

Mississippi Crop Situation

July 2, 2009

Mississippi State University Extension Service

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This Weeks Planting Report

National Agriculture Statistics Services (Mississippi) Crop Progress for Week Ending 6/28/09

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5- Year Average
Corn Silked	89	70	92	91
Corn Dough	21	12	19	35
Cotton Emerged	100	99	100	100
Cotton Squaring	42	24	62	73
Cotton Setting Bolls	6	--	2	11
Peanuts Pegging	20	5	10	--
Rice Headed	0	0	0	3
Sorghum Emerged	100	99	100	100
Sorghum Heading	3	0	42	41
Soybeans Planted	100	99	100	100
Soybeans Emerged	98	95	99	100
Soybeans Blooming	59	33	64	74
Soybeans Setting Pods	29	10	16	34
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	97	99	98

Market Briefs

[Dr. John Anderson and Dr. John Michael Riley](#)

Cotton: Tuesday's *Acreage* report released by USDA revealed a slight bump in the number of cotton acres nation-wide. The total number of cotton acres for this year is at 9.05 million, with upland comprising 8.905 million acres of that total. Mississippi has once again reduced the number of acres planted to cotton. This year the state has 270,000 acres of cotton as compared to 365,000 last year and 1,230,000 just three years ago. The 270,000 that USDA reports in this most recent report is also lower than the March 30, 2009 *Prospective Plantings* estimate of 300,000 acres. However, nationally 9.05 is higher than the March expectation of 8.81 million acres (but still below the total for 2008 of 9.471 million acres). The decrease in acres continues to indicate cotton is losing ground as compared to other more attractive crops such as corn and soybeans. However, given that the final 2009 plantings is above the preliminary expectation by USDA and many other analysts does show that many producers refuse to abandon the crop completely. Another factor to consider is that from the time the *Prospective Plantings* report survey was conducted until the seed actually went into the ground, cotton prices were improving and input prices were working downward. Using this information regarding acreage along with estimates from June's *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)* report shows that if roughly 90% of the crop is harvested total production for the year should be about 13.62 million bales (based on a yield of 805 pounds per acre). With this level of production the stocks-to-use ratio is almost identical to last year's at 41%. This level of abandonment is right at the five

year average, but if we experience a year like last year (where only 81.6% of acres were harvested) production could be at 12.4 million bales. In this case the stocks-to-use ratio drops to 33%. Either way, the reduction in acres help bring production down to a more appropriate level when taking into account the amount demanded, much more so than in 2006 and 2007 when the ratio was 53% and 55%, respectively. For the most part market analysts were expecting little to no change in the acreage number for cotton. Given the overall increase in cotton acres, though only slight, prices took a hit right after the report was released. Still, despite a meltdown in corn prices, a down day on Wall Street and a stronger dollar, cotton somehow found a way to finish the day on a positive note. The October futures closing price today for cotton was 55.63 cents per pound and December's close was at 57.48 cents/lb.

Corn: Probably the biggest bombshell in yesterday's *Acreage* report was the estimate of corn plantings. After an incredibly frustrating planting season in much of the country, most pre-report estimates had corn plantings pegged below the 85 million acre figure in the March *Prospective Plantings* report. Instead, USDA raised the corn plantings estimate to just over 87 million acres in yesterday's report. This is actually an increase from last year's corn acreage (just under 86 million acres). Mississippi corn plantings were rather surprising, as well. USDA estimates Mississippi corn plantings at 800,000 acres. This is actually up from last year's 720,000 acres. In March, the *Prospective Plantings* report suggested that Mississippi corn plantings would be down to 630,000 acres. Corn futures fell sharply in response to the *Acreage* report, but most contracts narrowly avoided a limit-down move. September '09 through March '10 contracts were down the daily 30 cent limit. Other 2009/10 contracts closed a couple of cents off the daily limit. It is important to note that the new crop contracts had already declined sharply over the month of June. The December contract dropped about 70 cents in June, even prior to yesterday's decline. Some of this decline was driven by outside market pressures (crude oil and foreign exchange markets, primarily), but it likely had the effect of pricing in at least some of the impact of higher acreage. Despite the acreage surprise, odds still favor tightening corn stocks. USDA projects that this year's plantings will result in 80.1 million acres harvested for grain. Applying the current yield estimate of 153.4 bushels per acre results in a production estimate of 12.288 billion bushels: still less than the 12.460 billion bushel projected use in June's *WASDE* report. No doubt, the *Acreage* report erodes some of the supply-side support for corn prices that had been provided by this year's planting problems; however, corn stocks will remain fairly tight. How tight will now depend on yields. Moving forward, the market will be focused on what the market is usually focused on this time of year: weather, crop condition ratings, and yield prospects.

