



# ACPA Newsletter

2015

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## Sugarcane Aphid Impacting Sorghum Production in Arkansas

By: Dr. Nick Seiter, Assistant Professor, Extension Entomologist  
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

The sugarcane aphid has been problematic for Arkansas sorghum producers in 2015, particularly in fields that were planted late. First reported in Arkansas in 2014 (and first reported on sorghum in the U.S. in 2013), this aphid has quickly spread throughout most of the sorghum producing areas of the southern United States. Infestations were slow to develop in Arkansas in the early summer, but have come on strong in August as many late-planted acres have entered the reproductive stages. The sugarcane aphid is now present in virtually all of the sorghum producing areas in Arkansas, and can be a management concern all the way until harvest.

Sugarcane aphids reproduce asexually and are born pregnant, allowing them to reproduce very rapidly. These insects can go from barely detectable to problem levels in a matter of days. Sugarcane aphids feed on plant sap, usually on the underside of sorghum leaves. When many aphids are feeding on the plant, this can result in reduced yields due to impacts on plant vigor, and can even lead to death of the plant in extreme cases. The

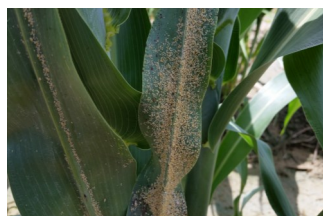
large amounts of sugar water the aphids feed on are excreted as honeydew, a sticky substance that covers leaves below the infestation and resembles syrup or molasses. A fungus known as sooty mold grows in the honeydew, resembling a black coating of the leaves that sometimes comes off in flakes. Honeydew can lead to problems of its own, including harvest difficulties due to the clogging up of combine machinery, reduced uptake of harvest aids, or reduced photosynthesis and further reductions to plant vigor and yield. Signs of an aphid infestation to look for include honeydew (leaves will appear slick and shiny, and are sticky to the touch), sooty mold (blackened leaves, sometimes appear "flaky"), and the cast skins of the aphids (resembling tiny white specks, often stuck in the honeydew). When these are observed, often a large infestation of sugarcane aphids is present on the underside of the leaf above.

There are currently two insecticides available for control of sugarcane aphid in grain sorghum. Sivanto, a new material for 2015, is available under a 2 (ee) supplemental label for use

to control sugarcane aphids at a rate of 4-7 oz./acre. Transform WG has been granted a section 18 emergency label exemption for 2015 for use to control sugarcane aphid in grain sorghum at a rate of 0.75-1.5 oz./acre (a similar label exemption was granted in 2014). An insecticide application is recommended when 25% of plants are infested with 50 or more aphids per leaf. Infestations tend to be at their worst after the plants have flowered, and insecticide coverage, especially in the lower leaves, can pose a challenge. This is compounded by the fact that residual activity is fairly short, and aphids "left over" in the lower canopy can quickly re-infest the upper leaves. The use of high water volumes (at least 10 gallons/acre by ground and at least 5 gallons/acre by airplane) is recommended; applications put out using insufficient water volume are often ineffective. Acceptable control is difficult to achieve once aphid populations have built up and are developing rapidly, so it is important to scout fields regularly and target aphid populations before they build up to out-of-control levels.



Sugarcane aphid with heavy honeydew on leaves



High populations of sugarcane aphid on leaves building up.



Sugarcane aphid on heading grain sorghum.

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### Special points of interest:

- Sugar Cane Aphid Emerging as Major Pest in Grain Sorghum.
- New Regulations on Technology in Place.
- Arkansas Crop Management Conference, January 19-21, 2016.
- Susie Nichols is New Director, ASPB Pesticide Division and Ex-officio Board Member of ACPA
- Research Conference, November 30 thru December 1, 2015.

## Plant Board Introduces Regulations for Monsanto and Dow New Technologies.

By: Susie Nichols, Director, Pesticide Division, Arkansas State Plant Board



New Regulations in place on use of Dow and Monsanto products for pigweed control

Over the past couple of years the Arkansas State Plant Board has worked to find a way to allow the introduction of new pesticide technologies in the State. New regulations have been approved for the introduction of the new dicamba and 2,4,D technologies from Dow and Monsanto respectively.

The new regulations focus on Monsanto's products identified as M1691, Roundup Xtend with VaporGrip technology, and Xtendi Max with Valor-

Grip; and Dow Agro Sciences' Enlist Duo. The new regulations add additional restrictions not currently on the Federal label such as: (1) Restrictions on wind speed and direction (2) tank mixes (3) droplet sizes and (4) buffer zones. The Arkansas State Plant Board's Full Board has also approved regulations for BASF's new dicamba technology identified as Engenia. However, these regulations (on Engenia) are pending until reviewed and approved by the State's Rules and Regulations

Committee. A copy of the new regulations can be found on the Plant Board web site [www.plantboard.arkansas.gov](http://www.plantboard.arkansas.gov) Look under the Pesticide Division section under the description paragraph link "Arkansas Pesticide Control Act and Regulations".

