CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD – 2015

Title: Insect Control in Grain Sorghum

Investigators: Gus Lorenz and Nick Seiter

Production System: Grain Sorghum

Status: Year 2

Stated Goal: Insect Pest Education and Selecting Insecticides for Control of Corn Earworm and Other Insect Pests Of Grain Sorghum

Specific Objectives:

- 1. Increase awareness of the impact insects pests can have on production
- 2. Provide growers and other decision-makers with the proper tools to make decisions on insect pest populations in their fields
- 3. Overall improvement of insect pest management in grain sorghum in Arkansas and increased adoption of IPM in production
- 4. Determine efficacy of selected insecticides for control of grain sorghum pests

What We Accomplished in 2015

- We had four foliar trials with selected insecticides conducted, one at Arkansas City (Table 1) and three at Marianna (Table 2). We were able to evaluate a new virus and most of the labeled products as well as a new product Blackhawk which performed well and will provide control of midge giving growers better options for control. We are looking for materials that will not flare aphids when we control midge and caterpillars.
- 2. We also conducted a whorl feeder study in grain sorghum where we infested plots at 0, 1 per 10, 1 per 5, one per plant and 3 per plant. While damage was worst at one per plant and 3 per plant NO yield loss occurred. Many growers spent money on whorl feeders last year and our data would indicate that money could be saved. We plan to repeat this trial in 2016
- 3. We conducted 5 scouting schools which included information on grain sorghum scouting. We also handed out beat buckets to scouts and consultants with Promotion Board Logo at the trainings and to individuals during the growing season. We gave out over 50 buckets this year. We also conducted a training for county agents on scouting techniques in grain sorghum.
- 4. We wrote and got approved a Section 18 for Transform to control sugarcane aphids (SA). We have been surveying fields, reporting movement of SA. We tracked movement of SA as it moved across the state to alert growers and consultants on how the population was moving across the state. We have released information through the UA Crop Blog, Twitter, and Pest Patrol Hotline with pictures and information on the development of this new pest on grain sorghum in Arkansas.

