



Arkansas Cotton Update

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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Tom Barber - Editor

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Insect Update (Gus Lorenz – Extension Entomologist / IPM Coordinator)

Plant bugs are once again the pest of the week. Plant bugs have been as tough as we have seen to control in some time, and we are just now reaching the point where they have been a problem in past years. It appears that if we are maintaining our time interval between applications, that although control may not be that great, the square retention is still good. I can't tell you how many calls I have received on application failures, insecticide resistance, etc. For the most part, I think this is a simple case of overwhelming numbers, but at the same time, we are trying to be diligent and watch our trials closely for efficacy problems. For the most part, our standard treatments appear to be controlling plant bugs but most importantly, square retention is very good. For those of you that are dealing with these high population plant bug situations, please be sure not to try and evaluate insecticide treatments too quickly. Products like Diamond and Carbine must be given sufficient time to determine effectiveness, even the knockdown products like Bidrin and Orthene have to be given time to work. If you are back in the field two days after any application, you are not getting a good assessment of the efficacy of your application. This usually results in another application which may or may not be warranted. Products like Carbine as well as Centric and Trimax all pretty much cause plant bugs to stop feeding once they are exposed to the insecticide will not damage cotton further but still it takes time for them to die. Products such as Carbine and Diamond cannot be fairly assessed for at least 5 days and 7-10 will tell a better story. Vydate, Bidrin, and Orthene need at least 3 with 4 or 5 days being even better before they are evaluated. Again, we are recommending tankmixes with these high population situations. Be sure to avoid repetitive applications of the same chemistry to avoid resistance issues.

Cotton Bollworm. As shown in the graph, I am glad to report that the moth flight has finally slowed up. Our numbers are way down from the last several weeks and pyrethroid resistance also dropped dramatically. In my opinion this would indicate that those moths migrated here from down south, maybe south TX or even Mexico. When we had the weather change and the cold front we have recently enjoyed came in, the moth flight ended and resistance numbers fell immediately, indicating the weather pattern from the north was helpful in more ways than one. However, these high numbers resulted in some pretty heavy egg lays in the last week to 10 days and resulted in some applications to BG and BG II due to the overwhelming numbers. Hopefully, we are through this for a while anyway.

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Bollworm Moth Trap Counts – Lonoke County

Date	Trap 1	Trap 2	Trap 3	Trap 4	Trap 5	Trap 6	Trap 7	Trap 8	Trap 9	Trap 10	Trap Total	Weekly Total
6/1/2009	179	3	130	10	45	22	21	32	8	2	452	
6/3/2009	203	4	78	55	45	33	16	55	25	3	517	969
6/8/2009	478	7	354	279	157	80	35	164	135	16	1705	
6/10/2009	280	19	263	198	51	51	45	112	70	11	1100	2805
6/15/2009	706	n/a	n/a	545	272	n/a	102	167	n/a	n/a	1792	
6/18/2009	422	109	341	14	54	88	46	427	243	10	1754	3546
6/22/2009	1062	324	406	125	551	222	53	639	328	27	3737	
6/24/2009	479	180	184	16	145	17	63	334	49	6	1473	5210
6/29/2009	1640	674	378	33	244	337	168	486	172	27	4159	
7/1/2009	382	11	15	36	148	91	13	35	15	na	746	4905
7/6/2009	379	143	88	134	87	242	370	41	98	53	1635	
7/8/2009	63	1	34	89	107	184	127	63	26	na	694	
7/10/2009	94	213	156	215	201	464	158	32	184	112	1829	4158
7/14/2009	566	361	539	756	na	804	183	523	483	224	4439	
7/17/2009	219	169	227	389	460	445	30	283	39	313	2574	7013
7/20/2009	76	403	147	198	607	586	94	99	270	48	2528	
7/22/2009	41	196	110	100	163	146	40	172	86	57	1111	3639

