

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 51st ANNUAL COTTON
INSECT RESEARCH AND CONTROL
CONFERENCE**

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The 51st annual meeting of the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference was called to order by Gary Herzog at 3:30 on January 8, 1998. Co-chairman Herzog indicated that this had been another very successful meeting with 185 papers submitted to the conference. There were a few paper cancellations, however, the meeting has run very smoothly. Co-chairman Herzog noted the deaths of two former members of the conference and asked for a moment of silence in their memory. Those members were Charles Hoague and Aaron Womble.

Reports From Associated Agencies

State Agricultural Experiment Stations

No Report

CSREES

No Report

USDA-ARS

Dick Hardee reported that the 1998 budget showed an increase of 4.7% for ARS activities - the first increase in some time. During the next two years there are 38 entomologist positions that are to be filled in ARS with 10 of those vacancies to be made available in February. He reported that ARS has a new motto - "Food and Fiber Forever".

USDA-APHIS

Bill Greffenstette reported on the status of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program in the Cotton Belt. He indicated that three years ago, 50 APHIS personnel were involved in the program, but now only have nine. There is to be a GS 12 technical person in each area that is involved in the eradication program. There is an effort to work with Farm Service Agency on \$70 million in loans to continue the eradication program. There is a continuing effort to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the impact of BWEP on endangered species. It was stated that there would be a

Joint Conference/Workshop to be held in Memphis on February 11-12, 1998 regarding the eradication program.

EPA

Doug Sutherland reported that this has been a most eventful year with the implementation of FQPA. Fortunately, three new entomologists have been hired to help with the workload. They are Don Atwood, Michael Hennesey and Eric Riddick. The risk assessment of currently registered pesticides is targeting the organophosphates for initial review under the FQPA. Malathion and methyl parathion are particularly under close scrutiny. Pyrethroid insecticides have been granted a three year extension of their conditional registration. EPA is in the process of developing criteria for granting Section 18 registrations on the basis of resistance management when two or more chemistries might be available for use against a serious pest problem. DuPont's Steward insecticide has been requested for consideration as a reduced risk pesticide and if approved may be on the fast track for registration. There is a proposal to reorganize the O.P.P. by splitting it into two units - commercial and consumer safety. Greenpeace has petitioned EPA to cancel the registration for transgenic Bt products under the threat of a lawsuit. A White Paper is being developed by a Science Advisory Panel concerning this issue.

National Cotton Council

The long-awaited book - Cotton Insects - is now in print and orders are being taken by NCC. Everyone is encouraged to purchase a copy. Regarding regulatory issues, the FQPA passed almost unanimously but there are significant changes that are needed. The review of currently registered insecticides will begin with organophosphates and carbamates. There are 38 active ingredients on the list, 19 of which are used in cotton. There is a need to develop use information on each of the products and there is a need to develop use data on an insect by insect basis. Furadan became an early victim of FQPA. No new tolerance can be approved for the use of Furadan in cotton thus Section 18 requests have been denied and 24c exemptions in Texas and Oklahoma were invalidated in 1997. Requested registration of Pirate is not an FQPA issue but one of avian risk. EPA declined full registration in 1997, however, additional registration information has been submitted by the American Cyanamid and a registration decision should be made by the use season. The new data look favorable, however, Section 18's may again be needed for 1998. The use of products of biotechnology are under fire from political action groups. Political pressure is constantly being felt by EPA regarding registration of biotech products. One case in point is that EPA has declined to extend the tolerance for Buctril herbicide for use in BXN cotton.

NAICC

Ray Young was asked to make any comments that would be appropriate from the perspective of the National Association of Independent Crop Consultants. He indicated

that the association was very concerned with each of the issues that were addressed so far in the meeting. There is a Task Force that has been put together within the association to develop a dialogue with EPA. They need to know that consultants and farmers are not going to use products unless they are needed and then will use them in only the best interest of the public and the environment.

Other Items of Business

Cotton Insect Losses Report

Mike Williams presented copies of the current estimates of losses and costs of control to the membership in attendance. Several new additions to the report have been made to include cost of scouting/consulting and cost of eradication programs and technology fees. The report was approved pending inclusion of final data from the various states.

Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference Report

Dick Hardee provided draft copies of the Conference Report to members in attendance. He indicated that information was still difficult to get from many of the states. The Conference is an important document and is utilized quite extensively so everyone was encouraged to get their reports in on time in the future. The Conference Report was approved pending revision and inclusion of the information from some late responders.

Miscellaneous Items of Business

There is going to be a Second World Cotton Conference to be held next summer in Athens, Greece. Meeting information was made available to the membership. Additional copies of the meeting brochure may be obtained from Derrick Oosterhuis at the University of Arkansas.

Results of the election of members of the Program Committee are as follows: Aubrey Harris replaces Gene Burris as the representative from the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Charles Allen replaces Bill Lambert as the representative from the Cooperative Extension Services and Rusty Mitchell replaces Richard Shaw as a representative from industry. The other three members of the Program Committee include Gary Lentz, William Scott and Ray Young.

Gary Herzog indicated that he would serve as Co-chairman for only one more conference after which time he would like to be replaced. Persons who are interested in serving in that capacity are encouraged to contact one of the members of the Program Committee who also serve as a Nominating Committee.

Journal of Cotton Science

The first issue of the Journal of Cotton Science has been put online on the NCC's website. It has been a massive undertaking to begin the Journal in July and have the first issue out by January 1. The Managing Editor and Coordinating Editor along with the Technical Editors and the large number of reviewers are to be commended for their efforts. It is anticipated that this Journal is to be of highest quality and will serve as an ideal resource for publishing or accessing information on cotton. Gary Herzog has served as Technical Editor for the Insect Section during the first six months in an effort to facilitate a smooth initiation of the Journal. Charles Allen, Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service has agreed to take over the technical editorial duties beginning at the end of this Conference. All future manuscripts whose subject matter deals with insects in cotton will be sent to him from the Coordinating Editor of the Journal.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the name of the Entomology Section of the Journal. It was in agreement that the name of our conference (Cotton Insect Research and Control) may not be appropriate for the Section of the Journal. Several alternative suggestions were made and the motion was made that it be recommended to the Editorial Board that the Section be called "Arthropod Management". The motion was seconded and passed by a majority vote. Additional discussion ensued on guidelines for content of acceptable manuscripts. Would manuscripts reporting projects such as insecticide screening be acceptable for the Journal? It was decided that the Technical Editor bring together a committee to discuss the issues and develop some broad guidelines that would be used in accepting manuscripts. The Technical Editor would ultimately be responsible for determining the suitability of any submitted manuscript.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.