

HOW TO FIGHT THE BOLL WEEVIL

By J. E. Trevathan, County Farm Demonstrator

It is more than probable that every farmer in Laurens county is now ready to believe that the boll weevil problem is a serious one, not only in the lower counties where the farmers are making one or two bales of cotton to the plow, but also right here in Laurens county where we will probably make at least half a crop this year. Realizing the boll weevil problem as a serious one we should do all in our power to face the issue with our eyes open. One of the chief topics of discussion at the County Agents' Conference at Clemson College last week was the boll weevil problem.

After studying this question from every angle, I am convinced that the most serious mistake a cotton farmer could make would be to quit growing cotton to plunge headlong into growing some other crop with which he is not familiar. It is almost as serious to make a crop and fail in the selling of it, as it is to fail in the making of the crop. We have not developed markets yet for any crop except cotton. I therefore advise the farmers to go slowly in making the change from the all cotton system of farming. It is very essential that we no longer depend upon cotton alone, but we should not go too heavily into other things next year. Since it is important that we grow some cotton next year, it is more than important that we control the boll weevil to such an extent as to enable us to make a fair crop.

There is nothing that we can do that will exterminate all the boll weevils. The boll weevil is here to stay. We can only hope to control the pest. The extent of damage the weevil will do in this county next year will depend upon the severity of the winter, weather conditions next summer, and the vim with which we fight the weevil now.

Several kinds of poisons, traps, and other things are being advertised to fight the boll weevil, but none of these have ever proved sufficiently profitable to have been adopted to any extent by the big cotton growers further south where the weevil has been at work for several years. There are several

instances on record where calcium arsenate dust has been used to advantage on cotton that would produce a bale of cotton to the acre, but even then the poison is dependent upon weather conditions, making it so uncertain as to be impractical for general recommendation.

Picking up squares early in the season is valuable if labor is cheap, but this alone will be worthless. It must be supplemented with a better system of farm management than has ever before been practiced in this county. If this system of farm management is carried out it will mean good farming and good living in spite of the boll weevil.

The most effective thing that each individual farmer can do to control the boll weevil is to destroy his winter quarters. Most of the weevils spend the winter right in the cotton field in the old bolls that are left hanging to the stalks. Some of them hide in the grass and weeds on the terraces and ditch banks, some around, in, or under houses near cotton fields, and others in the rubbish and under the bark of trees near the cotton fields. Most of the weevils will be destroyed by plowing under all the cotton stalks as soon as cotton is picked and before the last brood of weevils have left the old bolls. Weevils can not live under the ground through the winter. They will die if plowed under with a two-horse plow. In case it is impossible to get all the stalks plowed under by frost, then some cover crop should be planted between the cotton rows, as it has been found that very few weevils live through the winter where a green crop is growing. Where this system is practiced the stalks should be cut down and left lying on the ground in the crop of oats, rye, vetch, wheat, or clover as the case may be. Under these conditions most of the weevils will perish during the winter. Under no circumstances should a single field of cotton stalks be left standing through the winter, because standing cotton stalks furnish the best winter hotel for weevils that they can desire. After destroying the weevils in the cotton fields by turning under the stalks or cutting them down into a green cover crop, then the ditch banks and terraces should be cleaned by burning or otherwise.

Remember the best time to control the weevil is now. Plow under your stalks as fast as the pickers get over. Keep the plow up with the pickers. This is important. Sow as much of your land as possible into wheat, oats, rye, clover, and vetch.

The Cleveland Big Boll Cotton is recommended for use in this county, to use under boll weevil conditions. Plant as early as practicable next

spring, use fertilizer with some soda at planting time and rush the cotton to maturity. Late applications of soda has been found fatal under boll weevil conditions as it delays maturity.

The early weevils should be kept picked off the cotton in the spring and summer before they lay the first brood. One of these weevils will be worth as much as hundreds of the later broods. Keep the early punctured squares picked and destroyed.

Under boll weevil conditions it will be impossible as well as impractical to grow a normal acreage of cotton. There is too great a risk to run to depend entirely upon cotton next year. We should start now to make the change from the all cotton system of farming by sowing winter cover crops. Each family should keep at least one good cow and about two sows to help eat the crops to be grown this winter. These will help to furnish cheap food to the family. Crop rotation should be practiced as this will also help to control the weevil, as well as furnish other crops to sell.

LANFORD NEWS

Lanford, Oct. 10.—Rev. J. M. Robertson filled his regular appointment Sunday afternoon and his committees are doing good work in securing funds to have their reports ready for the closing of this conference year.

Mrs. Stella Bomar has returned home after a very pleasant visit to relatives and friends at Tryon, Inman and Spartanburg, and reports a most delightful trip.

Miss Grace DeShields, of Lander college, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. DeShields.

Mrs. Lillie Rogers is in Laurens visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Drummond and their little daughter.

Mr. B. W. Johnson and family, of Arcadia, and Mr. J. Vance Johnson, of Clinton, were the guests of their parents last Sunday.

