

AMS AG REPORT 8-24-08

A.M.S. AG REPORT

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AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

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Fay may seal the fate of many acres of grain sorghum, soybeans, cotton, and corn. The only crops taking advantage of the rainfall are cotton and soybeans following wheat and some corn that is being double-cropped behind corn. Wind from Fay is supposed to be only 15 – 20 MPH, but that will be enough to lay crops in water-logged soils on the ground. Rain began two weeks ago today and some fields have rain each day since. Most have received at least some rainfall 10 of the 14 days. Rainfall totals ranged from 2.5" to as high as 12" pre-Fay.

Fay is expected to stall somewhere near New Roads/St. Francisville, LA and then move northeast. Therefore our region will be on the upper side of the center, but according to NWS we will receive from 6 – 12" of rain with some local areas receiving as much as 20". As waterlogged as we are any rainfall after 6 - 12" really won't matter. Fay's rainfall should be "outta here" by late Wednesday; but Fay's effects on us will last for years.

CORN – Corn harvest 65% complete for our area, but less than that to our north. We estimate that 12% or greater of the acres will never be harvested because wind has or will have laid it down and rainfall has or will cause rotting.

GRAIN SORGHUM – Early GS is sprouting and losing quality daily. Most is still standing but quality is decreasing daily. Late GS is still under siege by webworms and/or midge and/or borers. Most of the late GS is behind wheat on very un-uniform ground and is heading erratically, enhancing insect problems.

Control has been less than adequate even where Lannate and a high rate of pyrethroid were applied on a 5-day interval. Daily showers washed away insecticides.

GS harvest is 50% complete.

SOYBEANS – Few SB harvested this past week due to wet conditions. Some that were harvested were full of green beans or high in moisture and were almost not accepted at the elevator. Nearly half of the crop is ready for harvest and half of that has already been "Gramoxoned". Dried beans are shattering after several days of sunshine.

Treatments for loopers and stinkbugs continue. Our "standard" is now Brigade plus Intrepid. We have increased Intrepid rates to 5 oz/ac by air and are beginning apps in the early cycle of looper infestations. Looper control is still erratic and re-treatments are occurring within 7 - 10 days.

Red-banded stinkbugs are re-infesting fields to "treatable" levels within 7 days. And browns and greens are also numerous. Even fields at R6+ have 2X and greater thresholds within a week and quality loss at those levels is guaranteed if SBs are left untreated.

We understand from several local dealers that Topsin is in short supply, but may be available if the dealer is given several days notice. There are several thousand acres of wheat beans scheduled for a shot of Topsin (for some acres it will be the 2nd shot of Topsin) as soon as Fay has passed. Cercospora is severe in many bean fields and Topsin seems to "suppress" Cercospora better than other fungicides currently available.

Perhaps 15% of SBs have been harvested. Yields are from 12 to 41 bu/ac with an average of 25.

COTTON – Cotton deteriorating daily with two weeks plus of wet weather. The wet spell comes at a time when many of our money bolls are opening. In some cases, locks are disintegrating and falling to the ground.

Much acreage is awaiting defoliation. Our standard will be 1/24 gal of Prep or Finish/ac plus 1/80 gal of Dropp/ac. We will be looking at various combos containing light rates of Ginstar or Adios also. Most cotton will require two shots due to excessive regrowth both in the terminal and from axillary buds down the plant. The second shot will contain Prep plus Dropp or Ginstar or Adios or Aim.

Spider mites should be much less of an issue now. And SMCs seemed to “float away” the past week. We are still noticing hairless, “diseased” SMC’s in our sweeps. BAWs still hanging around along with some FAWs. PBs are present in anything green. And stinkbugs very much an issue in cotton that is further than 3 weeks from defoliation. Brigade plus Orthene is still our new standard.

Cotton yields will be from 200 – 1200 lbs/ac. We have dropped our estimates 250 - 350 lbs due to wet weather hard-locking some bolls and due to boll-deterioration in open cotton. Our average may be near 750 lbs/ac.

ANOTHER FARM ACCIDENT – Billy Jordan, friend and client on LA Delta, received 2nd and 3rd degree burns on one arm and one side of his torso when the radiator reservoir on his John Deere combine exploded. The “hot” button came on and Billy climbed up to look at the radiator. Before Billy touched anything the plastic reservoir exploded. Evidently the drain plug was plugged with debris and pressure accumulated within the reservoir.

Billy was kept overnight at the hospital, but was “directing traffic” from his shop and truck within 24 hours. Those of you who know Billy know he is tougher than “whit leather cured in the desert”. He has helped many folks on LA Delta by offering advice on irrigation from experience he has accumulated over the years. It is warm to see all of those Billy has helped offer to return the favor while Billy is less than 100%. It is rare these days to see folks so willing to help. Get well soon, Billy!