Colquitt County Extension Ag Update 8/4/19

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Cotton: I have noticed recently that whitefly populations seem to be increasing in Colquitt County. Scouts and growers need to monitor cotton fields for the development of immature whiteflies.

SLWF Threshold: Treat when 50 percent of sampled leaves (sample 5th expanded leaf below the terminal) are infested with multiple immatures (≥5 per leaf). Below are a few words from Dr. Phillip Roberts, UGA Cotton Entomologist on the current situation.

Silverleaf whitefly (SLWF) adults have been observed in low numbers in cotton in some areas during the past week to ten days. To date very few immature whiteflies have been observed in cotton. We are not aware of any field which has exceeded threshold for SLWF. Most reports include observations of individuals or a few adults when searching plants for corn earworm. However, the presence of SLWF in a field is worth noting and management of all insect pests must consider the presence of SLWF. All efforts should be made to minimize the need to treat SLWF with insecticide.

Management Considerations:

1. Scout for the presence of SLWF adults. It is important to know if SLWF is present!
2. Conserve beneficial insects, do not apply insecticides for any pests unless thresholds are exceeded (beneficial insects will also suppress corn earworm).
3. If SLWF is present in a field, avoid use of insecticides for other pests which are prone to flare SLWF.
4. Scout fields frequently for adults and immatures once fields are infested with SLWF.
5. Be timely with SLWF insecticides when thresholds are exceeded (many learned in 2017 that it is difficult to play catchup with SLWF).
6. Be very aware of SLWF infestations in hairy leaf varieties and late planted cotton, these are high risk fields.

There is no question that agents, scouts, consultants, and growers are looking more closely for SLWF this year based on the problems we had in 2017. Historically if we see SLWF in cotton during the month of July we should anticipate problems with SLWF, especially on late planted fields, and manage appropriately. Infestations do not come close to where we were a year ago. In 2017 treatable populations first occurred during the last week of June and many acres were treated in July; so we are in a much better situation this year compared to last. It will be important that all fields are monitored closely for SLWF and hopefully proper proactive management can minimize damage and the need for

SLWF insecticides. Your County Agent has additional information on management and scouting of SLWF in cotton.

Foliar Feeding Cotton

I have received a question or two on foliar feeding cotton. Below are some rules of thumb about foliar feeding cotton.

Nitrogen: Feed grade urea is the most reliable, economical and proven foliar N material. The standard recommendation is to apply 4.5 lbs of nitrogen/acre as urea in at least 5 gallons or more of water per acre (5 gal/acre assumes aerial application, 10 to 12 gallons of water is preferred for ground application). Both liquid urea (23% N) and granular urea (46% N dissolved into water) can be used.

10 lbs of feed grade urea (granular 46% N) per acre will give you approximately the recommended 4.5 lbs of nitrogen per acre.

Potassium: Potassium nitrate is the most common material used for foliar K applications. The standard recommendation is to apply 4.4 lb of potassium per acre in 5 gallons or more water per acre. (Again 5 gallons assumes foliar application, 10 to 12 gallons is preferred for ground application). Both liquid and granular potassium nitrate can be used.

10 lbs of granular potassium nitrate (44% K2O) per acre will give you the recommended 4.4 lbs of potassium per acre.

Keep in mind that there are other products out there available to use for foliar feeding cotton. Some of these may not contain as much fertilizer as the products mentioned above and you may not be able to apply them at the same rates as mentioned above. Use caution with all fertilizer products as improper rates could cause leaf burn.

How late is too late to foliar feed cotton?

Foliar feeding is most effective when applied during peak bloom, or the first 4 weeks of bloom. Foliar feeding during weeks 5-7 of bloom may or may not be effective depending on the variety grown.

Once you pass the 8th week of bloom, it is too late. No foliar feeding is recommended after this point.

UGA Cotton Team Newsletter

The latest edition of the UGA Cotton Team Newsletter is below..

http://www.ugacotton.com/vault/file/Newsletter-August-2019.pdf

Peanuts

I have received a question or two about managing caterpillars in peanut. The treatment threshold for combined foliage feeders is 4-8 per foot of row depending on the size and condition of the peanut plants. Use a lower threshold for very young plants or plants that are stressed from other factors. Use a higher threshold for healthy plants with ample vine growth.

Peanut Irrigation Schedule			
Days after Planting	Weeks after Planting	Inches per Week	Inches per Day
1 - 7	1	0.08	0.01
8 - 14	2	0.26	0.04
15 - 21	3	0.39	0.06
22 - 28	4	0.55	0.08
29 - 35	5	0.76	0.11
36 - 42	6	0.95	0.14
43 - 49	7	1.08	0.15
50 - 56	8	1.29	0.18
57 - 63	9	1.49	0.21
64 - 70	10	1.59	0.23
71 - 77	11	1.58	0.23
78 - 84	12	1.49	0.21
85 - 91	13	1.40	0.20
92 - 98	14	1.30	0.19
99 - 105	15	1.16	0.17
106 - 112	16	0.97	0.14
113 - 119	17	0.83	0.12
120 - 126	18	0.67	0.10
127 - 133	19	0.49	0.07
134 - 140	20	0.30	0.04
141 - 147	21	0.14	0.02
148 - 150	22	0.01	0.00

Harvest Losses (Rome Ethredge)

Let's take a look at avoiding to much harvest loss of corn. Whereas it may make for a better dove shoot, and I try to remember spots where corn was spilled in the field as future hunting areas, we need to get as much corn in the combine as possible. It may surprise you to learn that 2 to 4 percent is lost in most every field and some cannot be avoided for several reasons. Trying to keep all kernels may mean keeping too much corn cob bits and other trash. There is loss before it ever gets into the combine and at the header, too. Some modern combines try to give you an estimate of loss by sensing what is going out the back of the combine but that does not take into account losses at the header before it gets into the combine so more investigation has to be done to determine true losses.

Unfortunately harvest losses of 10% are not unusual and should be avoided and there is often a fix. To put this in perspective that would mean that if you have 220 bushels of corn per acre in the field you are only selling 200 bushels. At $5 per bushel that's $100 so it's worth investigating. Basically what you do is look behind the combine to see what's being left in the field and try to figure out why and if combine adjustments can be made to help the situation. Sometimes there's nothing that can be done, but often there is. Some of our worst losses happen when we've had corn lodge or fall over and it's hard to get it into the combine. Going slow and probably only harvesting in the direction the corn fell towards is about all that can be done. Harvesting before corn gets too dry helps, too.

We have a good UGA publication corncerning this at this link. https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B973&title=Measuring%20Field%20Losses%20from%20Grain%20Combines

Thanks for your time,

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