

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 50TH ANNUAL COTTON  
INSECT RESEARCH AND CONTROL  
CONFERENCE**

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The 50th Annual Meeting of the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference was called to order by Gary Herzog at 3:30 on January 9, 1997. Co-chairman indicated that this had been a very successful meeting with 189 papers submitted to the conference. There were a few paper cancellations, however, substitutions were able to be made in many cases to minimize disruption.

Co-chairman Herzog indicated that this 50th Annual Conference was the golden anniversary of the meeting and that the past played a significant role in where we are today. Currently there are over 1700 names on our mailing list, which are people who have attended the Beltwide Conferences in the past few years and indicated that the Insect Conference was their conference of choice.

Co-chairman Herzog also called attention to the persons who had provided leadership to the group in the past. First among those cited for their leadership was Mr. Charlie Parencia who solely led the Conference for many years. Following Mr. Parencia's retirement, Dr. J.R. Phillips and Dr. Marvin Merkle served as Co-chairs of the conference. Upon the retirement of Dr. Merkle, Dr. Don Bull provided the leadership for the conference report. Following Dr. Bull's reassignment, Dr. Ed King took over as Co-chairman along with Dr. Phillips. Jake Phillips then stepped down as Co-Chairman of the Conference in 1989 and was succeeded by Dr. Gary Herzog. In 1992 Dr. King stepped down and was replaced by Dr. D. D. Harden as co-chairman of the conference. Drs. Herzog and Harden remain as co-chairs of the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference.

**REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATED AGENCIES**

**State Agricultural Experiment Stations** - No report.

**USDA, ARE** - No Report

**USDA, APHID** - Bill Greffenstette reported on three issues regarding the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. First, there are currently 3 million acres of cotton in the US that are weevil free. In the active eradication programs there are some 3,000 personnel involved but only 6 federal employees. Secondly, several new areas are to be involved in the eradication program in 1997, including parts of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. Mississippi and Tennessee will be voting on their programs in early 1997. The last issue brought before the group was that monetary loans of up to \$35 million would be available through Farm Service Administration for assistance in the eradication programs. Currently, the total cost of the active phases of the eradication program is being paid by the growers.

**USDA-CSREES** - No Report

**US-EPA** - Dr. Doug Sutherland reported on what is going on regarding regulatory issues in the EPA. He indicated that the Office of Pesticide Programs currently has 8 divisions, 29 branch chiefs and 60 section chiefs. During 1997, that will be reduced to 6 divisions, 49 branch chiefs and no section chiefs. The goal of this reorganization is to eliminate 1 level of supervisory review and to speed up the regulatory process.

New insecticides under review include Tracer which is on the fast track for registration. A decision should be made within a month on registration of this product. The Section 3 package for Confirm has not as yet been submitted to EPA for review. A Section 18 is a good possibility for 1997. Section 18's for Knack and Applaud will probably be allowed in 1997. Dr. Sutherland indicated that any Section 18 requests should be submitted now if there are no changes from the 1996 requests and if no new data are available.

**National Cotton Council** - Dr. Frank Carter spoke on the activities of the National Cotton Council. He indicated that there were still many unknowns regarding the impact of the Food Quality Protection Act on insecticide registrations in the US. The pyrethroid conditional registrations have been extended until November 1997. It is unknown what will happen with them after that time. He indicated that the Insect Losses report generated by this our group is extremely important to the NCC in assisting to provide input into regulation and legislation. The Cotton Insect book is at the printer. It is to be completed sometime in January. it is 710 pages long.

**OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Cotton Insect Losses Report** - Dr. Mike Williams reviewed the information regarding the 1996 losses to cotton insects. The report that he provided was a draft and revisions are still needed. He indicated that some reports from the states are very late in getting to him and that makes it difficult to provide a detailed report at this meeting. He indicated that the "Big Three" insect pests for 1996 were

worms, weevils and plant bugs. The conferees accepted the report pending revision as additional information becomes available.

**Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference Report**

- Dr. Dick Harden provided draft copies of the Conference Report to members in attendance. He indicated that information was difficult to get from many of the states and that the lack of information caused a serious delay in putting together the report. The report was accepted by the membership pending revision as it becomes available.

**Miscellaneous Items of Business** - Newly elected members of the Program Committee include Gary Lentz, representing the state agricultural experiment stations, William Scott, representing USDA, ARE, and Ray Young representing the consultants organization.

Co-Chairman Herzog commended the persons who helped in the editorial process for the Proceedings of the Beltwide Conference. He asked for additional help for the 1997 Proceedings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.