

Of Interest to Farmers

Edited by

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Special Stalk Destruction Issue of The Weekly News Notes:

The Weekly News Notes, the Extension Service publication, devotes particularly all its space in the current issue to the fall and winter fight against the boll weevil. This matter is of such importance that I feel that we could not do better than devote our space in the local paper to running a copy of this material.

Read what Texas thinks of the importance of this phase of weevil control, and what is being done in other sections of South Carolina.

Kill Next Year's Weevils Now

Clemson College—Cleaning of the fields the destruction of the stalks, and the planting of cover crops constitute the most powerful weapons for weevil fighting now in the hands of the farmer, says Prof. A. F. Conradi, entomologist, who says that by efficient fall farm management the farmer can dictate to a great extent how many weevils shall pass the winter on the farm.

Though much warning has already been given by the entomologists, and though county agents are preaching stalk destruction right and left, many farmers are apparently not convinced of the need for immediate stalk destruction, says Prof. Conradi, and do not realize that this is practically the most important single step in any system of fighting the weevil.

Boll weevils multiply in cotton until frost kills it. Many thousands of weevils occur in each acre of cotton. Weevils hibernate, that is they pass the winter, only in the full grown stage. Hibernation usually begins with the coming of the first killing frost. They hibernate principally in cotton fields, and standing stalks make for them splendid winter homes.

The most favorable condition, therefore, for the successful hibernation for boll weevils is found in fields where the cotton stalks, grass, weeds, dead leaves, etc., are left during the winter. Under such conditions the farmers may expect the greatest number of weevils to survive the winter. There is little prospect for successful cotton growing under such conditions.

The earlier the cotton stalks are destroyed, the fewer the weevils that will survive the winter, and consequently the smaller the damage to the next crop. As far as possible, the stalks should be destroyed two weeks before the first killing frost.

In some sections the stalks are uprooted, piled and burned. This method is a very serious disadvantage in destroying a large amount of vegetable matter which should be turned under. Whenever the farmer is equipped with plows and mules so that the stalks may be turned under five to six inches after they have been cut down with the chopper, it is a very effective plan. A less effective method is to graze off all green cotton within a period of a few days. Whatever method one employs, the destruction of stalks must be thorough.

The following are a few of the many advantages secured from cleaning the fields and destroying the stalks.

1. A great many full grown weevils are killed outright.

2. Many young stages in the plants are killed.

The full grown weevils not killed are weakened by starvation if the stalks are destroyed two to three weeks before the first frost and these will not have sufficient strength to pass the winter successfully.

3. The removal of the stalks facilitates fall plowing and the planting of cover crops.

4. This fall cleaning program is also of the greatest benefit generally in destroying the winter homes and the winter food plants of other injurious pests of the farm.

Community Co-operation Against the Boll Weevil

Clemson College—"The fall destruction of stalks together with fall cleaning has long been recognized as one

of the most important steps in controlling the weevil for the succeeding season and although a farmer, practicing this by himself obtains important benefit from it, the great need for community co-operation in this work can not be over-estimated. While it is a well known fact that the weevil will have his fall migration period from year to year, yet this pest migrates more or less at other seasons of the year. After the cotton is destroyed by frost the pest migrates to find suitable winter quarters and of course in the spring it must again migrate more or less to find cotton fields for food. For this reason the greatest amount of benefit for this operation is obtained where farmers of a community band together and carry out a definite fall destruction and farm cleaning program.

The earlier in the fall this is done the more effective it will be. Cotton picking should be rushed as fast as possible and no time should be lost in getting this program in operation.

Destroy the Weevil's Winter Resorts

Clemson College—"The earlier cotton stalks and other hibernating place are destroyed," says Prof. A. F. Conradi, entomologist, in discussing boll weevil control, "the fewer weevils survive the winter. In infested fields it is common to find weevils at the rate of 5,000 to 25,000 per acre at the time of first frost. It is a well known fact," Prof. Conradi explains, "that the weevils developing late in the fall are the ones most likely to survive the winter, as they are not worn out by long flights and the rearing of the young, as are the older weevils. For this reason developments of weevils in late fall must be prevented as the first step in making the next crop."

An interesting point in this connection is the fact that experiments in Louisiana showed that when cotton stalks were destroyed before October 15, only 3 per cent of the weevils survived the winter, whereas destruction of stalks on October 27 allowed 15 per cent to survive; Nov. 25, 22 per cent; Dec. 27, 29 per cent; between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15, 43 per cent. It is clear, therefore, that the earlier the stalks are destroyed, the more effective the results will be, but that where early destruction is impossible, it is better late than never.