Mrs. Sallie Payne, Mrs. Hix Connor, Miss Jessie Rhea and Mr. Joe Payne, of Greenwood, were guests at the home of Mr. H. M. Johnson last Sunday. Mrs. Othello Payne, who has been spending a few days with her father, accompanied them back to their home in Greenwood.

Mr. L. G. Moore and family, of Spartanburg, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Franks Sunday.

Mrs. J. S. Higgins went to Spartanburg Sunday to see her brother, Mr. J. L. T. Ferguson.

Messrs. L. M. Cannon, J. D. Johnson, C. D. Cox, J. R. Franks, J. T. Burgess and M. Fleming and others attended the singing at Ebenezer. All report a fine day and the best of singing.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Burns, of Barksdale, spent Sunday with Mrs. O. P. Fowler, who was not so very well.

Mrs. M. W. Fowler and Miss Carrye Fowler were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Drummond.

Miss Mary Drummond is slowly improving.

Miss Robinell Cox entertained quite a crowd of her little friends Saturday afternoon at a birthday party. Miss Pauline Waldrep and Miss Margaret Drummond attended from here.

ORA NEWS

Oran, Oct. 10.—Miss Margaret Blakeley, who teaches in the Greenville schools, accompanied by her sister, Miss Isabel, who has a business position in Greenville, came home for the week-end.

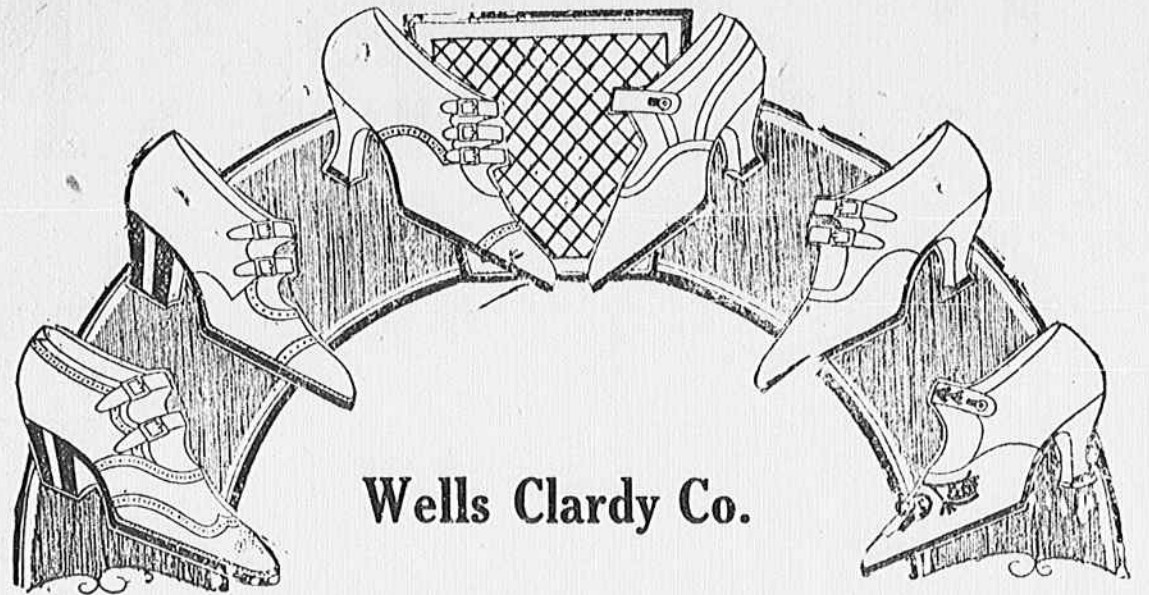
A number of young men made pleasant visits to our town this week-end. Among them were Messrs. Nat Goodwin, of Union; Ashbury, of Greenville; Gladding, of New York; McGowan, of Waterloo.

Miss Julia Lee Finley, of McCormick, and Miss Isla Coleman, of Latta, are the teachers here this session. We wish for these young ladies a most successful school year.

A School Improvement Association has been organized with the following officers: Mrs. Euphemia Bryson, president; Miss Finley, vice-pres. and secretary; and Miss Coleman, treasurer. With a six thousand dollar school building in the process of erection, to be furnished and equipped, and school grounds to be made attractive, the association expects to be occupied with much important work.

Misses Nannie and Elizabeth McClintock have been spending some weeks at home.

On Sept. 23, Miss Elizabeth Martin and Mr. Wilkins, of Gaffney, were married in Spartanburg by the Rev. Mr. Farmer. The groom is a progressive young business man, a partner of W. J. Wilkins Co. The bride is beautiful and winsome, and Mr. Wilkins is to be congratulated upon winning her. She is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Martin. To "Aunt Lula" and to many others in the town and county she brought joy and sunshine and she will be greatly missed here as she goes to her new home in Gaffney.



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