

AROUND THE FARMS IN CHOWAN

By C. W. OVERMAN, Chowan County Agent

Cotton Insect Situation
The cotton situation in Chowan County is now looking quite sad. The dry weather during the past two weeks has really affected cotton and caused most yields to go backward. Many of the newly formed bolls are wilting and falling off. This is something growers can do nothing about except where irrigation can be applied. By all means keep cultivating equipment out of the fields unless absolutely necessary.

The ten fields were surveyed again on Monday, July 22, to determine the insect situation. In five fields properly treated to control the boll weevil and other insects there was an average of two percent weevil punctured squares. Less than one percent boll worm damage was observed. Red Spider was getting a foothold in one field and the grower advised to dust immediately before severe damage occurred.

The five undusted or partially dusted fields showed punctured square count ranging from 12% to 52%, averaging 36% of the squares punctured by boll weevil. In one field 15 live weevils were found in the 100 squares examined, in another 10 live weevils were found, and in the other fields two or three live weevils were found in each.

My advice to growers is to carefully examine your fields for boll worm damage. If and when the boll worm starts to work an application of 20 to 25 pounds of the combination dust containing 2 1/2% Aldrin, 5% DDT, and 40% sulphur should be applied. This

Pond Fertilizing Helps Grow Bass

By JAMES H. GRIFFIN
Soil Conservationist

L. E. Francis of the Edenton community, discovered that fish ponds need to be fertilized regularly to grow fish. He had been doing some fertilizing but not enough, according to an inspection of his pond by James R. Fielding of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fishing had been fair in his pond since it was stocked in 1952-53 with 700 bluegills and 70 bass but practically no bass had been caught. They just didn't want to strike it seemed. At one time he wondered if there were any bass in the pond. Finally, he set a wire trap in the pond and caught a bass.

In December, 1956, he enlarged the pond to 1.2 acres to increase the amount of irrigation water. This lowered the fertility of the pond water. A request was then made through the Soil Conservation Service office for additional bass and advice on management. In June, Mr. Fielding came and with assistance of Mr. Francis and James H. Griffin, local SCS technician, the pond was inspected.

A seine was used to catch the fish for a count of number, kind, and ratios. There were no signs of bass reproduction, a few shiners, warmmouths, and good reproduction of bass. One large-mouth bass was examined and it was in poor condition. When the inspection was completed, it showed that food was low in the pond.

What was happening was that the food supply was low and the bass were only getting enough to maintain themselves with no reproduction. A pond needs to be fertilized about every 3 to 4 weeks using 100 pounds of 8-8-8 or 8-8-2 per acre. Where the water is

combination dust will possibly come the nearest to cleaning out all insects damaging cotton including the red spider unless the red spider infestation is very heavy. In the case of heavy red spider infestation 2% Parathion dust at the rate of 15 pounds per acre will be more effective.

Cotton has now reached the point of no return, generally, even if rain does come. Some fields are still showing good square formation in the top and controlling insects in these fields will certainly be beneficial if rain comes. Where fields are wilted and there are no young squares, about all the grower can expect is the bolls already formed. This is a sad situation but something we can do nothing about.

Nickels For Know How and A Dime Per Bale For Cotton
A referendum is scheduled for August 23. Farm people in Chowan County are urged to remember this date and go to the nearest store and vote in this referendum.

County Fair Booth For State Fair
Chowan County has been asked to stage a booth at the N. C. State Fair in October on the subject "More Dignity and Contentment in Country Living." The Agricultural Workers' Council has had two meetings and have about decided how to arrange the booth to exemplify the title. It will be necessary for some of our leading farm people both youth and adult, to render some assistance in preparing this booth. More information regarding this will be given in the near future.

being used for irrigation, as this pond is, an application more often is needed. The "bloom" in the water shall be maintained so that a bright object cannot be seen 12 to 18 inches below the surface.

A "bloom" is a growth of microscopic green plants which gives the water a green, blue-green, or yellow-green color.

This bloom feeds a large population of small worms which are fed on by the bluegills. The bluegills spawn heavily when plenty of food is available and their offspring are fed on by the bass. Bass do most of their growing during the summer and it is important in keeping the correct ratio of bream to bass by having plenty of food available. These bass, if well fed, will reproduce the following spring.

The important "thinning" of the bluegill population by the bass begins in October, following their spawning season. Summer fertilizer will insure plenty of small bluegills for bass growth at that time.

A farm pond furnishes one of the best examples of Nature's cycles. First, a microscopic plant (algae) must be grown to furnish food for the small worms to feed. The worms, in turn, are fed on by the bluegills who reproduce young fingerlings. These young bluegills are fed on by the large-mouth bass. Some of the young bass and eggs are eaten by the bluegills.

Good ponds and good fishing requires summer fertilization to make this cycle run smoothly. Next year's bass crop depends on it.

COMPLETES COURSE

Joseph M. Thorud, local representative of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, Nationwide Mutual Fire Insurance Company and Nationwide Life Insurance Company at Edenton, is one of 47 sales representatives who has completed a group insurance workshop earlier this week in Fayetteville, conducted by the Companies' training department.

This program is one of a series of training courses held periodically by the Companies for its sales representatives.

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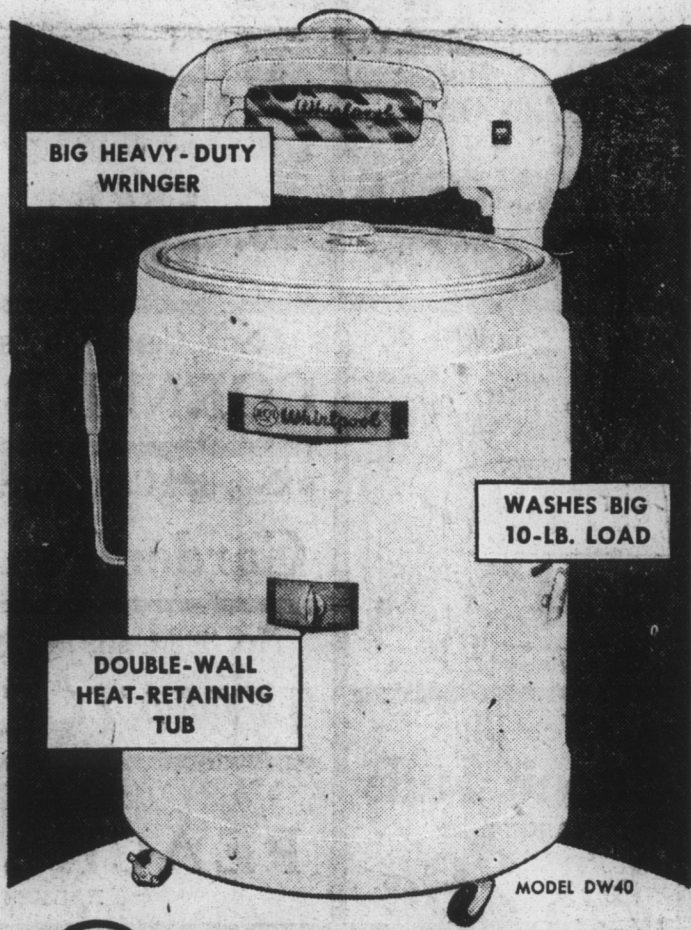
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