

Insects Thrive In Tobacco Fieds

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 19.—There is no better way to insure a full crop of insects from next season than by allowing the suckers to grow in the tobacco fields this fall.

Each year in North Carolina there are thousands of acres planted to tobacco that are allowed to grow up in weeds and suckers," says Dr. Z. P. Metcalf, entomologist at State College. "These suckers furnish food in great abundance for hordes of all kinds of insects. Bud worms, horn worms, flea bugs, and all kinds of tobacco pests, great and small, feed on these fresh green suckers in winter quarters well fed and fat."

Dr. Metcalf states that most of the tobacco is out of the fields by September first. This leaves from 4 to 6 weeks or longer till the first killing frost. The tobacco insects must have something to eat every day and they must have it fresh and green, so if the growers would only take the time to destroy the suckers in his fields and sow some kind of winter cover crop, he would destroy this food supply and in addition, would practice good farming. A great many of the tobacco insects would die from lack of food and others would go into winter quarters weak and gaunt and would not survive the cold.

Tobacco pests are in a greater increase in the State than the acreage to the leaf, states Dr. Metcalf, and this simple means of combating the pests, would be the cheapest form of protection that the grower could give his crop. Spraying and dusting the tobacco in summer is more spectacular than this, of course, but they are not nearly so economical nor effective. Neither do they give any cover to the bare soil in winter.

Farmers Form State-Wide Organization

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 19.—An invitation will be extended the American Farm Bureau Federation to come to North Carolina and help to organize the farmers of the state into one state-wide organization.

This is the result of the resolution passed at the last meeting of the State Farmers' Convention, followed by action taken at a meeting held at State College on August 23, and a decision reached at a further meeting held on Thursday, September 9.

A sub-committee appointed by Chairman Fred P. Latham of the general conference worked for several weeks on its report to the conference on Sept. 9. This sub-committee was headed by Dr. Clarence Poe and had studied carefully all of the big national farm organizations as well as conditions within the state.

The committee expressed its cordial appreciation of the work done by all farm organizations. In no way was its action in selecting the American Farm Bureau antagonistic to any other such organization as the

Alliance, the Farmers' Union, the Grange or similar federations, but it felt that the American Farm Bureau Federation more nearly fulfilled the requirements of conditions in this state and for that reason this national body was selected for affiliation.

The committee also provided for an organization committee that will proceed with details of carrying through the spirit of the Farm Convention resolution. The first quarter of 1928, from January first to April first, was designated as "Farm Organization Quarter" and all organizations, county agents, home agents, school teachers and others interested in the continued welfare of farming in the State will be asked to take part in the work.

No organization work will be done in any community or county until the local agricultural leaders are consulted.

Get Market Quality In Vegetable Exhibit

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 5.—It's not the largest potato or other vegetable that wins the blue ribbon at the fairs;

it's the best marketable grade which is true to type and is smooth and free from all blemish.

"In these days of standard grades and packs, the largest specimens no longer win the first prize unless specifically called for in the catalogue classification," says Robert Schmidt, vegetable specialist at State College. "The margin by which many vegetable exhibits lose out in the prize money, could easily be wiped out by a little more care in selecting the specimens and a better knowledge of scoring."

Mr. Schmidt states that vegetables are generally scored according to their uniformity, smoothness, thueness to type, freedom from blemishes and their size, condition and color. They should be free from all blemishes caused by insects, frost or other agencies. The specimens should be true to type and of a marketable grade. This means that all specimens should be neither too large nor too small. Over-grown specimens are especially undesirable.

By giving a little more attention to these points, Mr. Schmidt believes

that a much better exhibit can be made. In some cases it pays to wash the vegetables before they are exhibited. This is not necessary, however, unless they are very dirty. It does pay, though, to go to some

trouble to make the exhibit attractive and when the exhibit is shipped by freight or express, each specimen will arrive at the fair in better condition when it has been wrapped to prevent bruising.



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