Fall Clean-Up On Farms Urged

A thorough fall clean-up campaign will do much to reduce the rapidly growing population of insect pests on North Carolina farms, says George D. Jones entomologist for the State College Extension Service.

Jones asserted that infestations of boll weevils and other insects reached record levels during the past summer and immediate action is needed to reduce next year's crop losses from these sources.

"From all indications," he said, "the number of boll weevils going into hibernation in North Carolina will be the largest on record. This pest has caused serious—in fast, almost total—losses in many parts of the State."

The entoomologist said that destruction of cotton stalks before frost will reduce the number and vigor of the weevils going into hibernation. He urged farmers to plow under, disc or cut down the stalks as soon as picking can be completed.

Recent observations in abandoned tobacco fields show a very high population of flea beetles feeding on the plants, Jones said. He added that community cooperation in the destruction of the old stalks and crop residues during the early fall months should be especially helpful in controlling the beetles and many other pests.

The entomologist said that de the pickle worm and several other vegetable pests have been very harmful this fall, and the Mexican bean beetle has been especially destructive in several commercial bean plantings. Prompt destruction of the plants by plowing will kill large numbers of immature forms as well as starve out others, he asserted.

In many cases, Jones pointed out, fall-seeded cover crops can be planted following fall clean-up operations.

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Average price of flue-cured tobacco sold on all North Carolina markets during August was $47.10, compared with $50.94 for the same month last year.
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From 1934 to 1947, North Carolina's corn acreage decreased 10.2 per cent but total production in bushels increased 61.6 per cent. Use of hybrid seed and adoption of improved practices by many growers were two major factors responsible for this increase in yield per acre.