

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 52nd ANNUAL
COTTON INSECT RESEARCH
AND CONTROL CONFERENCE**

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The 52nd annual Meeting of the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference was called to order by Gary Herzog at 3:30 on January 6, 1999. Co-chairman Herzog indicated that this had been another very successful meeting with 187 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 three former members of the conference and asked for a moment of silence in their memory. Those members were J.R. Brazzel, Dennis Bouchard and R.L. Hannah.

Reports From Associated Agencies

No reports were received from State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Cooperative Extension Services, CSREES or ARS.

USDA-APHIS

Bill Grefenstette reported that APHIS programs are committed to eradication. They are also struggling internally with introduced pests but is receiving a high priority.

EPA

Doug Sutherland provided a detailed report from the Environmental Protection Agency. FQPA continues to dominate the work load. There are more "risk" personnel working on that project than "benefits" personnel, therefore, input from the states is considered to be very important. The EPA's web site (www.epa.gov/pesticides) is the place to check out the most recent activities. In 1998 there were 43 Section 18's granted and only one request denied. The Section 18's for cotton insects included 20 for Pirate, 5 for Furadan, 1 for Savey, 2 for pyroproxifen and 2 for buprofizin. Since 1996 there have been a number of new proposals regarding requests for Section 18's. Among those are: multi-year exemptions, states self-certification of emergencies, redefinition of what constitutes economic loss, providing Section 18's for resistance management, and the consideration of reduced risk criteria for granting Section

18's. Input from entomologists in the states are solicited on these items. Letters do help. The Bt Resistance position paper being put together by Dick Hardee and John Van Duyn is very much needed and their work is commended. The status of registration for a number of new products was discussed. Decisions regarding registration of pymetrizine from Novartis will be made in March '99, Confirm from Rohm and Haas in early summer '99, Steward from DuPont during the summer of '99, Intrepid from Rohm and Haas late in '99. Thiamethoxam from Novartis should be ready for review within 18 months. Emmamectin benzoate from Novartis is being considered as a potential candidate for a Section 18. Fipronil, Savey, and Applaud will not be decided upon in 1999. Pirate is still under review with a time table of spring/summer of '99 for a decision.

National Cotton Council

The Beltwide Proceedings are to be made available on CD beginning this year with Proceedings abstracts of previous meetings available on CD sometime this summer. Cotton insect loss estimates from 1979 through 1998 are available at www.msstae.edu/Entomology/Cotton.html. The Pink Bollworm Action Committee has approved an eradication plan for the pink bollworm. Discussion ensued regarding the eradication approach using Bt cotton, pheromone and mating disruption.

NAICC

Ray Young and Lee West indicated that members of the NAICC interact regularly with USDA and EPA regarding pesticide registrations, Section 18's, FQPA and resistance management. There is a willingness among members to provide assistance in getting pesticide use data developed. Roger Carter, NAICC president, has recently appointed a Bt Task Force to work on biotechnology.

Other Items of Business

Cotton Insect Losses Report

Mike Williams distributed copies of the current estimates of losses and costs of control to the membership in attendance. He commended the states for their prompt response to the requests for the estimates. The report was approved pending inclusion of final data from the various states and the final yield estimates.

Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference Report

Dick Hardee was called away from the meeting earlier in the week because of a death in his family. Gary Herzog indicated that preliminary reports had been mailed a few weeks earlier and that any additions or corrections should be made within the next couple of weeks for inclusion in the report. The Report was approved by the membership pending revision and a final report of the Insect Losses Report.

Miscellaneous Items of Business

Gary Herzog is stepping down as Co-Chairman of the conference after 10 years. He is going to be replaced by Gene Burris, Louisiana State University. Herzog expressed his appreciation to all of the membership for their support and cooperation during the last 10 years. He asked that the same support be extended to Gene Burris during his tenure as Co-Chairman. An election was not held for members of the Program Committee and the conferees agreed to maintain the same Program Committee members for another year.

As a show of appreciation for his service as Co-Chairman of the Cotton Insect Research and Control Conference, Gary Herzog was greeted with a standing ovation. He was then presented a plaque and a generous gift. This show of appreciation was recieved with heartfelt gratitude.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.