. Check on Yukogin meeting.

Calendar of Currently Planned Events

- 9/10 – Maricopa County Short Course
- 9/10 – Arizona Plant Diagnostics Network, MAC

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- 9/15-21 – NACAA Meetings
- 9/19 – CAPCA CEU mtg., La Quinta CA
- 9/24 – (tentative) Extension meeting, Parker
- 9/24 Texas Root Rot Tour (Norton)
- 9/25 – Field Crops IPM Leadership Team, Maricopa County (11-2)
- 9/25 – AZCGA Grant Proposals, PHX (2pm-?)
- 10/8 – Monsanto DeltaPine Field day
- 10/9 – Safford Ag Center Field Day
- 10/15 – 16 – AAEEA meeting, Flagstaff
- 10/17 – Blythe / Parker Cotton Workshop: Stink Bugs
- 10/18 – Central AZ Workshop: Stink Bugs
- 10/20 - 22 – CAPCA annual Conference, Reno NV
- 10/25 Horticulture Field Day, MAC
- 11/3-8 – ASA, SSSA, CSSA Meetings
- 11/10–14 ESA, Austin, TX
- 11/14 – CAPCA CEU mtg., El Centro
- 2/26 – 27 Southwest Ag Summit

Leadership for next meeting:

- Lydia
- Russ

Next meeting: Jan 17