Rice: Despite all the commotion in other markets on the heels of this morning's *Acreage* report from USDA, rice came through with only moderate adjustments from the March 30, 2009 projections by USDA and as such had a relatively calm day. Rice acreage for the 2009 growing year is at 3.018 million acres. This is slightly above last year's 2.995 million yet slightly below the March expectation of 3.18 million acres. There were no adjustments to Mississippi's acreage from the March estimate of 240,000 acres planted to rice and this year's acreage number is an increase over last year of 4.3%. The bulk of the reduction took place on the long-grain side in Arkansas where producers planted 1,250,000 acres of rice compared to an early projection of 1,420,000 (Arkansas' plantings are even below last year's by 3.8%). Long-grain rice acres are at 2.25 million versus 2.53 projected in March and 2.37 last year. Medium-grain adjustments offset the reduction to long-grain by a small amount as acreage for this variety increased by 115,000 acres over the March number and 152,000 acres compared to last year. Thanks to the lower number of acres the prices on harvest contracts at the Chicago Board of Trade were up by a small margin today despite a stronger dollar and more importantly limit-down corn moves. The closing

price of the September contract was \$12.34/cwt (\$6.91/bu) and the November contract closed at \$12.45/cwt (\$6.97/bu).

Soybeans: Tuesday's *Acreage* report was less dramatic for soybeans than for corn. Soybean plantings were estimated at 77.5 million acres, up from just over 76.0 million acres in the March *Prospective Plantings* report. The market had anticipated this revision. Corn Belt problems with corn planting had been expected to force some acres into soybeans as an alternative crop. In fact, the average pre-report estimate of soybean planting was 78.3 million acres (though the actual figure from USDA was well within the range of private estimates). Mississippi plantings were not too far out of line with March intentions: 2,200,000 acres planted according to the June report versus intentions of 2,100,000 in March. This compares with 2,000,000 acres planted in the state last year. The effect of the slightly bullish soybean acreage estimate was largely offset by the sharply lower trading in corn futures. As a result, soybean futures more-or-less stayed put following the report. The nearby July contract was up 11 ¼ cents, and more deferred contracts were down three to five cents. The higher soybean planted acres, in comparison to the 76.0 million acres in the *Prospective Plantings* report, should translate into about a 64 million bushel increase in soybean stocks. With stocks already expected to increase significantly over the coming year, this is not a huge change in the situation. As with corn, the development of this year's crop will become the focus of the market – along with demand for what is left of the current marketing year's stocks.

Wheat: Wheat plantings were estimated at 59.8 million acres in the *Acreage* report. This is down 5% from last year's very large acreage, but it was about a million acres larger than pre-report estimates. Wheat futures declined 15 to 17 cents following the report. The July contract traded below the \$5 mark briefly on Tuesday, its lowest level since early December and very close to a contract low. Wheat stocks, not just in the US but globally, have been increasing over the last two years. That trend is not expected to change this year. Even with a decline in acres from last year, wheat stocks will most likely increase over the course of this marketing year, keeping pressure on wheat prices.

Rice Agronomics

Dr. Nathan Buehring

Conditions over the last week have continued to be hot and dry. The current forecast for the upcoming week calls for 90 to 95 F temperatures with the chances of rain. With the continued hot temperatures, rice growth and development has been at a good pace. There is a very small amount of rice in the southern delta that is heading. I would expect heading to start on a much wider scale in about 10 days or so.