The planting of a winter cover crop in the present cotton fields is also urged as a most important means of weevil destruction since weevils can not live through the winter in a growing cover crop, such as rye, oats and vetch, or clover, for the reason that in order to survive the winter the weevil must "dry out" to the extent of losing one-third of his body moisture and this he can not do in a field where a cover crop is growing. Cotton stalks not plowed under or burned in a field to be planted to a cover crop should be cut to pieces and thrown to the ground as early as possible by a stalk cutter so that they may be covered by the growing cover crop and thus absorb moisture, which means death to the weevil.

Still another step which should be taken now is the cleaning up of ditch banks, fence rows, and other places where rubbish and trash accumulate in and around the fields.

What Texas Says About Destroying Cotton Stalks

Clemson College—"The Extension Service of Clemson College has been the fall and winter clean-up of cotton fields and hibernating places of the boll weevil as one of the most effective measures of weevil control. To show that this is advocated and practiced in Texas the greatest cotton-producing state, the following article is quoted from the Texas Extension Service Farm News.

Present conditions in South Carolina favor such a clean-up, for in all parts of the state cotton picking is already practically completed, and farmers can turn attention to stalk destruction. The earlier the clean-up

the more effective will be the weevil control.

Read These Twenty Statements From Texas

1. Weevil infestation, in spring, starts from the few weevils that pass the winter.
2. The weevils, developing late in the fall, are the ones most likely to survive the winter.
3. Many weevils will survive the winter in fields where cotton stalks, together with grass, weeds and other refuse material offering shelter, are allowed to remain.
4. Great numbers successfully pass the winter in Spanish moss and in dead grass along fences, ditches and other waste places.
5. The weevil eats only cotton.
6. The weevil breeds only in squares and bolls.
7. The weevil can live for several months without food while hibernating and inactive.
8. It does not become inactive until the first killing frosts.
9. Previous to the first killing frosts, it can live for only about six days without food.
10. Killing cotton growth early prevents new weevils breeding and permits only the older ones to enter hibernation.
11. Very few of these older weevils have sufficient vitality to pass the winter successfully.
12. Killing cotton growth early removes the food of the weevil. If the growth of cotton is entirely killed as early as two weeks before frosts, practically all weevils will starve before going into winter quarters.
13. Destroy cotton growth early; if possible, by October 1.
14. Merely chopping or clipping the stalks will not answer, the stumps will throw out new growth ideal for weevil food.
15. Kill the plant entirely and prevent new growth by setting a plow shallow and turning out the plants, or by some equally effective means.
16. Do not burn crop refuse on the fields. Texas farms need this returned to the soil humus. Merely killing the plants as suggested in No. 15 will, in most cases, secure the benefit aimed at.
17. Burn the trash along fences, ditches and other such waste places, in mid-winter, and thus destroy the individuals hibernating there (see Nos. 4 and 16.)
18. A farmer cannot prevent weevils coming to his cotton in the spring that another person has wintered.
19. Big things are accomplished only by co-operation.
20. Organize a whole community for the fight.

How to Destroy Cotton Stalks

Clemson College—"Practically every scientist, farmer and every one else who has given any thought to the matter at all, has agreed that the cotton stalks should be destroyed as soon after picking is finished as possible, as one of the most important steps in fighting the boll weevil, but there is still some confusion as to the best methods of destroying the stalks, says Prof. C. P. Blackwell, Agronomist, who makes the following suggestions:

Decidedly the best method is to plow the stalks under thoroughly as soon as possible. If a farmer has good plows and good teams and his stalks are small, this is not a difficult matter, but it can not be done effectively with a one-horse plow and a small mule. Stalks of average size can be turned under with a walking plow and two average mules or horses. Practically any kind of stalks can be turned under with a three-horse riding plow if a weed hook or weed chain is used. Large plows and tractors can turn any size of stalks effectively. It is not necessary to cut the stalks before plowing them under. In fact, they turn under much better if not cut first.

If a farmer wishes to plant a small grain crop after his cotton and can not get his cotton picked and

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his land turned in time to plant his small grain, then the best method is to plant the grain in his cotton middles early, and when frost has killed the stalks they may be cut with a stalk cutter and destroyed very effectively. It is true that this does not get the stalks into the ground but it does get them down in the green grain crop where the weevil can not live throughout the winter.

