

WORK OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATION

I.—Combination of All Remedies Needed for Boll Weevil

THE most important work of the station entomologist has been directed naturally against the boll weevil. Life history and hibernation studies have shown that the weevil behaves in this state much as it does in the states south and west. Hibernation data showed that the majority of weevils come out of hibernation during April and that all were out by June 1.

Parasites of the boll weevil are being studied also to try to determine conditions favorable to their development and detrimental to the weevil.

A great deal of information has been secured and records which may have important bearing on the final solution of the boll weevil problem, but no satisfactory control measures have been developed; and studies and experiments to date indicate that there is no known practice or operation that will control the weevil, and that only by diligent application of all the improved practices developed in other states, such as early stalk destruction, cleaning up fields, picking weevils and squares, early planting, of best varieties, proper fertilization, rapid shallow cultivation, and poisoning, can the weevil be controlled.

II.—Insect Pests and Plant Diseases

AS A result of work on cotton anthracnose, a fungous boll rot of cotton formerly causing a loss of three to five million dollars in South Carolina alone, the disease has now been practically eliminated by control measures based on seed selection, crop rotation, and the planting of old seed.

Studies on the wireworm have developed the fact that this pest can be controlled by increasing the humus content of the soil and by intelligent use of cover crops and summer legumes.

Studies on the control of the red spider show that this pest is dependent entirely on winter food plants and winter minimum temperatures and summer humidity. The entomologist is therefore able to predict red spider outbreaks and instruct farmers to prepare for their control.

The cotton root louse, a serious pest of the greater part of this state, has been studied carefully and it has been found that a successful winter cover crop which eliminates the winter food plants of the insect, such as life-everlasting, greatly delays the spring recolonization of the pest, shallow cultivation also being helpful.

III.—Experiments With Dairy Cattle

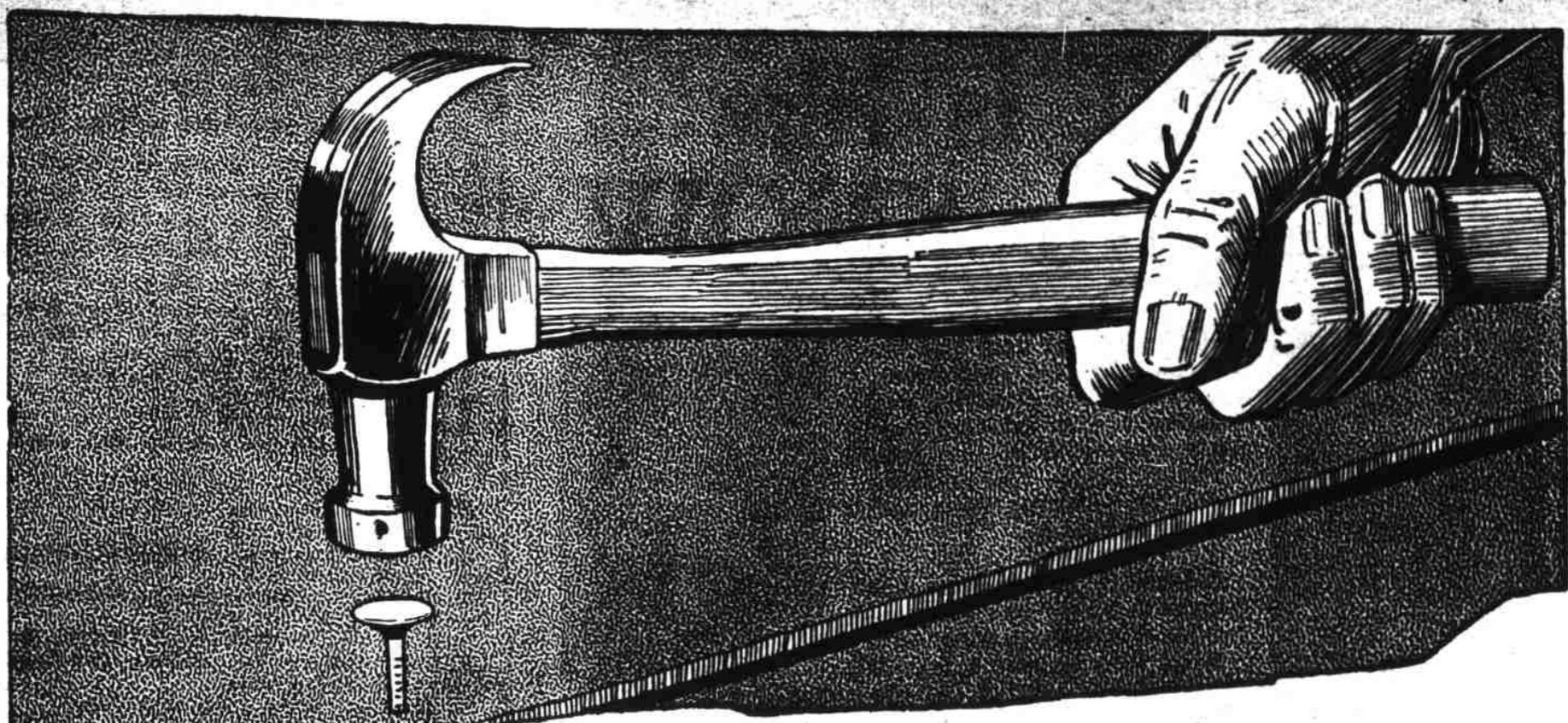
WITH South Carolina spending annually about \$4,000,000 for butter brought in from other states, the experiments conducted with dairy cattle are directed towards increasing the number and improving the production of the dairy cattle in the state. By fostering the Advanced Register work, the average production of the milk cows in South Carolina is gradually being raised. There are now 25 breeders doing Advanced Register testing work in cooperation with the Experiment Station. A total of 81 records completed since July, 1920, show a general average of 436.64 pounds of butterfat.

Tests of the comparative value of corn silage and sorghum silage for milk production indicate that sorghum will furnish a larger tonnage of comparatively cheap silage.

An experiment in the feeding of mineral salts to cows tends to show that cows producing large quantities of milk do not get enough of certain minerals in their feed to supply bodily needs. This experiment will show whether such mineral salts as calcium and phosphorus will increase milk production.

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Editorial Comment.—This is No. 2 of a series of several short articles on "What the South Carolina Experiment Station Found Out Last Year." Next week's article will report results with livestock and fruit experiments and with special results of interest to farmers in coast territory and the territory of the Pee Dee Station.



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