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AgFax: Midsouth Cotton

May 7, 2002

Here is this week's issue of *AgFax: Midsouth Cotton*, sponsored by Valent U.S.A., maker of Orthene, Cobra and Select.

Our Midsouth rice and soybean reports also are available on request. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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Overview

Some planting is underway, but heavy rains late last week have delayed activity in parts of the Midsouth. Some locations in the central Delta measured 3" to 7" of rain, though totals of .5" to 2" were probably more common.

However, much of Louisiana and the south Delta remain dry.

Pest pressure is light. A couple of our contacts noted stinkbugs building in wheat and other vegetation.

The following reports were made Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7.

Crop Reports:

Gus Lorenz, Arkansas Extension IPM Specialist: "After all the rain last week I don't think we have

many places in Arkansas where it would be too dry to plant. We're probably 60% to 65% planted now. We are seeing a lot of chinchbugs in corn and milo, and some fields are being treated. We're also turning up a good many stinkbugs in wheat, including rice, brown and green stinkbugs. Based on the numbers we're seeing, we could have another stinkbug year."

Ralph Bagwell, Louisiana Extension Entomologist, Winnsboro, La.: "We got a little rain last week in northeast Louisiana, but it tended to be in a narrow band. We're still too dry over a large part of our production area.

"We have a lot of cotton up and are dealing with some cutworm issues in a few areas, primarily where nothing was applied behind the planter. There are a few thrips like you would expect in dry areas. The oldest plants I've seen are at three leaves. Planting has stopped for the most part until we get more rain."

Craig Massey, Area IPM Specialist, Brownsville, Tenn.: "We got a good bit of rain late last week, from 1.5" to 2" across a pretty general area. We needed it, but it's already drying out fast in this wind. We got 40% to 50% of the cotton in the ground, with 20% to 25% of

it up. We're starting to see a few stinkbugs in wheat, pastures and around homesteads. We're not finding thrips.

"Our biggest problem right now is marestalk. We confirmed resistant marestalk last year in Crockett County, but we've got some problem areas in a number of other counties this year. We haven't determined if it's resistant, but we're looking for some alternative approaches. We've been coming back with MSMA plus Karmex or diuron. Or, we've used Caparol instead of Karmex or Gramoxone instead of MSMA. The best we're doing is about 85%.

"We're past the point that we could go with Valor or Clarity due to restrictions on the number of days before planting. So far, they've looked real good where growers used them, but that probably accounts for 10% or less of the cotton where we've got problems. Next year, we'll probably see them used on about 100% of that cotton, based on the problems we're having now."

Chuck Farr, Mid-South Ag Consultants, Crawfordsville, Ark.: "We received several showers and ended up with accumulations of anywhere from .8" to

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2.75". The largest amounts were in the Marion area. Countywide, we're 50% planted, with 40% up to a good stand. The other 10% should be up in a day or two.

"We may get into the field again Tuesday or maybe Wednesday where we had less rain. No thrips so far. We did have to treat quite a few acres for variegated cutworms where there was more annual bluegrass left in the field and nothing was applied behind press wheels."

Phil Gurley, Gurley's Agricultural Consulting Service, Kennett, Mo.: "North from a line at about Gideon it's too wet to plant. As you go south from that line, we're worried about it being too dry. We had a series of showers over three or four days, and the area north of that line picked up good amounts each time. South of the line they might have gotten a half inch total for the whole period.

"Around Steele and north of Blytheville all the cotton will be in the ground by Wednesday. Where it's too wet now, we've still got another 10 days. Some people haven't even been able to start yet.

"One or two farmers have sprayed for thrips in small cotton that didn't have a seed or furrow treatment. We've sprayed a few fields for cutworms, too."

John Raymond Bassie, Ind. Consultant, Bassie's Agri Service, Cleveland, Miss.: "Rains have ranged from .8" of an inch south of Shaw up to 7.8" at Duncan. We measured a little over 3" in Cleveland. There were some spots with bad hail around Rosedale with the storms last week, but I've found less than an acre of damage in the cotton I check. We've got a lot of 4" and 5" cotton, and my growers are about 75% planted.

"There's no spraying activity. I found some cutworms 10-14 days ago on winter vegetation and have been going with a pyrethroid behind the planter."

John "Kim" Kimbrough, Ind. Consultant, Pro Tech Ag, Lexington, Miss.: "Some areas got up to 3" of rain, but we're south of the line and got only .3" to .4" here. Planters at Tchula were sitting by the side of the field today (Monday) waiting for things to dry up. How much has been planted depends on where you are. Two growers just got started today. We started Tuesday on our own place and wrapped up Friday. Cotton planted last Tuesday was up today.

"There's no pest activity. Some people are scrimping and not using a granular, but most of our folks are using Temik or Disyston."

Tucker Miller, Ind. Consultant, Drew, Miss.: "We've got areas that are too wet to plant and too dry to plant. From Drew up to Marks it rained a total of about 4". It's wet at Minter City, but it gets dry again about halfway to Greenwood. We're about 80% finished with cotton planting, overall. We're still finishing up around Greenwood, but in Tallahatchie County we're through and the cotton is up.

"We did a lot of precautionary treatments at planting, and we haven't had to spray for cutworms. Most of our seed was treated, and we haven't had problems with thrips in those fields. We applied Orthene with the Roundup where thrips developed in some cotton that didn't have treatments. We're now trying to get set up for Roundup and Buctril applications."

Robert Wells, Cotton Consultant, Agrilience, Dermott, Ark.: "The northern part of my area around Dumas and Watson caught 5" to 6" of rain, but farther south we only measured about 1". Around Lake Village people were running again Monday. The heaviest rain washed the rows flat in some sandy fields that were the last planted. We're waiting to see if the cotton will pop out before it crusts over. The wind has been horrible

for the last two to three weeks, but it's not that bad now.

"We're not making treatments in cotton. I heard of a field or two treated for cutworms, but we applied a pyrethroid behind the planter on all our cotton. About 60% of our cotton is planted. All of mine is young, with some approaching two true leaves. By the end of this week we should be able to get back into some areas that received the heavier rain totals."

Miles Brashier, Point Coupe Extension Agent, New Roads, La.: "We're shut down on planting. It's just too dry to keep going right now. We probably had 25% to 30% planted, and most of the cotton planted earlier is up now. But that's as far as we've gotten, and everyone is waiting now for rain."

Steve Schutz, Ind. Consultant, Coughatta, La.: "It's dry, and we need a rain. Two of my growers have stopped planting until it rains again. Cotton seems to be up to a stand on our sandy ground. Cutworms are out there. Some fields need treatments, but others don't.

"Some morningglories and grasses are beginning to come up. Our oldest cotton has three true leaves. So far, we're not finding thrips. Everyone used Temik due to the horrendous nematode problems we had last year. Winds have been running 15-20 mph, and we're getting some sandblasting."