Disease pressure and movement has been very lack luster over the last week. Most people are opting for a single fungicide application at boot split. Over the last couple of mornings there have been heavy dews which will be more conducive for sheath blight. If weather continues to be humid with slightly cooler temperatures, sheath blight pressure and movement will begin to increase. Continue to scout and monitor rice fields for diseases. This is the best way to know whether a fungicide application is warranted. I have also had a couple of calls on fall armyworms in rice. Our threshold is 5 worms per 10 sweeps or when you see considerable damage. Keep an eye out for them because they usually can eat a lot of foliage in a short period of time. Any labeled pyrethroid at the labeled rate will control fall armyworms.

On Tuesday, USDA released their acreage report. Total long grain acres in the US were reduced from 2.526 million acres down to 2.232 million acres. That is a reduction of 294,000 acres. Most of the reduction in long grain acres came from Arkansas and Louisiana. Mississippi long grain acres only showed a reduction of 1,000 acres. Mississippi rice acres were reduced more than this small amount, but there may have been some acres unaccounted for in the earlier March prospective plantings report. With a reduction in acres, there will be a reduction in total long grain production. Calculating an average yield of 6750 lb/A (150 bu/A) times the amount of acres lost will result in a net reduction of 20 million hundredweight. This should be very supportive to long grain rice prices.

Cotton Agronomics

Dr. Darrin Dodds

Crop Update: Many areas of the state continue to suffer from lack of rainfall. Some areas have received afternoon or evening showers; however, these areas do not appear to be widespread. According to the latest USDA estimates, soil moisture status in 80% of the state is rated as very poor to short. High heat, lack of rainfall, and a late start have resulted in only 53% of the crop being rated as good to excellent. Approximately 50% of the crop is squaring with a small percentage beginning to set bolls. Stages of cotton growth and development from around the state can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Cotton growth and development from locations throughout Mississippi.

Location	Plant Height (in)		# of Nodes		Internode Length (in)
	June 30	June 23	June 30	June 23	June 30
Sledge	17	11	9	6	2.1
Mattson	17	13	11	10	1.8
Glendora	21	16	11	10	2.0
Greenwood	22	15	11	9	2.3
Indianola	23	19	12	9	2.1
Inverness	25	21	13	11	2.2
Hollandale	23	20	12	11	2.4

Foliar Diseases: July is the time of year when foliar diseases typically appear. Foliar diseases typically manifest themselves in the form of circular to odd-shaped spots on leaves as well as a general leaf discoloration. These spots typically have a purplish outline and necrotic areas in the center. There are a number of disease organisms which can cause these symptoms including *Alternaria*, *Cercospera*, *Helminthosporium*, and *Stemphylium* as well as several others. With *Headline*[®] and *Quadris*[®] being



labeled for cotton, questions usually arise about control of foliar diseases with these materials. However, there are several things that should be taken into consideration when dealing with foliar diseases in cotton before considering applying a fungicide. Usually when these diseases appear there are other stress factors involved. Typically lack of soil moisture and/or potassium contribute to the problem. In some cases lack of soil moisture and potassium deficiency are

separate issues; however, in others these two are related. Many times when foliar diseases are found, soil tests reveal that soil potassium levels are more than adequate for optimum cotton growth. However, very dry soil conditions can lead to problems with potassium uptake from the soil into the plant. The result is leaf tissue which is deficient in potassium. Lack of potassium in the leaves coupled with water stress results in cotton plants that are susceptible to infection from one or more disease organisms. Foliar disease may also appear on cotton under irrigation. During peak bloom, cotton with a heavy fruit load may begin to display symptoms of foliar disease. Potassium demands are very high at this time. In addition, roots are beginning to decline at this time due to competition for carbohydrates by developing bolls. The result is tissue that is short in potassium and subject to onset of foliar disease.

