



Happy New Year
And May It Be A Better One than Last Year!!

Across much of the LRGV, field moisture is better than last year, and so are hopes for a much improved crop yield than last year. Though some would like to have a little more rain to seal off the soil from recent fertilizer and herbicide applications, sub soil moisture appears to be pretty good compared to the last several years. Water available to irrigated farms still is not good.

Weather forecasters have predicted a more moist spring this year. Let's hope so. More moisture will mean a better potential for improved yields all across the LRGV, irrigated and dryland farms alike. But, improved moisture will likely mean more insect problems. Boll weevils particularly, have suffered from the drought and a good moisture situation that would make the crop grow better could be a better meal for weevils and worms as well. However, at this point in time, most folks would rather have a better chance for a crop and then worry about the insects later.

With that in mind, the *Pest Cast* newsletter once again will be published to keep all who are interested up to date with the LRGV's cotton and grain insect situation during the 2003 season. The newsletter will be published periodically from now until late March or early April when we will start weekly publication.

We have included a post card that you can mail to us to indicate your interest in remaining on the newsletter mailing list. Also, if you have a friend or neighbor who would like to be included on the *Pest Cast* mailing list, you can add them onto the post card. The post card will need your postage stamp in order to be mailed back to us. In lieu of sending the post card, you can call our offices at Weslaco at (956) 968-5581 and let our secretaries know you are interested in continuing to be on the mailing list and we will be glad to comply. Another list you may be interested in is our e-mail list. If you would rather receive *Pest Cast* by e-mail, let us know when you call or send in your post card. The e-mailed newsletter goes out to all recipients immediately and there is no postage cost to us to send it that way. Many have commented they much prefer to get *Pest Cast* through e-mail since they do not have to wait for the post office to deliver it on Monday or Tuesday of the next week. Please, let us know what you wish to do. We must remove any names from this year's mailing if we do not get a reply.

We look forward to sending the newsletter again this year and to working with each and everyone of you this season.

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The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter
for the Row Crops in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

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PEST CAST

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