

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
49TH ANNUAL COTTON INSECT
RESEARCH AND CONTROL
CONFERENCE**

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The 49th Annual Meeting of the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference was called to order by Gary Herzog at 3:30 on January 11, 1996. Co-chairman Herzog indicated that this has been a very successful meeting with 186 papers submitted to the conference. There were a few cancellations due to the inclement weather and by international contributors who were unable to obtain visas because of the government shutdown resulting from the budget impasse. It was indicated that in excess of 5300 attendees were registered at the conference, another record, despite the weather.

Co-chairman asked for a brief moment of silence for members of the group who had passed away during the previous year. Dr. Dick Jenson was the only member so recognized.

REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATED AGENCIES

State Agricultural Experiment Stations - no report.

USDA, ARS - Dr. D. D. Hardee reported in the absence of Dr. Faust, who was snowed in in Washington. USDA has a new administrator, Frank Horn. He seems to be pro-research but there will still be many changes in the future. There is an anticipated 20% reduction in the workforce during the next 5 to 7 years. This is not as bad as the 30-40% reductions that have been common during the last few years. ARS is about as small as it can get and maintain an effective research program. Currently the average age of ARS scientists is 50 years old. Dr. Hardee indicated that areawide pest management programs are still popular with the agency and funds are being made available for their implementation.

USDA, CSREES - No one from this agency available to make a report.

USDA, APHIS - Bill Griffenstedt reported regarding the status of boll weevil eradication programs across the US. He indicated that we are in need of evening out the jerky movement of the BWE programs. The program needs to maintain a steady course of expansion according to the long term plan. North Alabama has had some very difficult years in terms of crop production. There is a perception that the boll weevil is reinfesting areas of North and South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. This is not particularly so. There are currently over 3 million acres that are weevil free. The reinfestations that have occurred are probably a result of movement of harvesting equipment into these areas. There are only about 25,000 acres that have been reinfested and work is currently under way to eliminate those infestations. This is a wakeup call for all involved in the program that we should not let down our guard. We still need research on the boll weevil regardless of the lack of political support for such research.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Dr. Doug Southerland was unable to attend the meeting because of fiscal restraints and because of inclement weather during the meeting.

National Cotton Council - Frank Carter reported for the NCC. He indicated that the report on cotton insect losses would need to be reviewed prior to publication. The report that was presented at the BWCC was picked up by the Reuters News Service and given worldwide circulation. The format for the Producer Conference, namely the workshops, has gained in popularity. Input is being solicited as to how we may make improvements on these workshops in the future. Dr. Carter indicated that the NCC and the EPA have been working on a compromise for granting of Section 18 requests for chemicals that are needed for control of insect pests. He indicated that EPA has agreed to improve on this and the the next Section 18 Exemption for Pirate, Confirm and Furadan may be approved in March following a predetermined trigger of infestation.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Cotton Insects Book - Randy Coleman reported on the status of the Cotton Insects Book that has been in preparation for several years. He indicated that many of the page proofs were at this meeting last year. Page proofs of one additional chapter are still being verified. There is currently a target date of June 1, 1996 for publication of the book. The book will contain 860 pages.

Cotton Insect Losses Report - Mike Williams distributed a preliminary copy of the Cotton Insect Losses Report. He indicated that a number of changes will need to be made to the statistics contained in the report. There are still some problems with timely reporting of the information required for the report. If the report is to be provided on time, it is imperative that the reports come in on time. There is still

some work that is needed in the way that information is reported on the use of in-furrow systemic insecticides for thrips control as well as the costs of Boll Weevil Eradication. Dr. Williams indicated that this is a very important and widely used document and that all persons involved in the development of the statistics should be commended. Gary Lentz moved that the report be accepted with revisions that are forthcoming. Don Allemann seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference Report

- Dick Hardee indicated that copies of the preliminary draft of the Conference Report had been mailed to lead persons in each state for editing. He indicated that there is still a problem with timely reporting so that the Report may be completed in a timely manner. Many of the states have a group of persons that are responsible for providing information for the Report from their respective states. These persons should probably be listed in the report so that it may accurately reflect the origin of the information. Dr. Hardee reiterated the importance of the Conference Report as a useful and historically valuable document. Dick Hardee moved for the adoption of the report with the inclusion of updated statistics. Gary Lentz second the motion and it was passed by the membership.

Miscellaneous Items of Business - A preliminary draft of the program for the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference was not mailed to the membership this year because it was understood that the entire program would be mailed early this year. Unfortunately, the programs were not mailed as early as expected. Due to no second mailing, ballots were not mailed to the membership regarding new members for the Program Committee. Gary Herzog indicated that the few members present at the meeting could elect the new committee or that we might carry over the old members for another year. Jerry Graves moved that we hold over the Program Committee from 1995 for an additional year. Don Allemann seconded the motion and it was passed.

Special thanks were extended to Dr. Clyde Sorenson for his help in reviewing manuscripts for the Beltwide Proceedings. Gary Herzog asked for volunteers to assist with editing of the 1996 manuscripts.

Don Allemann suggested that the Conference compose a letter to EPA supporting their continued efforts toward timely registration of pesticides. They have a tremendous workload and are understaffed for the job. Don Allemann moved that such a letter be written and sent to EPA by the membership. Dick Hardee seconded the motion and it was passed. Dr. Allemann agreed to compose a draft of the letter and submit it to the Co-chairs of the conference.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The Co-chairmen of the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference wish to acknowledge the following persons for their assistance in editing manuscripts for the 1996 Proceedings of the Beltwide Cotton Conference: Russell J. Ottens, Carol S. Ireland and Jenny V. Nelms, University of Georgia, Ralph D. Bagwell and James A. Ottea, Louisiana State University, Larry D. Godfrey, University of California, Davis, Michael T. Smith, USDA, ARS, SARL, Clyde Sorenson, University of Missouri, and Scott D. Stewart, Mississippi State University.