When other stress factors (i.e. water, fertility, etc.) are associated with the onset of foliar diseases, the utility of a fungicide is questionable. Once the diseases appear you cannot “cure” the damage that is already present (necrotic areas). A properly timed fungicide application may prevent further development of the disease; however, if other stress factors are involved the disease is likely to progress in spite of a fungicide application. Studies are currently underway as part of a multi-state collaborative project to determine the impact of foliar fungicide application on cotton yield. In addition, data regarding the effect of foliar disease on cotton yield does not clearly define the extent to which foliar diseases impact yield.

It stands to reason if foliar diseases are increasing due to lack of potassium in leaf tissue, then foliar application of potassium may be of benefit. Work out of Tennessee indicates that on soils with low potassium levels, foliar application of potassium may provide a positive yield response. No yield response to foliar potassium was observed on soils with high potassium levels. Keep in mind that when cotton is blooming, potassium demands are at their highest. Foliar potassium applications may supply these demands for one to two days; however, multiple applications may be necessary to keep up with plant needs. A single application may

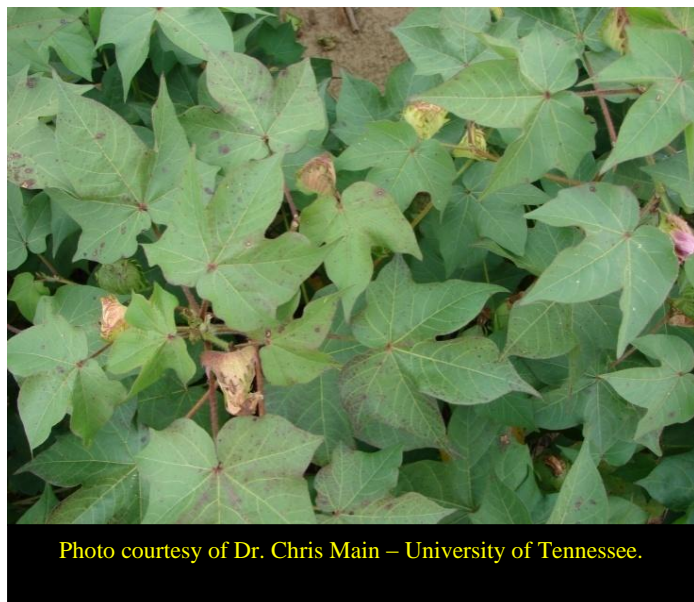


Photo courtesy of Dr. Chris Main – University of Tennessee.

alleviate the potassium deficiency temporarily (depending on severity); however, temporary alleviation of deficiency symptoms will likely not prevent foliar disease from appearing. Based on the data we currently have, we cannot recommend a fungicide application on cotton in the presence or absence of a foliar disease. Although, fungicides are labeled for control of some of these diseases, they must be applied before the disease symptoms manifest themselves (i.e. in a preventative manner). In addition, we do not fully understand the impact of these diseases on cotton yield. Based on the cost of the fungicide and application cost, it is unknown whether a fungicide application will pay for itself at the end of the year. We are taking a similar approach to foliar potassium application. These materials tend to be expensive and multiple applications are typically required for maximum benefit. With the uncertainty of yield loss from foliar disease and the cost of foliar fertilizer, these applications are not currently recommended.

