

ICM Meeting Notes: March 21, 2012

Paul Brown

Comments from Ayman

Interested in June tent talks to discuss early season management issues. PCAs would like updated information on insect pest management in alfalfa. Some of these publications and recommendations are nearly 25 years old. He is working with colleague in CA to revisit this issue and revise recommendations. He is continuing to work on short extension videos relative to crop management. Five are in preparation. These will be made available via u-tube, etc.

Comments from Shawna

Also planning early season tent talks. There is considerable interest in issues related to PM10 (dust) and best management practices. Other areas of interest include full season varieties (cotton), variety by water studies, one irrigation barley, summer irrigation termination (? Alfalfa?). She recently organized an educational program for ag professionals in conjunction with the Southwest Ag Summit. She will hold another one in late May or early June at MAC.

Comments from Randy

Randy discussed the fusarium issues and the Research & Protection Council committee he is serving on to address/monitor this issue. He also discussed the statewide variety program that will evaluate cotton varieties at 11 locations.

Comments from Rob

Rob mentioned that high winds had been a problem during the early spring. He reported that there will be ~6000 acres of cotton in Mohave Valley with the rest of the acreage in alfalfa or bermudagrass. Growers are just beginning the first cut of alfalfa.

Comments from Kurt

Cotton is mostly at the 1st true leaf stage. There is more cotton planted than in recent years. Another issue of concern is related to potassium movement in soils and potential deficiency issues in selected areas/soils.

Comments from Pedro

Discussed yield monitors and other precision equipment and the need to conduct training on how to shift displays among vehicles.

Comments from Mike

Working on grain sorghum and silage corn testing with Shawna. Also conducting a forage sorghum test at MAC & evaluating sorghum for biomass production (?alt fuels?). Mike also discussed recent activities of the Arizona Crop Improvement Association including a Seed Industry Summit.

Comments from Sam

Sam discussed the possibility of conducting limited tillage studies to deal with PM10. Peter discussed the purpose of plow down which is to lessen winter survival of key cotton pests. Peter also mentioned the rebate amount for compliance may be too low, thus causing some growers to comply with plow down dates.

Comments from Peter

We are close to functional eradication of the pink bollworm. Also discussed the move among some growers to alter or abolish plow down for cotton.

Comments from Bill

Concern is growing regarding herbicide resistance of weeds. He is developing resistance document & subsequent Extension publication for distribution to growers. Palmer Amaranth is already resistant to Roundup in the southeast.

Comment from Bob

Arizona Biotech Industry Association, a non-profit trade group, has developed a Bio-Ag & Bio-Fuels Committee and will meet with Dean on Apr 26th.

Meeting Discussion

Ayman

- Central AZ Fld Day at MAC, 8-noon, on winter crops
- Late May/Early June: Early to mid-season cotton (Will doodle to get right times)

Randy

- Cotton workshop 12 July for Cochise & Graham Counties
- NCERA 180 Mtg on precision ag, March 29th at MAC

Rob

- Coordinate with LaPAz. A few growers will attend LaPaz meetings and bring information back to Mohave Valley.

Peter

-Summer meeting not all set. Would like additional meetings in Yuma and include meetings to run the Lygus Game they are developing.

-3rd Intl Lygus Symposium likely to be in Phoenix in late October.

Late Summer Meetings

-Suggest moving west to east covering issues related to cotton defoliation, alfalfa (autotox, varieties, fall pests) and perhaps small grains.

Final Comments Regarding Improving Meeting Attendance

-Listening sessions with growers

-Access to commodity email lists

Next Meeting: August 8th at MAC