

**SUMMARY OF THE INSECT RESEARCH AND CONTROL CONFERENCE'S PRODUCER
ROUNDTABLE
2010**

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Abstract

The second annual producer roundtable was held on Tuesday afternoon, January 5th, 2010. Approximately 100 participants consisting of producers, consultants and researchers took part in a 2 hour discussion regarding various insect control issues. Prior to the 2010 Beltwide Cotton Conferences, leading cotton extension entomologists were solicited to provide the Insect Research and Control Chairpersons with potential topics to be addressed. The authors on this manuscript lead a discussion on 5 following topics.

Summary

1 Tarnished Plant Bug (TPB) Mgmt. in the Mid-South

1. Main Reason for Cotton Reduction in Mississippi Delta – Failure to control TPB

- **1.3M Acres —→ 300,000 Acres**
(Prev.) (Now)

2. Pop. - Audits/Nymphs Discussion

- **Addition Hosts Build-Up, especially in Corn**

Corn is a driving issue. Viewed as a “Unmanaged” wild host

- **July & Aug. Pop ↑**
- **Automatic applications are being done without proper scouting**

- TPB treatments can flare other pests – Need Consultants
 - Consultants are needed to make insecticides recommendations especially since certain chemistries may be failing
3. Malathion applications may have elevated tolerance to organophosphates
- Delta region gets continued pressure and TPB more adapted to cotton in this area of the cotton belt
 - TPB thresholds – For Mid-South are established/published.

Recommend using:

- Drop Cloth at 1st bloom
- Sweep net at pre-bloom
- Increased Adoption of black drop cloth for scouting. Easier to see nymphs.

Answers

- Spraying by itself is not the answer
- Plant early-season variety
- Reduce local hosts
- Plant block of cotton away from corn
- Rotate chemistries
- Restrict to 1-3 applications of neonicitinoids before 1st flower
- Diamond early-use is increasing and may be beneficial

2 **Bt Cotton Performance**

- VipCOT™ now owned by Dow Agro Sciences, VIP3A will be a component of Bollgard III.
- Growing interest in conventional cotton once again
 - Tend to forget what it was like 10-15 years ago for managing caterpillars such as tobacco budworms (TBW). Do we have enough foliar insecticides to control caterpillars
- TBW are still out there
 - > 75% of dual-gene cotton in Ark. received foliar applications for caterpillars
- In many states, thresholds for BG II same for conv. or 1 gene cotton – we need more work to be done on thresholds
- Data from Gus Lorenz' student (Ben Von Kanel) indicates we may be spraying too much on Dual-Gene cotton
(We may be managing the “exceptions”)

3 **Flaring Secondary Pests**

- Spider Mites in Mid-South
 - Acephate/Pyrethroid applications on Aphids/TPB/thrips – can flare mites
 - Neonicotinoids applications can increase mite #'s
 - can cause a reduction of predators
- Dimethoate or Bidrin – product of choice
- Temik treatments are effective
- Thrips applications on early cotton – not needed?
- Control local alternative hosts

4 Boll Weevil Eradication Issues

~ 180,000 Acres in Texas still not “weevil-free”

- Brazos' Valley area of Texas has done much better at reducing boll weevil populations
- Uvalde Area/Wintergarden - problems continue, especially with cotton growing in non-cotton cropping situations (e.g. volunteer cotton in corn fields)
- Lower RioGrande Valley – good progress
-- 3rd full season in the BWEP
- Problems: Cotton coming up in non-cotton/crop situations
“2-4, D cotton” may not be desired in Texas, especially in areas where the weevil remains

5 Unusual Pests

- False-Chinch bugs
- Red-banded Sting bugs
- Calio thrips spp. (bean thrips) – South Texas Problem
- Consultants are needed!
- Crawfish in Mississippi causing seedling loss
- Pill bugs
- Slugs – Deadline MP product of choice in Mississippi
- Leaf-Miners