Soybean Insects

Angus Catchot

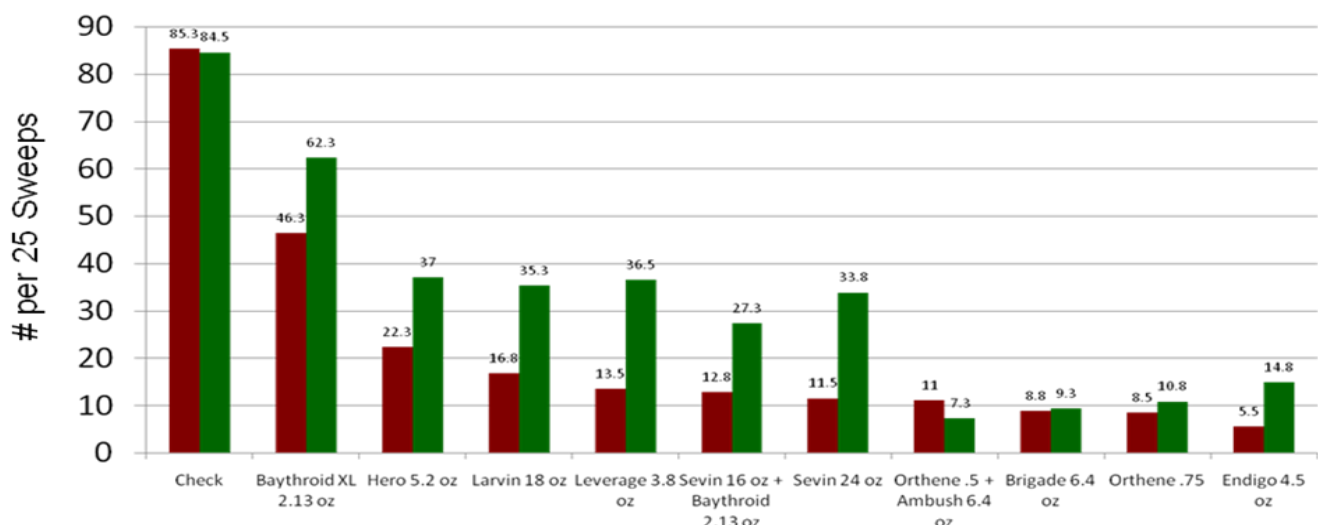
Soybean pest pressure still remains surprisingly low on average across the state. Bean leaf beetle numbers are beginning to increase in some areas but pressure is generally still well below threshold with just a few exceptions. As we move into the coming weeks I would expect these numbers to begin to increase to treatable levels in some areas of the state particularly the delta region. Bean leaf beetles are primarily foliage feeders but will move down and feed on pods occasionally. The threshold for bean leaf beetles is 50 beetles/25 sweeps or 20% defoliation when the beans are in the reproductive stage. Most are well aware that we have clearly documented a shift in tolerance with pyrethroid insecticides on bean leaf beetles with the exception of bifenthrin over the last 4 years. Based on all the field testing we have been conducting over the last several years the best products to control bean leaf beetles has been Endigo, Leverage, Bifenthrin, Seven, Larvin, and the higher rates of Orthene. Since we only generally scout soybeans once per week, I would highly encourage you to try to get back to your worse fields 2-4 days after application to accurately evaluate the performance of your product. When bean leaf beetles begin to invade these fields it is not uncommon to see high numbers of reinfestation 6-7 days after treatment. This is why it is important to treat only when you reach threshold numbers so you can avoid retreats 7-10 days after the first application from populations that are still moving in. You will see from the tests below that the numbers 6-7 days are much higher than the 2-3 day ratings when populations are still moving into fields or emerging from the ground. To give you a “rough” idea of speed of defoliation: Two years ago we caught a population of bean leaf beetles moving out of some group 4 beans into some group 5’s in Shelby, MS. It took approximately 10-12 days for an average of 150 beetles/25 sweeps to go from 0 to 20% defoliation. This is just a rough example but gives you somewhat of a time frame to make a decision in. As always let us know if you have any questions.



Efficacy of Selected Insecticides on Bean Leaf Beetles In Soybean (1)

