

Sugarcane Aphid in Sorghum Tailgate Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

10:00 to 11:30 am

Location: Pixley, SW corner of Ave. 104 and Road 104

*Sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors: Nicholas Clark and David Haviland
No reservations required. For more info call 661-868-6200.*

Purpose

Sugarcane aphid was recently identified as a new invasive pest of sorghum in the lower San Joaquin Valley. If left untreated, aphid populations can increase exponentially and result in significant crop loss. Traditional aphid control tactics in sorghum, such as the organophosphate insecticides that can be used against 'greenbug', are not effective against sugarcane aphids. The purpose of this tailgate meeting will be to discuss what we know about this pest and ideas about how to control it.

About the pest

Sugarcane aphid was first found attacking sorghum in Texas during 2013. By 2014 crop losses were reported in 11 southern states from Texas to Florida. During August 2016 multiple sorghum growers in California reported that traditional aphid insecticides were not providing aphid control. Follow-ups at these sites revealed a new species of aphid that was confirmed by CDFG to be sugarcane aphid on August 30th, 2016. Sorghum growers in California are in the process of trying to adapt management programs for grain sorghum in southern states to their forage sorghum fields in California. The participatory tailgate meeting on September 7th will facilitate this process.

Agenda

10:00 – 11:30 am Presentation on sugarcane aphid biology and management – *David Haviland and Peter Goodell, UCCE and UC IPM*. Discussion about sorghum grower response to aphid infestations. *All meeting participants, discussion facilitated by UC Entomologists.*