

Pink Bollworm Eradication Current Status

February 2009

Objective

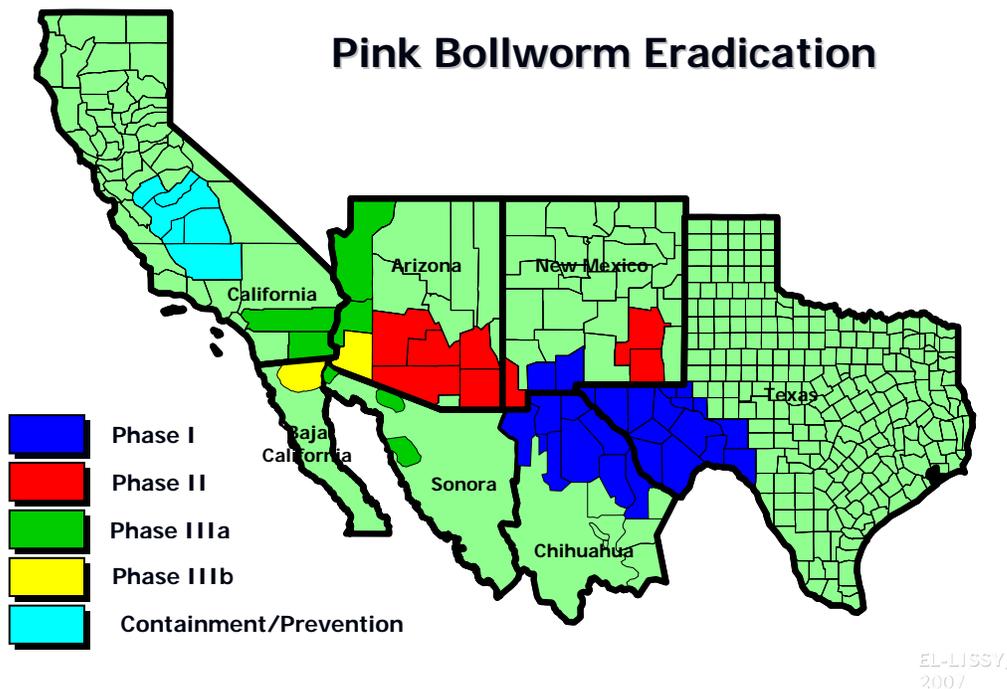
To eradicate the pink bollworm from all cotton-producing areas of the United States and adjacent areas of northern Mexico.

Economic Impact

The pink bollworm is costing U.S. cotton producers over \$32 million each year in prevention, control costs and yield losses. To eliminate this annual burden, the industry began in 2002 a three-phase program to eradicate this key cotton pest.

Timeline & Program Areas

Since this is a grower-driven program, expansion as described in the map occurs in response to grower referenda. Recent occurrence of pink bollworm in a portion of the Texas High Plains resulted in an estimated \$15 million dollar loss to producers in 2004. The infested area on the High Plains is under a pest management program and the entire state of Texas has been monitored for pink bollworm.



Technology

The technology used to eradicate the pink bollworm has four primary components: 1) extensive survey; 2) transgenic Bt cotton; 3) pheromone application for mating disruption; and, 4) sterile pink bollworm moth releases. Program technologies are applied on an area-wide basis, and continue for four to five years in each area.

Projected Costs

The projected costs to eliminate the pink bollworm have been developed for each of the three phases shown in the map above. Grower approved assessments pay for program operations, trapping, and pheromone applications. Planting Bt cotton is encouraged as an effective control measure, but it is a grower decision. Growers cover the cost of using Bt cotton, but assessments on Bt cotton acres are about half that of non-Bt cotton acres. The cost of sterile insect rearing and daily releases (See Appropriations Request section below) will be provided by USDA-APHIS as a cost-share contribution to the program.

Pink Bollworm Eradication: Projected Costs, Timeline, and Cost-Share Estimates									
Program Activity	Program Areas	Acres	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Prevention ¹	San Joaquin Valley, CA	700,000	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.1	1.8	1.7	14.8
Eradication (Phase I)	W.TX+SC.NM+No.MX	212,000	5.9	5.3	5.8	--	--	--	17.0
Eradication (Phase II)	Eastern & Central AZ	200,000	8.5	8.5	8.5	7.0	--	--	32.5
Eradication (Phase IIIa)	W.AZ+S.CA+NW.MX	105,000	--	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	--	19.9
Eradication (Phase IIIb)	W.AZ+S.CA+NW.MX	140,000	--	--	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	36.8
Total Grower Costs			17.6	21.9	31.3	23.3	16.0	10.9	121.0
USDA-APHIS Rearing & Release Costs ²			4.8	5.3	7.0	8.0	6.2	4.0	35.3
Total Program Costs (\$ millions)			22.4	27.2	38.3	31.3	22.2	14.9	156.3
USDA Cost-Share			21%	20%	18%	26%	28%	27%	23%

¹ Budget includes annual grower-APHIS cooperative program to prevent PBW from infesting the San Joaquin Valley.
² APHIS funds cover rearing costs for the SJV, and rearing and release costs for all active eradication areas. Amounts shown are funds available at the field level, after USDA-APHIS indirect costs.

Current Status

Phase I is complete in West Texas, South Central New Mexico, and Chihuahua, Mexico, with pink bollworm moth and larval populations being eliminated. Phase II began in 2006 in southeastern and central Arizona, and has seen a 99 percent reduction in pink bollworm moths. Partial expansion into Phase IIIa, involving western Arizona, southeastern California, and Sonora, Mexico, occurred in 2007. Remaining portions of Phase IIIb, including Yuma, Arizona, southern California, and the Mexicali Valley, began in 2008.

Appropriations Request

For FY 2010, the cotton industry is requesting \$8.29 million for USDA-APHIS-PPQ for pink bollworm. This would provide: \$6.15 million to rear and release sterile insects (26 million moths per day) in all active eradication areas from El Paso, Texas, to southern California, and also protect the San Joaquin Valley from infestation. The remaining \$2.14 million will provide direct and indirect costs for APHIS.

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