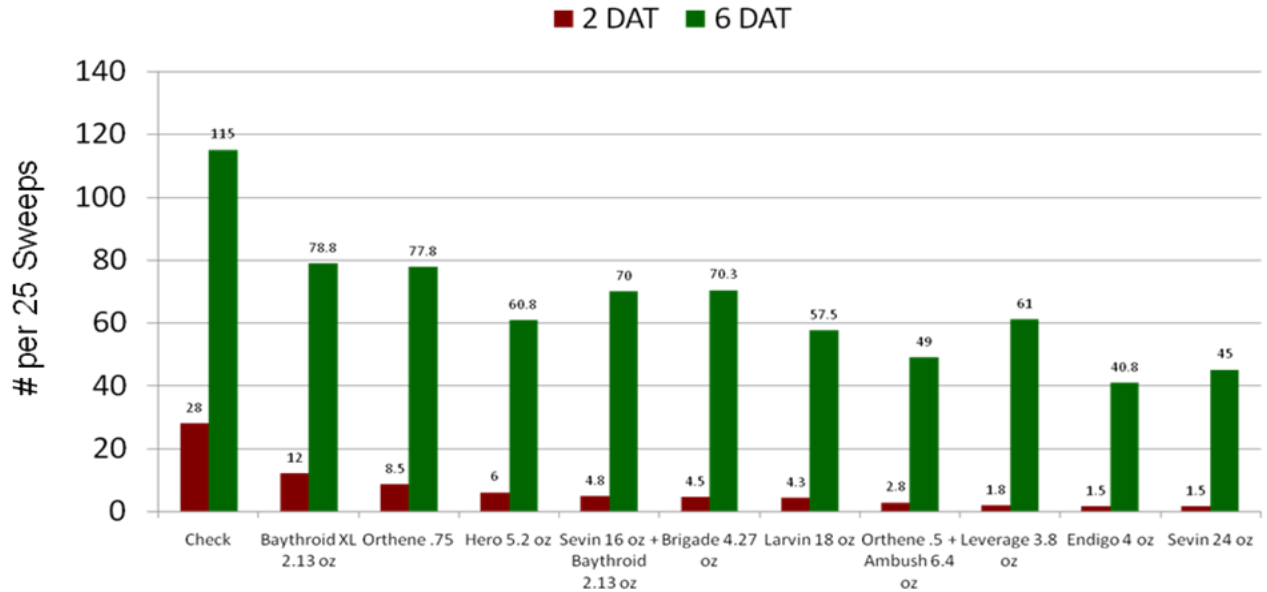
Drew, MS

■ 3 DAT ■ 6 DAT



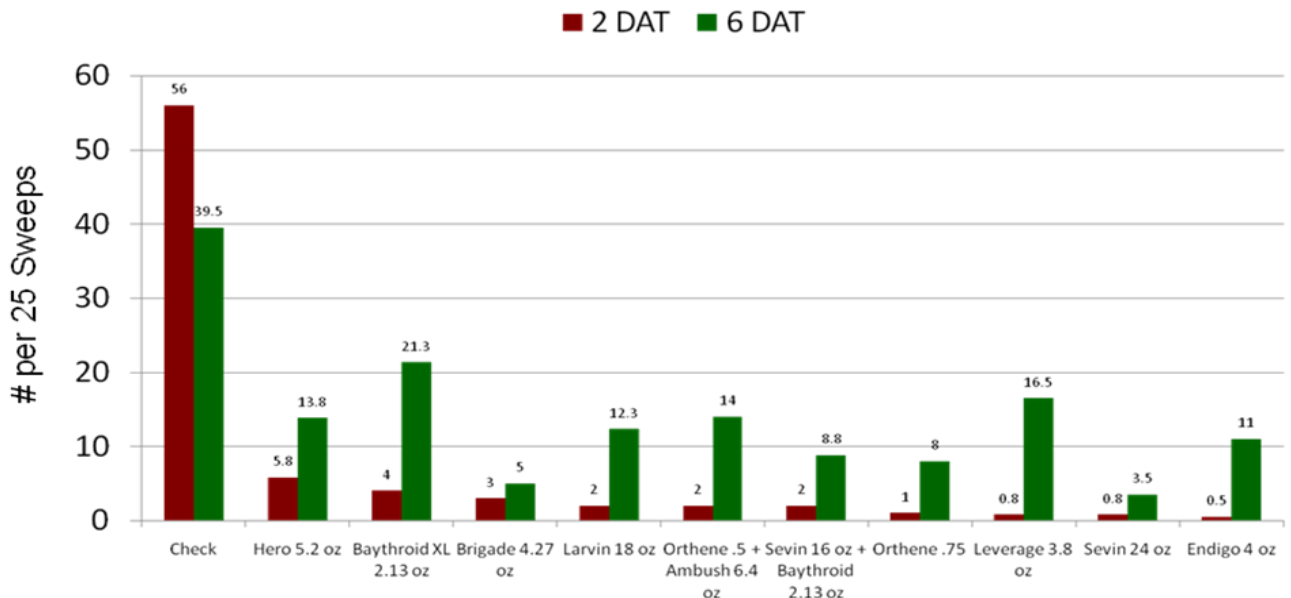
Efficacy of Selected Insecticides on Bean Leaf Beetles In Soybean (2)

