

Outline of Plan to Meet Boll Weevil Conditions

To the Editor of The Dispatch-News: Some weeks ago a number of business men of the state realizing that there is a crying need for a well thought out program for agricultural procedure under boll weevil conditions asked Dr. W. W. Long and R. I. Manning to form a committee of well qualified men to formulate such a program for the state.

These gentlemen appointed the following committee, which met in Columbia on September 27: Dr. W. W. Long, Wade Drake, J. Ross Hanahan, R. C. Hamer, J. W. Gaston, G. W. Davall, Dr. W. C. Brown, R. B. Cunningham, B. W. Segars, R. I. Manning and D. R. Coker. Mr. Coker was selected as chairman and Mr. Cunningham as secretary. All were present except Mr. Hamer.

The opinions of every member as to the best farming methods for boll weevil conditions were fully expressed and all agreed on the main features of a program. A subcommittee, consisting of B. W. Segars, R. B. Cunningham, J. W. Gaston, Dr. W. W. Long and D. R. Coker, was appointed to draft the program. This committee met in Columbia October 5, all present except Dr. Long, who was represented by Mr. Blackwell, and the accompanying program and recommendations are the result of their work. This program in substantiality its present form was submitted to all the members of the committee. Mr. Drake's approval of the program has not been received and Mr. Hamer has withheld approval as he considers it conflicts with the cotton association's plan of not more than one-fourth of any farm being planted to cotton. The program was submitted to a meeting of farm demonstration agents at Clemson college Friday, October 7, and was discussed and approved. The program, therefore, goes to the people with the authority of a strong and experienced committee and with the approval of the extension department.

The suggested program follows:

The march of the boll weevil across the cotton belt has been accompanied by panic and demoralization. Farmers, bankers and merchants, frightened by one or two years of heavy losses, have in many cases curtailed operations and credits to the point where farming was stifled and labor was forced to leave the country to prevent starvation. There are signs that a similar panic may occur in parts of this state unless means are taken to reassure the people and point out a safe course for agricultural operations under boll weevil conditions. To this end a group of practical farmers and business men in cooperation with the extension bureau have studied the situation in the light of their own experience and that of other states and the accumulated experimental results of governmental agencies and beg leave to present the following suggestions and program as one which will meet the situation, preventing demoralization and enabling our farming and business interests to continue profitable operations.

It is especially important to prevent our people from stampeding into new and untried fields of agriculture in which they will fail for lack of information and experience. Promising new crops should of course be tested and where proved successful should be increased as rapidly as the people gain experience but not faster.

Must Reach All. The problem is not so much as to what to do as it is how to reassure the people and get the information of how to proceed to every farmer, renter, and sharecropper in the state. This must be done if it is done at all by the larger farmers, merchants, bankers and professional men who should make it their business to reach the isolated farmers and tenants and discuss with them the program of operations under boll weevil conditions. The greatest responsibility rests upon the landowners. If they are going to continue to own their lands they will be obliged to see to it that those who farm them have correct information and closest supervision for the average farm tenant must have sympathetic and correct instruction and active supervision until he thoroughly learns the new methods of operation.

A few broad principles of opera-

tion for the whole state may be suggested:

First. Destroy immediately all cotton stalks as soon as the crop is gathered. This will prevent the hatching of millions of new weevils during October. The old weevils do not hibernate until cold weather and the destruction of their food supply will cause them to die before frost. The carryout of this suggestion at once is imperative and every effort should be made to induce every farmer in the state to do this work at once, for, if only a few do it, it will have little effect in reducing next year's weevil supply.

Second. During the fall and winter destroy all cover in which weevils may be hiding, burning ditch banks and margins of woods and cleaning up around stumps. Fodder and hay stacks should not be allowed to remain near cotton fields.

Use of Fertilizer. Cotton should be liberally fertilized with a quick acting fertilizer containing about 50 pounds of available phosphoric acid per acre, ammonia and potash to be used according to the character and relative fertility of the soil. All applications of ammonia should be put down before the middle of June. Over doses of potash have a tendency to delay maturity. Where the weeds grow tall only a small amount of ammonia should be used as it always delays maturity and encourages overgrowth of stalk.

