Caterpillar species this month will likely be a mix of both bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW). We will likely see the 3rd generation of TBW in early August. There is no way of knowing the exact percentage mix between BW and TBW. Going by the species of moths observed can be misleading due to habits of each species being different. Therefore, to obtain effective control we must: “Select insecticides as if all the worms are TBW, or heavy TBW mix, and hope that the majority are BW.” (R. Leonard, LSU).

1. **Timing** Target 1-4 day old worms (timing is critical), as you have only one shot at an individual worm. Do not spend money trying to control large worms. Use your best shot (appropriate chemistry) and the best (highest) rate on the first application. Do not give up and abandon the crop on the sight of escaped worms. If moisture is good and yields are promising, cotton will somewhat compensate for worm damage, even if it does make it later.

2. **Coverage**- Apply enough water for canopy penetration in order to reach the worms already down the plant and protected by foliage. This may require 5 gallons per acre (gpa) by air or 10 gpa by ground with enough pressure to produce small droplets that will penetrate the canopy.

3. **Selection of Chemistry**

   Products that have TBW activity include:
   - **Tracer, Steward, Belt, Denim, Larvin** and **Lannate** (none are “clean up materials” and rates can not be cut on any of these.) Other insecticides may work for some people in some areas. But I have not had enough positive experience with them in my 35 years as a cotton entomologist to justify the expense.
   - **Tracer** supplies are currently limited. Tracer applications may need to be made as a tank mixture with a pyrethroid.
   - **Steward** is not quite as good on TBW as Tracer, but is slightly more effective than Tracer on BW. Use at 10.7oz. (.11 lb) or higher
   - **Belt** at 3 oz./acre (if and when available, new from Bayer)
   - **Denim** must be used at short intervals (5 days) for maximum effectiveness. Use the label rate of 6-8 oz. /acre
   - **Lannate** or **Larvin** are most effective as a tank mix partner with the new chemistry (Tracer/Steward) or pyrethroid as an ovicide. Use 12 oz. of Lannate as an ovicide or 24 oz. alone as a larvicide (on 5 day interval during worm hatch).
   - Use Larvin at 12oz. as an ovicide or 24 oz. alone as a larvicide (on 5 day interval). Larvin is most effective during dry periods.