Shelby, MS



Efficacy of Selected Insecticides on Bean Leaf Beetles In Soybean (2)

Silver City, MS



Soybean Grading Clinics

Dr. Trey Koger



Soybean Grading Clinics

Provide hands-on training and education on the grading process for MS soybean

9:00 – 11:30 AM

Hands-on training for elevator inspectors

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch provided

(attendees for morning & afternoon session)

1:30 – 3:00 PM

**Process and procedure for grading soybean at elevators
(open to public)**

Clinic Locations:

July 29th (Vicksburg)

Vicksburg / Warren school district superintendents office
1500 Mission 66 Street, Vicksburg MS 39180

July 31st (Stoneville)

Delta Research and Extension Center, Capps
Entrepreneurial Center, Stoneville, MS 38776

August 4th (Tunica)

Tunica RiverPark
One Riverpark Drive, Tunica Resorts, Mississippi 38664
www.Tunicariverpark.com 1-866-517-4837

August 18th (Verona)

North Mississippi Research and Extension Center
5421 Hwy 145 South
Verona, MS 38879

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Questions? contact Trey Koger, Soybean Extension Specialist, MSU-ES
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2009 Budworm/Bollworm/SWCB Trap Captures

Ryan Jackson USDA Trap line					
June 30, 2009					
County	This Week last Year Bollworm	Bollworm	This Week last Year Budworm	Budworm	FAW
Washington	4	23	11	0	-
Sharkey	15	24	12	0	-
Humphreys	20	0	26	0	-
Yazoo	3	28	0	21	-
Holmes	7	0	0	1	-
Leflore	16	77	160	0	-
Tallahatchie	8	26	0	0	-
Coahoma	17	0	11	0	-
Bolivar	9	54	20	0	-
Sunflower	17	29	6	0	-

Fred Musser Trap line					
July 1, 2009					
County	This Week last Year Bollworm	Bollworm	This Week last Year Budworm	Budworm	BAW
Grenada	--	1	--	0	0
Hinds	26	0	17	6	1
Madison	4	6	32	2	2
Rankin	7	2	57	6	19
Oktibbeha	8	4	1	0	4
Noxubee	1	0	17	7	0
Lowndes	4	3	20	4	3
Lee	46	0	6	13	2
Prentiss	3	5	1	1	0
Chickasaw	0	1	6	6	0
Calhoun	0	0	0	0	0
Webster	6	0	2	2	3

Southwestern Corn Borer - Chris Daves 6/25/09-7/01/09, 2009							
County	Traps Reporting	Total Reported	Avg/Trap	County	Traps Reporting	Total Reported	Avg/Trap
Adams	4	2	1	Lowndes	-	-	-
Alcorn	-	-	-	Madison	5	267	53
Bolivar	10	21	2	Monroe	-	-	-
Calhoun	4	164	41	Noxubee	14	148	11
Carroll	4	1,267	317	Panola	10	844	84
Clay	2	11	6	Pontotoc	4	206	52
Coahoma	4	496	124	Quitman	5	190	38
Copiah	2	2	1	Rankin	-	-	-
Covington	4	1	0	Sharkey	4	6	2
DeSoto	-	-	-	Simpson	4	1	0
George	4	0	0	Tallahatchie	15	3,157	210
Grenada	4	44	11	Tate	-	-	-
Hinds	3	2	1	Tunica	-	-	-
Holmes	5	94	19	Warren	4	1	0
Humphreys	21	2,650	126	Washington	15	224	15
Issaquena	4	12	3	Webster	4	13	3
Lee	-	-	-	Yalobusha	4	168	42
Leflore	10	693	69	Yazoo	19	3,492	184

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