The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

August 20, 2009

COTTON PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER #10

COTTON SITUATION: The Georgia Weekly Crop Progress and Condition Report for the week ending August 16th listed the crop as 91 percent setting bolls and 1 percent opening. Crop conditions were rated as 12% excellent, 44% good, 34% fair, 8% poor, and 2% very poor.

INSECT SITUATION: Another week of the same, corn earworm, fall armyworm, and stink bugs continue the primary pests growers are treating. Fall armyworm numbers have significantly increased in some areas. Corn earworm counts are variable ranging from low to heavy. Stink bugs are also variable. Other pests reported include beet armyworm, spider mites, whiteflies, and southern armyworm. For all pest scout thoroughly and treat on an as needed basis.

Upcoming Field Days:

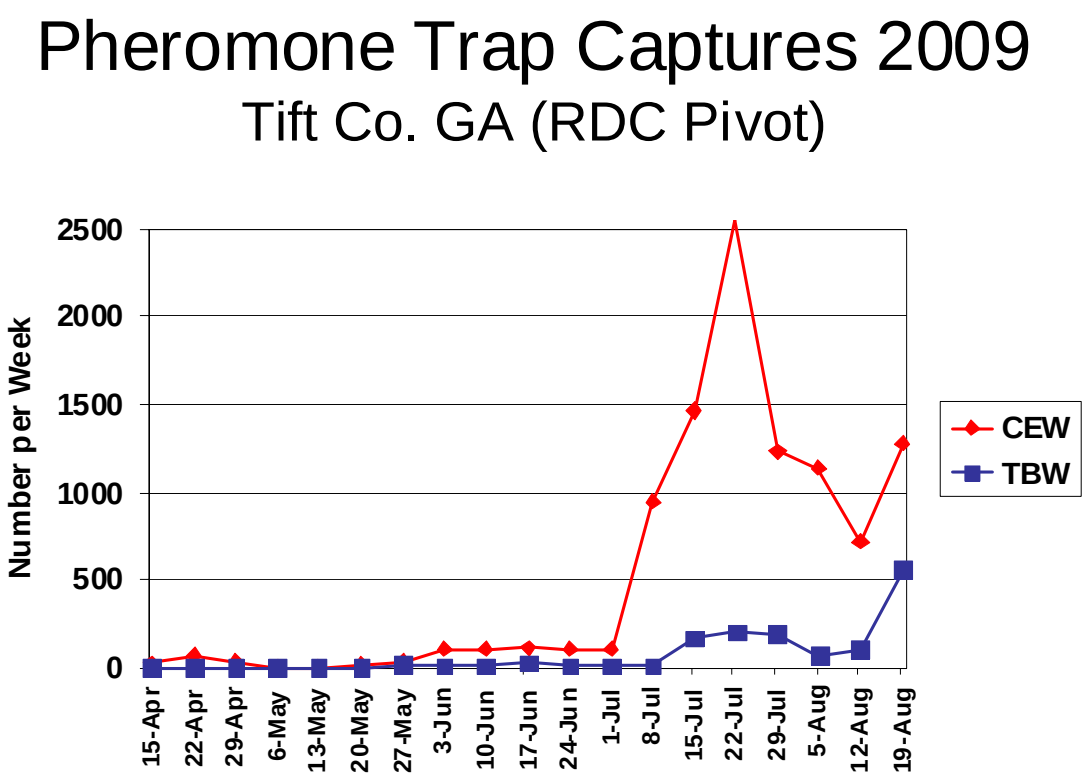
Date:	Location:	Contact for additional info:
August 25, 2009	SWREC Field Day in Plains	Stan Jones (229) 824-4375
September 9, 2009	Cotton and Peanut Field Day in Tifton	Debbie Rutland (229) 386-3424

Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm: CEW egg and small larvae counts range from low to high depending on location. Be sure to monitor blooms and bloom tagged bolls in Bt cottons, often escaped CEW larvae are initially found on these plant parts. In Bollgard fields (i.e. DP 555 BR) with high infestations of small CEWs infesting blooms (25-30+% of the blooms infested with small larvae) consider treating with a pyrethroid. In many areas fall armyworms are also infesting cotton and when larvae are 1-2 days of age we cannot differentiate FAW from CEW larvae. Pyrethroids at high rates will offer good suppression of just hatched FAW. Our experience also suggest that when high infestations of small CEW infest blooms in Bollgard cotton that a threshold level of CEW may survive.

On the 2-gene Bt cottons (WideStrike and Bollgard II) monitor fields closely and initiate treatment when a threshold level of larvae 1/4 inch in length (about 3 days of age) are observed. We have observed improved control of both CEW and FAW in WideStrike and Bollgard II compared with Bollgard, but some fields have needed supplemental treatments in some areas. WideStrike varieties have tended to be treated for CEW, whereas Bollgard II varieties have tended to be treated for FAW. This year has demonstrated to us that scouting and IPM principles in general (conservation of beneficial insects) are still extremely important.

Early planted fields which have cutout are less attractive host for insect pests. Potentially pests will concentrate on later planted fields which are still green and lush.

Tobacco Budworm: Bt cottons provide excellent control of TBW. Although there is only a small percentage of non-Bt cotton in Georgia, growers must consider TBW when making treatment decisions on non-Bt cotton. TBW is resistant to pyrethroids and non-pyrethroid insecticides should be used to control this pest. TBW populations have generally been low during 2009 (especially when compared to 2008 when extremely high populations were observed in some areas). However, pheromone trap captures for TBW significantly increased this week in Tift County, also reports of increased TBW moth activity was reported by some agents and consultants. Below are pheromone trap captures by week for traps established at the RDC Pivot on the UGA Tifton Campus.



Stink Bugs: Be sure to continue monitoring fields for stink bugs and other boll feeding bugs. Damage is variable by location, but threshold numbers have been reported from some fields in most areas of the state.

Spider Mites and Whiteflies: Localized infestations of spider mites and whiteflies have been reported. The presence of spider mites and/or whiteflies should influence decisions when treating other pests. Select insecticides which are least likely to aggravate or flare populations.

Both whiteflies and spider mites thrive in hot, dry conditions. Rainfall will often slow development of both pests, but will not provide adequate control of established populations.

Cotton & Peanut Research Field Day, September 9, Tifton: Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual UGA Cotton and Peanut Research Field Day scheduled for September 9, 2009. The tour will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with lunch; a detailed schedule of speakers and stops will be forthcoming. The field day is being sponsored by the Georgia Cotton Commission and the Georgia Peanut Commission. Lunch will be included only for those who register by September 3. To confirm your attendance, contact Debbie Rutland, Department of Entomology at (229) 386-3424.

INSECT UPDATES: Check the **Cotton Insect Hotline (1-800-851-2847)** for updates on current insect conditions. The Cotton Pest Management Newsletter and additional cotton production information is also posted on the UGA Cotton Homepage at:
http://www.ugacotton.com

Sincerely,

Phillip Roberts
Extension Entomologist