



April/May Report

2019 Brad Alexander PAg

Authority

- Three sites have been set up; at Brian Slender's, Kelsey Scrove's, and Art Folkert's
- The application was made April 4th and the first and second checks have been carried out
- At the first check there wasn't much growth because of the cool weather.
- Plants are still behind but the plots are still looking good as far as chemical efficacy.
- The plots are to stay in the field for the remainder of the year with periodic checks.

Alfalfa App

- The final price quote for creating an app for our growers would be \$52,967
- This would include specific weather data, insect and disease monitoring in relation to GDDs etc.
- There is a possibility that this could fit into a grant application if we promote it as a tool for growers to use for pesticide application rather than a schedule.

Spices

- I have received many questions regarding the spice application, but we are not quite ready to broadcast such information so I have been forwarding everyone to Danica.
- I wrote a very vague article for FSN, with many warnings about what may go wrong but, even though the FSN publication date is after the research publication date, Danica wouldn't give it the go ahead. I will be able to publish it in the Fall issue, or next spring when it's more timely.
- I wrote a different article.
- Danica has been working in a small incubator at Darren's and at Brian's to replicate a proper incubation. She has finished one complete incubation already and is well into her second.

Pollen Ball Survey

- There wasn't really anything surprising revealed from the survey, however there have been a few things of note. I wrote an article for FSN highlighting these results.
- There is a widespread resistance in Kocia and
- Suspected resistance in alfalfa weevils, seems to be spreading southward, with suspected synthetic pyrethroid resistance in Rosemary, Brooks, Rolling Hills, and Enchant.
- As Boyd Mori developing the screening protocol for this resistance issue we should be able to have the insects tested for confirmation.
- The survey also showed one site, near Bow Island, where the grower suspects organophosphate resistance. This may simply be because the organophosphates don't work well at the cooler spring temperatures, however, we wouldn't want to make the mistake of failing to investigate the claim properly, and I plan to have samples checked by Boyd.

- Producers all across the board are saying that kochia is becoming more difficult to control with Group 2 herbicides, and wild oats are becoming harder to control with both, Group 1 and Group 2 herbicides. I've contacted Chris Neeser regarding this issue and this is what he had to say regarding the issue:
 - "This is exactly what we would expect given the widespread distribution of Group 1 and group 2 resistance in wild oats. Farmers should make weed management decisions on the assumption that group 1 and group 2 herbicides will not effectively control wild oats. What to do? The answer is careful planning of rotations, optimal crop management, elimination of problem weeds from sloughs, field margins, etc, clean seed, clean equipment, rotate herbicide groups, use multiple modes of action, and pre-seed burndown where this is an option. The same applies for kochia, which is commonly group 2 resistant and increasingly also glyphosate resistant (group 9)."
 - "We are likely to continue to see the gradual loss of herbicides and we need to be cautious with how we use them going forward."

Aggie-Days

- It's was a very long couple of events but I always leave feeling like it was worth it. This time was even better because they had an adult date night where many adults were able to learn and ask questions without the kids distractions.

Weevils - Olds

- We flagged out the sites and we are now waiting for weevils.
- The sites are at Travis Lyzenga's, Fred Preston's, and Richard Brault's.
- Richard has been finding small parasitic wasps in his field that may be the ones that parasitize alfalfa weevils, I've collected a sample for confirmation.

PPMUC - Beleaf

- PPMUC has made a clarifying statement that affects our pesticides use.
- Now, If forage and hay are on the label, the seed cleanings CAN be fed to livestock
- This completely fixes any lingering questions surrounding the use of Beleaf.

Vapona

- I've had to shave my beard so that a mask will fit for the incubator checks.
- I've done the fit test and I am ready to go when the incubators fire up.

PGRs

- I've set up a plot near Bow island at Nick Koch's farm and one in Rolling Hills at Peter Giesbrecht's.
- Both sites received their first application of PGRs on May 31st
- The next application will take place around June 21 – 'Weather depending'