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Fourth. Early planting of approved varieties of cotton with plenty of seed. The farmer should save at least 3 bushels of good seed for each acre he is going to plant. He should plant at least two bushels before April 1 in the lower half of the state and before April 10 in the upper half of the state reserving a bushel per acre. If a stand is not secured by the first planting he should plant over not later than April 10 in the lower half or April 20 in the upper half. If large quantities of seed are used good stands are usually secured from extra early plantings and the experience is that under boll weevil conditions the greatest crops are always made from the earliest plantings. If stands are not secured at a comparatively early stage the land intended for cotton should be put into other crops.

Fifth. Cotton should be left thick in the drill. This distance should vary with the height of the natural growth of the plant three inches or four inches not being too close as a minimum and eight inches or ten inches as a maximum.

Sixth. The question of poisoning for boll weevil is still in the experimental state, but your committee believes that poisoning with calcium arsenate is valuable, especially if done at the proper time and under favorable conditions.

Doubtful as to Time. Heavy damage from plant lice following dusting with calcium arsenate early last August makes us doubtful as to this treatment when applied at that time. The weevils should also be picked from the plant in the early stages and as soon as punctured squares are noticed they should be picked up twice per week until mid-summer. Rapid and thorough cultivation at all times should be employed and the crop should be gathered as fast as open to insure a high grade. In no case should more cotton be planted than can be properly handled at all stages and promptly picked by the labor on the farm, for it is the height of folly to plant a crop and let the boll weevil eat it up for lack of attention or allow it to become blue in the fields for lack of picking force.

The experience of many of our best farmers and numerous experiments conducted under the auspices of the experiment stations prove that it is absolutely essential in almost all sections to use around 300 pounds per acre of acid phosphate under cotton. In most cases if the amounts applied varied much, either above or below this standard, the crops were less profitable.

Everywhere it must be insisted on that the individual farmer and tenant raise an abundant supply of food and feed and that this food and feed be properly conserved. The man with a crib full of corn and hay, a smoke-house full of meat and molasses, a hundred bushels of sweet potatoes in

POTATO CRATES NOW AVAILABLE.

The car of potato crates has arrived and those who wish to store potatoes in the curing house this year should place their orders at once with the Secretary, J. D. Carroll and ascertain from him what days the curing house will be open for receiving potatoes, as they will be received only on certain days, and only those who have signified to him their intention to store will be notified of these days.

a storage house, and a garden full of vegetables can not be put out of business by the boll weevil or any other pest.

Storage houses for keeping sweet potatoes should be everywhere constructed as this is one of the greatest crops we have and one which every farmer can raise. Some special suggestions are:

For Lower Coastal Plain.

Within 50 miles of the coast it is doubtful whether cotton can be profitably raised under boll weevil conditions except during very dry summers following unusually cold winters. If planting at all the acreage should be small, planting should be done extra early with extra early approved varieties and only the quickest acting fertilizer used. In this section the main reliance of the farmers must be live stock to graze the large cut-over areas and a large area should be planted to corn and velvet beans for winter food. Peanuts, winter and spring growing truck crops, sweet potatoes and in some sections melons must, besides live stock, be the main reliance of the farmers of the lower coastal plain. Pork and beef can be as cheaply raised in this area as in any section of the country as the hogs and cattle can be carried on pasture or field crop grazing the entire year.

For Middle Coastal Plain.

Approximately 50 to 100 miles inland. In this section cotton production is also hazardous but if the acreage is limited and due care exercised the chances are in favor of a fair yield during most seasons. A rotation suggested for a 80 acre farm (of course it must be varied to meet individual needs) is 10 acres of corn and velvet beans (or peas or soy beans) to be grazed off by cattle and hogs after gathering corn; 10 acres of cotton and peanuts (say six acres of cotton and four of peanuts); and 10 acres of small grain and truck, sorghum, sugar cane, etc. Watermelons have proved to be a good crop for this section where satisfactory marketing arrangements can be made.

Sand Hill Region.

The cotton acreage here may be regulated according to the available labor to take care of cultivation, weevil control and prompt gathering. In no case, however, should more than 5 per cent be put into cotton and tobacco together. A liberal acreage should go into corn and velvet beans. Hogs should be carried on every farm and cattle where possible. Sorghum, peas, sweet potatoes and in some cases peanuts should be planted.

Piedmont Region.

