

AMS AG REPORT 8-17-08

A.M.S. AG REPORT

August 17, 2008

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

Tim White, Walter Myers, Wil Miller,
Matt Myers, Lydia Ellett, Roger Carter

Too much rainfall in much of Tensas and Franklin Parishes – 7 – 8". Rest of area received from 1.2 – 3". Rainfall chances 30+% most days this week. SB, corn, and GS all hurting from delayed of harvest.

CORN – Corn harvest perhaps 60% complete. Remaining harvest will be slower due to downed corn and wet conditions. Still no aflatoxin reported in our area, but there was some just to our north.

GRAIN SORGHUM – Webworms and midge still the major problem for late GS. Webworms attacking heads as soon as grain begins to form. Treating heading GS on a 5-day interval with Lannate + a pyrethroid. Pre-headed GS also being treated for borers with pyrethroid with limited success. Some GS is sprouting in the heads due to cloudy wet conditions. Harvest is 40% complete.

SOYBEANS – No SB harvested this week due to wet conditions. Over 25% of soybeans are ready for harvest. Nearly half of those have been "Gramoxoned". They will start "popping" when sun again dries pods enough. Dilemma that some farmers face is that they have both SB and GS ready for harvest and both need it now.

Treatments of loopers and stinkbugs scheduled for this week were delayed due to weather. Some treatments were applied on late Thursday and on Friday and early Saturday.

Stinkbugs are reinfesting fields to "treatable" levels within 7 – 10 days. Some fields which are near drying soybean fields are under more intense pressure. We have lowered our threshold after the first threshold level was treated. Our threshold is now 60 - 75% of the first threshold (16 – 32 stinkbugs/100 sweeps depending on species and maturity of soybeans). And after the 2nd threshold is reached we lower it to 40 – 50% of the first threshold. Cumulative damage by sub-threshold levels of stinkbugs can destroy a crop. This is seldom mentioned when thresholds are discussed.

Delays of 5 – 7 days when soybean thresholds are reached can cost farmers in quality and yield. One field on which applications were missed jumped from 28/100 sweeps to over 250/100 sweeps in 10 days. Damage in that field may be so bad that the SB may not be accepted at the elevator.

Banded cucumber beetles (BCB) still "exploding" in some fields. Thankfully they do not cause the same extensive damage that BLBs cause at similar numbers. We have adequately controlled BCB with 1/20 gal Brigade/Discipline/Sniper per acre.

Loopers still a presence in many fields. Some fields are receiving the second shot of Intrepid. We have increased our low-end rate of Intrepid to 5 oz/ac. Larvin at 1/8 & 1/7 gal/ac gave excellent control of moderate – heavy populations of larger loopers. We will be assessing Steward at 1/18 – 1/16 gal/ac soon.

Cercospora is appearing in most soybeans now. It is very ugly in several fields of late MG4 and of early MG5 that were treated with 4 oz of Quadris + 1/10 gal of Topsin L/ac at late R3. All wheat beans are being treated with same dosage and, if SB justify it, a second shot of either Quadris or Headline plus Topsin or a single strong dose of Topsin.

COTTON – Open bolls present in up to 90% of acreage. Youngest at 17th true leaf. Eighty percent of the crop will not be scouted this week for insects unless stinkbugs are an issue. Several thousand acres are awaiting defoliant applications as soon as weather cooperates.

Spider mites not as much of an issue on some cotton due to rainfall, but numbers are still present even where 7" of rain occurred. Zeal or Abba was applied to some acreage. Salt marsh caterpillars (SMC) seem to have almost disappeared in many fields after the rain. And we are finding many diseased or parasitized SMCs in sweeps.

Plant bugs still a problem in all cotton following wheat. Our "go to" or standard treatment for plant bugs is still 1/20 gal of Brigade/Discipline/Sniper plus 1/2 lb of Orthene/ac. One application of 1/24 gal Brigade + 1/24 gal Bidrin gave less control than our new "standard". Residual from our new standard appears to be 7 days or longer, but it is hard to assess with the erratic populations we are now experiencing. Additionally we are not under as intense pressure from PBs as we have been in previous years. But the "standard" is still better than anything else we have observed this year. A premix of those two products at those rates, if possible, would be helpful.

Diamond was added to "the standard" application at the 6 oz/ac rate for fall armyworms on nearly a thousand acres in Franklin Parish.

Cotton yields will be from 400 – 1400 lbs/ac. We have dropped our estimates 100 lbs due to wet weather hard-locking some bolls and due to boll-deterioration in open cotton. Our average could still be near 900 lbs/ac.