Helicoverpa zea Pyrethroid Resistance Monitoring 2009

Date	UTC Dead	UTC Alive	UTC Vial Total	UTC Survival %	5UG Dead	5UG Alive	5UG Vial Total	5UG Survival %	Vial Total
5/28/2009	22	18	40	45	60	0	60	0	100
6/4/2009	16	34	40	85%	60	2	62	3%	102
6/10/2009	4	36	40	90%	56	4	60	7%	100
6/18/2009	9	31	40	78%	57	3	60	5%	100
6/24/2009	20	20	40	50%	46	1	47	2%	87
7/1/2009	17	23	40	58%	54	6	60	10%	100
7/8/2009	6	34	40	85%	36	24	60	40%	100
7/10/2009	9	31	40	78%	44	16	60	27%	100
7/17/2009	6	34	40	85%	31	29	60	48%	100
7/20/2009	2	38	40	95%	50	2	52	4%	92

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Market Update (Scott Stiles – Instructor, Economics)



Since making a 9-month high of 64.98 and ending the day nearly limit down on Tuesday, December cotton futures continue to work lower on Wednesday (7/22). One reason could be the improved weather and crop conditions in the Delta and West Texas area. Both are seeing cooler temperatures and scattered showers this week.

As of July 19, the U.S. cotton crop was rated 45% good to excellent--up from 43% the week prior. Twenty percent of the crop was rated in poor to very poor condition--23% the previous week. In Texas, 30% of the crop was rated good to excellent. Twenty-nine (29) percent was rated poor to very poor, down from 33% a week earlier.



Tuesday's chart formation appears to be a key reversal down. As mentioned, prices continued lower on Wednesday to settle at 61.16 and complete a 38% retracement of the up move that started on June 22. A 50% retracement of the move would take December cotton down to 59.88. Strong resistance is now at 65 cents. Continued favorable weather and concerns by speculators over future changes to position limits may continue to pressure prices to the 60 cent level.



US Gulf urea prices were again firm over the past week, trading in the \$260-\$270/ton area. Prices for DAP were steady to slightly higher. DAP at the Gulf was \$263.25/ton. Forward bids for DAP were up for September to \$272.75. Natural gas prices have turned higher. This may further confirm a bottom in nitrogen fertilizer prices.

Last Thursday it appears that a key reversal up in nearby natural gas was made. Chart activity also indicates that a bull pennant is forming. This chart



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formation generally projects another move higher in prices.

Natural gas inventories have increased dramatically over the last few months as demand has fallen. In response, supply cut backs have been made. Per Baker Hughes, the natural gas rig numbers have fallen to 7-year lows ([Reuters](#)). The current number of rigs is 57% below the same week last year.

As mentioned in last week's *Cotton Update*, a recent deal (for \$460/ton) by a Russian potash producer with India has set the tone for the world market. If North American companies follow that pricing scheme, it's possible that farm level prices could drop to the \$500 to \$550 range over time.

There were more indications late last week that potash prices are headed lower ([Reuters](#) story on potash). Below is a summary of some key points in the Reuters article:

- Agrium Inc. announced on (7/16) that it cut U.S. potash pricing.
 - Agrium is dropping its U.S. list prices around 25%, in line with price cuts by Russia's Silvinit.
- **North American potash inventories in June were 115% above the prior 5-year average**, per Potash Corp of Saskatchewan.
- Inventories of potash have risen steadily through the course of 2009, despite major production cuts.
 - Many farmers have deferred application due to high prices.
- **Roughly 40 percent of global potash production capacity has been idled since the second-half of 2008.**
- Analysts expect potash demand to pick-up again once Indian and Chinese buyers sign annual contracts with major suppliers.
 - These contracts are expected to set a price floor.



Since the expiration of the August futures contract, nearby crude oil is currently trading at \$65. Crude has followed the equity markets higher over the past week. However, the fundamentals of the energy complex remain decidedly bearish. Numbers this week from the *Energy Information Agency (EIA)* reported that US crude oil inventories decreased by 1.8 million barrels from the previous week. However, the current inventory 342.7 million barrels is well above the average range for this year. Gasoline inventories increased by 0.8 million barrels last week and are near the upper limit of the average range. Distillate fuel inventories increased by 1.2 million barrels and are above the upper boundary of the average range for this time of year. Energy demand is weak and supplies remain ample. To continue higher, crude oil futures will rely on strength in the stock market and weakness in the dollar.

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