Cotton production in this section is safer than in the lower sections and will continue to be profitable on average years, provided due care is exercised in meeting weevil conditions. The acreage should be strictly limited to an amount which can be perfectly handled by the available labor. Ample foodstuffs, including corn, peas, velvet beans, potatoes, sorghum, wheat, oats, etc., should be grown. A suggested division of acreage for a 30 acre farm has been made by one of the most successful planters in the Piedmont and may be found useful, although of course it should be modified to meet individual needs. Ten acres of cotton, six acres of corn with peas or velvet beans, eight acres in wheat and oats, followed by pea vines, beans and Lookout Mountain potatoes, one acre of sweet potatoes, two acres of alfalfa, three acres of sorghum—total 30 acres. An ample number of hogs and a few cattle should be carried on this farm and for these a permanent Bermuda pasture should be provided. It would be well to increase the percentage of corn on a farm of this size unless the land is very fertile. Thirty acres is usually an awkward size for a farm as it is too large for one horse and not large enough for two. The relative

proportion of different crops, however, may be observed, no matter what the size of the farm unit.

Experts Available. In every county the farmers should utilize fully the government farm experts. No one can advise intelligently and correctly just what each individual farmer should do. The demonstration agent, however, can tell you exactly what to do, for he knows your conditions and has available all the necessary information to advise you upon each detail.

A most important factor for success under boll weevil conditions is hard and intelligent work. The slipshod farmer will be out of business in a few years and only those who work hard and use intelligent methods will remain. In all crops only varieties of proved adaptability to the section and those which make a product of the highest money value as well as of good production per acre should be used.

The year 1921 has been more favorable for the boll weevil than any since he entered the belt in 1892. Consequently he has done more damage than ever before. His damage next year and succeeding years will depend on weather conditions and the intelligence and industry used in fighting him.

We urge all our citizens to cooperate to carry this message to every farmer and farm tenant in the state. Unless the main features of the above program are generally adopted the whole state will suffer.

Last but not least call on the extension agents and Clemson college to help in every problem.

D. R. COKER,
For the Committee.

HARTSVILLE. NEWS FROM ST. JOHNS.

Mr. Clyde Rawl has returned home from France. We are glad to see him home again.

Misses Mary, Sara and Lillian Keisler spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Elsie Hook.

Messrs. Ralph and Raymond Hendrix dined with Mr. Clyde Rawl Sunday.

Mrs. Scott Keisler and daughters, Nola, Geneva and Ruby, spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Fannie Taylor and daughter, Miss Lou.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Hook and family spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Hook and family.

Miss Dorothea Keisler spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Willie Lois Smith.

Misses Gladys, Virginia and Elizabeth Ballentine spent Sunday afternoon with Misses Julia and Mertie Kaiser.

Mrs. S. Ed Hendrix and little son, Jacob, and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Leaphart spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Rawl.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Harman spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Lester Harman.

Mr. Emerson Keisler spent Saturday night and Sunday with his chum, Mr. Delmar Price.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Keisler spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Keisler.

Messrs. Odis and Lindon Long and Horace Connelly spent Sunday afternoon with Messrs. Mark and Brodie Keisler.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Wessinger and family dined with Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Keisler Sunday.

Miss Lelia Livingston, the principal teacher of the St. John's school, accompanied by Miss Willie Lois Smith, spent the week-end in Columbia.

DOTS FROM PLEASANT HILL.

Farmers are now getting busy sowing their grain since the nice showers of rain which fell Saturday night and Sunday, for which we are very thankful indeed.

Among those that attended the Union meeting at Pine Grove Saturday, were Messrs. Callie and Dewie Taylor, Noah, Douglas Burkett and Joe M. Hallman. They reported a nice union, especially the dinner.

Mr. Carl Taylor and family spent Sunday with his brother, Mr. Simpson Taylor, and family.

Mr. Dewie Taylor dined with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Callie Taylor, Sunday.

Mrs. J. D. Taylor was called to the bedside of her sick son, Mr. Tessie Taylor, of Batesburg.

There will be Sunday school at 10 o'clock and preaching at 11 o'clock Sunday, November 6. We will be glad for all that can come and worship with us.

LYCEUM COURSE OPENS SOON

The 1921-22 lyceum season opens on the evening of November 23rd in the school auditorium. Four much advertised and widely heralded attractions compose the course, two before and two after Christmas.