## Arkansas Crop Management Conference Scheduled for January 19-21, 2016,

By: Chuck Ligon, ACMC Program Chair and ACPA President Elect

*"Make Room Reservations for ACMC by Calling Wyndham at 501-371-9000"*

The Arkansas Crop Management Conference planning committee met in Carlisle at Advada's restaurant on August 27, 2015. The ACMC meeting is scheduled for January 19-21, 2015 at the Wyndham Riverfront, North Little Rock, AR. The planning meeting included members from the organizations that sponsor the ACMC meeting. The conference for 2016 will have the same num-

ber of educational credits available this year as last year, approximately 25-26 credits total depending on approval by CCA organization and Arkansas State Plant Board. The topics of interest this year that will be addressed at the conference include yellow sugar cane aphid management in grain sorghum, resistant pigweed management, new technology for weed management from Dow and Mon-

santo, technology associated regulations review by the Plant Board, soil and water topics(5 credits), and several topics on nutrient management. Registration fees will be the same as last year and pre-registration will offer a reduced cost. Rooms may be reserved by calling the Wyndham at 501-371-9000.

## ACPA Research Conference Announced by Arkansas Crop Protection Association Vice President

By: Dr. Jarrod Hardke, Extension Rice Specialist, UA Division of Agriculture



Dr. Jarrod Hardke coordinates the Research Conference for ACPA.

The Arkansas Crop Protection Association (ACPA) will host its annual research conference November 30-December 1, 2015 in Fayetteville, AR. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1325 N, Palak Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72704. Phone 479-856-6040 for reservations. Conference highlights will include a student paper com-

petition with cash prizes awarded to the top presentations in both Ph.D. and Master's divisions. Researchers from research, extension, and industry are encouraged to attend and participate by making presentations. Continuing education credits will also be available. A formal call for papers will be sent out in September.



Student paper competition is composed of an array of topics on crop related research.



## Arkansas Crop Protection Association Officers and Board Members for 2015

### President

Dr. Tom Barber  
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

### President Elect

Chuck Ligon  
DuPont Pioneer

### Vice-President

Dr. Jarrod Hardke  
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

### Secretary

Dr. Jeremy Ross  
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### Director, Agri-Business

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ACPA, Executive Director  
Dr. Donald R. Johnson

### Constitution Committee

Dr. William Johnson  
DuPont Pioneer

### Ex-Officio Board Member

Arkansas Farm Bureau

### Ex-Officio Board Member

Arkansas State Plant Board  
Susie Nichols

### Ex-Officio Board Member

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture  
Ples Spradley

## Arkansas Crop Protection Association Needs Volunteers to Serve on Various Committees in Our Organization

The Arkansas Crop Protection Association is a non-profit organization recognized by the IRS and State of Arkansas. The organization was organized in 1968 for the purpose of promoting interest of discussion, dissemination and exchange of information on crop protection pesticides and expanded to include biotechnology and products. ACPA is also promotes closer coordination, understanding and appreciation of mutual problems of the crop protection industry and the various governmental, educational and agricultural agencies throughout the state of Arkansas. We depend

on individuals involved in all aspects of agriculture to lead our organization in these common goals. As part of ACPA several standing committees exist to carry on the function of our rather large organization. ACPA cooperates with the Arkansas Plant Food Association, Arkansas Crop Consultants, and Certified Crop Advisors organizations to conduct the Arkansas Crop Management Conference. These committees include the ACPM program committee, site and local arrangements committee, sustaining membership committee, finance and auditing committee, nominating committee (past

presidents), resolutions and recognition committee, publicity committee and constitution committee. We encourage anyone interested in participating in ACPA committees to contact our officers, board members or the Executive Director, Don Johnson. Don's email is drjohnson@centurytel.net. We look forward to you working with ACPA.

*“ACPA is a non-profit organization recognized by IRS and State of Arkansas”.*

**We're on the web:**  
[acpanews.com](http://acpanews.com)

## **Susie Nichols Appointed Director of Arkansas State Plant Board Pesticide Division.**

Ms. Susie Nichols was appointed Director of the Pesticide Division, Arkansas State Plant Board, in February of 2015. Susie has been involved with the Arkansas State plant Board since 2003. She was raised in Northeast Arkansas and worked on the University of Arkansas Northeast Research and Extension while attending school. At the Arkansas State Plant Board, she served in the position of Agriculture Specialist and in 2006 was promoted to the position of Assistant Director of Enforcement. Ms. Nichols has extensive knowledge of Arkansas

State Plant Board programs in the Pesticide Division and developed many of the Plant Board regulations as directed by Arkansas law. She also has a great working relationship with agricultural organizations, producers and EPA personnel. She will serve on the ACPA board as ex-officio representative from the Arkansas State Plant Board. Otis Howe, our State Plant Board Representative, works extensively with Ms. Nichols on the Board. Congratulations to Susie Nichols.



Susie Nichols, Pesticide Division Director, Arkansas State Plant Board serves as Ex-Officio Board Member of ACPA.