

Agronomic Crops IPM Leadership Team

June 30, 2011

Participants: Mike Ottman, Lydia Brown, Peter Ellsworth, Randy Norton, Ayman Mostafa, Bill McCloskey, Kurt Nolte (guest)

Team Updates

Bill McCloskey: Has 2 cotton trials this summer: one at MAC, one in Safford
At MAC:

- Glytol cotton: glufosinate and glyphosate resistant
- Layby herbicide application on Friday, July 1
- Count weeds in plots
- Then leave it alone until after defoliation

At Safford:

- RR Flex Pima cotton trial

Questions Bill and others have been asked recently:

- How big does RR Flex cotton have to be before one can spray herbicides?
Answer: it is safe to spray even as the hypocotyls are emerging—the gene is in every plant part.
- Drift concerns in Coolidge: drift from adjacent alfalfa fields stunted cotton. So far, the meristems appear fine, so the concern now is that if the cotton is delayed too long they will run out of water.
- RR Alfalfa: Bill thinks it will mainly be along the river.

Mike Ottman: 2 trials: alfalfa irrigation termination and corn trial at MAC

- In the alfalfa trial, he's seeing residual effects of treatments. Treatments that were water stressed are weaker and not recovering. Even after four cuttings, there are yield differences. Peter mentioned that winter stressed alfalfa is more susceptible to insects, and that may be adding further stress.
- In his corn Invinsa trials, he's looking at grain yield.

Kurt Nolte: will ask Barry Tickes to contribute to an agronomic IPM newsletter.

Ayman Mostafa:

- Getting positive feedback about mid-season meetings. Growers and PCA's want more meetings.
- Received about 30 needs assessment surveys back—people are indicating interest in almost everything.
- Wants to address IPM questions for alfalfa
 - Basic work is needed because the literature is outdated
 - Trying to find funding to do basic research (may write something for the Western IPM Center).
 - Many questions about Alfalfa IPM, due to higher prices.
- Growers and PCA's have asked about PBW recently.

- Wants to do a newsletter piece on the effect of heat stress on insect and weed pests in cotton.
- Sees a need for very basic knowledge
 - PCA training in the form of short courses on IPM practices from general to specific (build from ground up).
 - Online videos covering basic information as a resource for young/new/under informed PCA's.
 - Wants to arrange events in Gila River and Gila Bend (perhaps alternative site because there are no residential growers there) for the end of July.

Newsletter / Advisories

Lydia sent a request for possible topics. She got a few responses, which she summarized in a handout. The team reviewed 2 recent outputs that Peter and Lydia put together in the past 2 weeks: one on a natural enemy, *Drapetis*, and another on cotton pest thresholds for Lygus and Whitefly. Lydia can develop draft information from existing resources for review by team members. Or team members might develop their own information for deployment in future advisories.

The *Drapetis* article was picked up by Western Farm Press and by National Cotton Council. Future articles may get picked up by WFP, SWFP and other cotton periodicals or eNews outlets like National Cotton Council's daily email news list. Combining the outlets that have picked up on these articles thus far, we estimate conservatively we are reading a readership in excess of about 30,000 people. Web hits per month on these sites that pick up on our articles are in excess of 100,000 per month. The goal with these advisories would be to keep it short and timely. Possible outputs could include "recycled" existing information, if appropriate. Topics could be basic or advanced.

Kurt was involved in the development of the Veg IPM Update. Kurt has plans to do something similar to the Veg IPM newsletter, but focus it on agronomic crops. He has had this interest over the past year. Kurt would like to follow the template used by the Veg IPM Updates (HTML).

It will be important, once started, to make sure it is going out on a regular, reliable basis, and that the topics are timely. It will be important for Lydia to keep after the contributors to meet deadlines. Agents will distribute via email their lists.

Ideas:

- Create a pest/crop calendar so Lydia can anticipate concerns/problems for that time of year and choose timely newsletter topics.
- The main focus will be on IPM, but related agronomic and other topics are welcomed, for example, on plant mapping, plant growth regulators, etc.
- Randy recently shot some videos about how to do plant mapping, so a newsletter on plant mapping can link to the YouTube video.
- Agents could add local county information to the statewide template the team creates.
- How many species of pigweeds, morning glories do we deal with? For weeds, we can create diagnostic newsletters and management guidelines.

- Diagnostic information on *Collops*, a predatory beetle (Update- this piece was sent out in July, as well as one on spiders). One natural enemy at a time.
- Rhizoctonia should be covered in a newsletter early next year—during planting.
- Herbicide drift
- Color coded spray nozzle information (not timely)
- Temik phase out
- Endosulfan phase out: Peter will do one on endosulfan alternatives.

Possible timely topics for now:

- Plant mapping (Randy)
- Collops (Ayman) Update- this piece was sent out in July.
- Insects in alfalfa – a calendar of activity. Mike will put something together for Peter to review and finalize.
- 2,4-D damage on cotton
- Something on PGRs – It would be helpful to have a list of available PGRs and how their rates vary. Update- Randy and Sam are near completion on this.
- Bill suggests the same thing is needed for glyphosate. Update- Bill and Lydia sent this piece out in July.

How frequently? Perhaps weekly during the cotton season, then biweekly during the cool season.

Theresa Smith, our web person, can do the HTML formatting. Plan to get things to her not at the same time as the Veg IPM Updates, which tie her up every Tuesday (and part of Monday sometimes). Note that Theresa will start on maternity leave probably in mid-August. Wayne Dixon will temporarily take over web posting duties.

1080 Request: Glyphosate – product names used last 3 years, all crops, total acres treated for each product across all 3 years. (Update: this has been done and Glyphosate short piece developed by Bill and Lydia. The piece was featured on the Western Farm Press website as a “must read” item.)

Ride-Alongs

Lydia has done some site visits with Peter and Bill and would like more opportunities. Randy plans on doing some nematode sampling in Buckeye in a couple of weeks. Randy may do a video on how to do soil sampling.

Budget Issues

Bob returns as resident director 50% time July 1. He has committed funds to some capital purchases. This will include a camera / microscopy set up. Lydia will be purchasing a vehicle. We will be replacing the mobile computer lab, which Peter will use for Lygus Gaming Simulation training. These 17 laptops will be available for demos and meetings.

Mike: MAC Equipment Committee is meeting next week. Mike asked if there were specific equipment needs. They are considering a small plot combine. Peter suggested a high clearance sprayer.

Planning Lydia's Time

Bill is planning to do some lesquerella work, planting this fall, and winter herbicide use, and may seek Lydia's help.

Follow-up activities:

- Continue (or begin) contributing to weekly newsletters/shorts
- Purchase InDesign so that Lydia can make an HTML template for newsletters
- If going on a site visit, email Lydia so she has the opportunity to gain experience and meet stakeholders.