

A NATIONAL INSECT PEST SURVEY AND ITS RELATION TO INDIANA.

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At the last annual meeting of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, it was recommended that a National Insect Pest Survey be organized under the direction of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the official entomologists of the various states. Such a survey was intended to ascertain the extent of injuries caused by various insects, and their distribution, and to keep the entomologists throughout the country apprized of developments during the growing season, since such information would undoubtedly prove of greatest value in forecasting probable insect troubles, and would aid in the early recognition of recent insect introductions and newly established pests.

In response to the suggestion of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, Dr. L. O. Howard, Chief of the Federal Bureau of Entomology, organized an Insect Pest Survey under the direction of Mr. J. A. Hyslop. The objects of this survey as outlined by Dr. Howard include collecting and disseminating information on the status of insect pests throughout the country including both native and foreign pests; to give information on the first appearance of migratory pests so that possible precautionary methods can be taken; to accumulate information on fall and winter stages of such pests as a basis for forecasts; and to prepare reports and careful estimates of damage occasioned by insect pests.

The plan of organization involves for the Federal Bureau the general supervision of the work and issuing information in the form of monthly and special reports, as well as annual reports which will include a summary of seasonal geographic ecologic maps correlated with weather and abundance, tables of damage estimates, etc. A state collaborator or insect pest reporter has been designated for each state and he in turn works in co-operation with other entomological agencies of the state. The state collaborators are expected to submit reports to the Bureau of Entomology regularly each month so that the data are received at the Washington office no later than the 20th of the month. The information received from all the states is then compiled and published the first of each month under the title of "The Insect Pest Survey Bulletin." The information needed for these reports includes name of insect, the crop or crops attacked, the seriousness of the infestation, whether or not it is wide spread or local, the per cent of damage, other pertinent facts regarding the situation, the success or value of controls which may have been put into practice and name of observer. The importance of this survey to the people of the State of Indiana cannot be overestimated. The entomologist by carefully studying these reports from month to month, is soon able to determine in a

general way the factor causing this or that insect outbreak; he is able to generalize and secure information which oftentimes is of greatest assistance in future years and above all he is able to follow the northern march of such serious migratory pests as the army worm and frequently to forecast the possibility of troubles which by timeliness and foresight may be easily overcome. The success of this pest survey is not with the Federal Bureau of Entomology nor is it dependent on the individual co-operation of the various state insect pest reporters, but upon the thorough co-operation of all entomological forces and others interested within the state. The speaker has been appointed state insect pest reporter for Indiana and takes this opportunity of requesting the co-operation of every member of this Academy in submitting information on all insect troubles.

During the past season we have had the earnest support of Mr. Harry F. Dietz of the State Conservation Commission. Any others in the state who care to co-operate in this work are requested to advise us. They will be furnished with data sheets and franked envelopes so that no expense in collecting or sending in the information will be involved.

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