Season tickets will be sold, as heretofore and the price will be cheaper than last season, both for children and for adults. In all probability these tickets will be placed on sale the latter part of next week and as only a limited number will be sold, it is suggested that those who want to be sure to see the whole schedule of attractions purchase a season ticket at the first opportunity, and by so doing save considerable money.

It has been a hard year and money is yet scarce, with the possibility of growing scarcer, and at such times people naturally feel that it is the part of wisdom to stint and economize and deny themselves as much as possible and in every conceivable way, but money is not the only thing to be conserved. During such trying times, when we need to be our best selves, we should endeavor to have the most amiable disposition and the best possible brand of optimism on tap at all times and one good way to do this is to put great stress on sufficient and proper amusement and recreation. In our town the lyceum offers the only regularly scheduled wholesome diversion from the tense strain of present day life, and the best chance for us to snatch an hour of laughter and forget our troubles, and not only more full enjoy ourselves but increase our years, for laughter lengthens life. So don't even allow the young ladies who will soon offer you tickets to argue with you as to their value, but insure your amusement for the winter by buying at the first chance season tickets for the whole family.

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LEXINGTON COUNTY MADE SHOWING AT STATE FAIR

Lexington county made a great showing at the State fair last week— even better than usual. The exhibit of Messrs. G. B. Wingard & Son came in for a great deal of favorable comment, and took first prize. The three community exhibits from Oak Grove, Midway and Pine View also elicited a great deal of praise from visitors from every part of South Carolina. All of these exhibits were striking practical examples that it is absolutely unnecessary for the people of South Carolina to import anything from other states in the way of food-stuffs except sugar and coffee. As a matter of fact it would no doubt be possible to raise sugar beets successfully here. It would be hard indeed to single out from the three community exhibits and the showing made by the Messrs. Wingard the best. All of them were more than good, and those who saw all of the good things to eat which were displayed were amazed.

There was no happier man at the State Fair than the Rev. J. A. Cromer. Some twenty-odd years ago Mr. Cromer urged members of his charges to embark on the growing of truck. They have developed a splendid spirit of cooperation and have established themselves on a pretty solid financial foundation, and no man is more gratified than their beloved shepherd, who has proved himself a splendid leader.

Many Lexingtonians took prizes in various other departments. Out of 15 prizes offered in the boys' pig club department seven were won by Lexington county boys.

HONOR ROLL FOR LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

The following requirements must be complied with for a pupil's name to appear on the honor roll: Attendance 100, punctuality 100, deportment 100, and a general average of 90 must be made on all of the basal subjects. Below is given the honor roll for the month of October:

First grade—John Thomas Wingard, Sarah Corley.

Advanced first grade—Not any. Second grade—Thomas Hendrix Caughman, Sidney Lee Steele, J. C. Shepherd, Jr., Ruth Taylor, Croney Price.

Third grade—Not any. Fourth grade—Not any. Fifth grade—Catherine Caughman, Evelyn Caughman, Sara Dreher, Pearl Kaminer.

Sixth grade—Frank Powell. Seventh grade—Osier Smith, LeRoy Hendrix, Leona Steele, Lena Belle Kleckley, Eleanor Shearouse, Vermelle Hendrix.

Eighth grade—Section one: Ruth George. Section two: Ruby Hendrix, Ione Rawl, Marion Roof, Samuel Corley.

Ninth grade—Amie Franklow. Tenth grade—Edith Roof. Eleventh grade—Not any.

Miss Boozer's music class—Ruth George, Euelah Fox Wingard, Lorraine Shealy.

WANTING TO JOIN RICHLAND COUNTY.

Governor Cooper yesterday appointed a commission to examine into the proposed annexation of a section of Lexington county to Richland following the receipt of a petition signed by approximately 65 residents of the section involved.

The petition sets forth that the area involved is bounded on the north by Broad river, on the west by Newberry county. The territory is further described as being in the Summerville school district and a line run from the corner of Richland county near Henry Clark's to a corner to be established in the public road in front of Mrs. Lizzie Cumalander's old residence thence to a corner of Newberry near the old home of J. O. Chapman will inclose the portion desiring to annex to Richland.

Those appointed to examine into the proposed move are: In favor of, J. B. Addy, Peak; and George H. Koon, Peak. Opposed to, Joe W. Wessinger, Chapin, and Noah E. Derrick, Chapin.—The State.

BON HEUR CLUB.

The Bon Heur Club will meet Friday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock with Miss Ernestine Barr.