During the early days of fighting the weevil some entomologists recommended the burning of stalks as a method of destruction, and many farmers have practiced it, but this practice has in nearly all cases proven very bad; and it is a particularly bad practice in South Carolina, because our soils are deficient in organic matter. In fact, lack of organic matter is our first limiting factor in crop production, while a good supply of organic matter is the very foundation of our boll weevil fight and is a first essential to successful cotton production under boll weevil conditions. When we burn our stalks we burn the organic matter which is so essential to success, and no greater mistake can be made in fighting the boll weevil. Let us plow our stalks under or cut them down in a cover crop with a stalk cutter but let us never burn them.

STATE BUDGET COMMISSION

Columbia, Nov. 7.—The state budget commission is in the midst of its annual budget hearings, for various departments of state government, with a view of gathering data of which to base the budget for next year's appropriation bill, the annual finance measure adopted by the legislature.

The commission has heard about a dozen department heads, with regard to their needs for next year, and a half hundred more are yet to heard.

CITATION NOTICE

State of South Carolina,
County of Clarendon,
By J. M. Windham Probate Judge:
Whereas, Charles R. Ragin made suit to me to grant him letters of Administration of the Estate and effects of Cherry Bowman.

These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Cherry Bowman deceased, that they be and appear before me in the Court of Probate, to be held at Manning on 13th day of November, next after publication hereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon to show cause, if any they have, why the administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand this 1st day of November, Anno Domini, 1922.
J. M. Windham,
Judge of Probate.

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Some of the larger departments are yet to report. The secretary of state, comptroller general, state treasurer, adjutant general department of printing, the welfare board, the industrial schools and one or two small departments have been heard.

No hearings have been held this week, Governor Harvey being in

Charleston for the first two days of the week.

SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS

Washington, Nov. 7.—President Harding expects to issue a call Thursday or Friday for a special session of congress, convening November 20th, it was announced at the White House today.

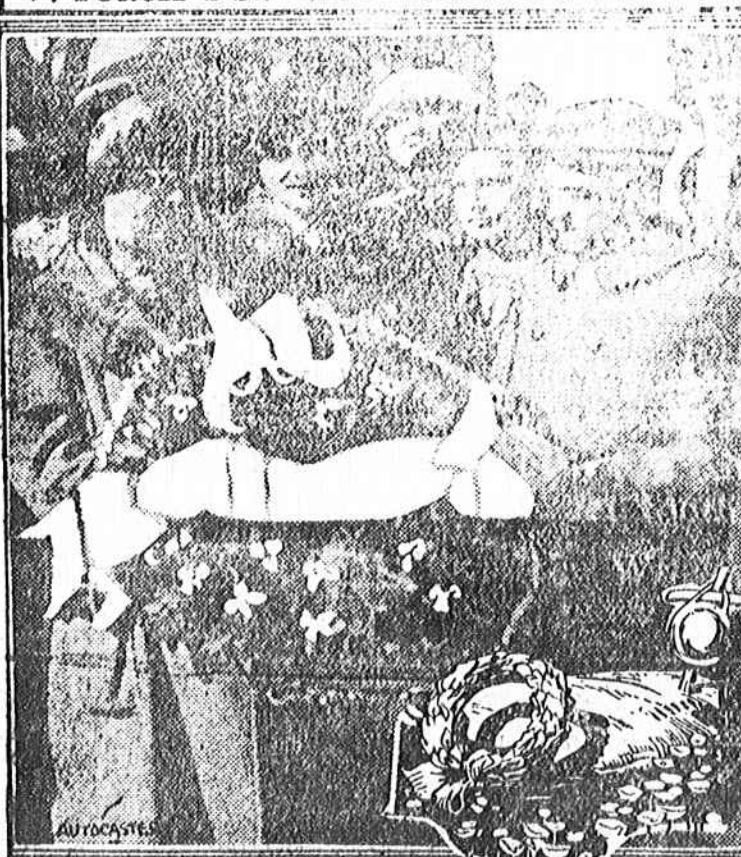
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Wreath For Our Dead in France.



When the American Steamship, George Washington, swung its prow to the East from New York last week it carried a huge wreath to be placed on the grave of our soldier dead in France, Armistice Day, November 11th.

Thos. V. Fields, representing the American Legion, was this year commissioned to make the annual pilgrimage, and place the tribute on the grave of America's Unknown Soldier buried in Paris. Photo shows Mrs. Shanahan of the War Mothers' Association giving the wreath to the ship as sailing time.

Money to Lend!

We represent the First Carolinas Joint Stock Land Bank of Columbia, organized under the Federal Farm Loan Act, and have connection with several insurance companies lending money in the county. In addition we control nearly a half million dollars of private loan funds.

If the security is right we can arrange farm loans of any size.

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