



# Boll Weevil Bugle

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program

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## Foundation requests referendum:

### *If vote passes, Southeastern Foundation would manage eradication in NE Delta zone*

Cotton growers in Mississippi and eastern Craighead counties soon may receive another opportunity to start a boll weevil eradication program in their area.

Ballots could be mailed to qualified growers in the proposed Northeast Delta zone by Nov. 30, if the Arkansas State Plant Board approves a proposal made Oct. 23 by the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation.

If the referendum is successful, the Arkansas Foundation plans to sign a contract with the Southeastern Boll Weevil Eradication Program of Montgomery, AL, to manage eradication in the new Northeast Delta zone.

The proposed referendum would ask growers in the new zone to approve a fee of \$8.00 per year per acre of cotton planted, for seven years — a total of \$56 per acre of cotton. Those funds would go to the Southeastern Foundation to cover a portion of the total cost of eradication.

The Arkansas Program will at least provide that zone's portion of the funds appropriated by the State to support the eradication program. The Southeast Foundation will provide additional funds.

The contract between the two organizations is expected to stipulate that the Southeastern Foundation will be responsible for all debts it incurs while managing the zone.

The new zone must be “weevil-free” when the Southeastern Foundation returns zone management responsibility to Arkansas.

After weevils have been eradicated in the Northeast Delta zone, the Arkansas Program will be responsible for maintenance. A yearly maintenance fee of not more than \$3 per acre will apply.

The Arkansas Program will continue to manage weevil eradication in the state's four other active eradication zones.

The proposal for a referendum must be approved by the Plant Board, which is expected to consider the request in early November.

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#### Key dates & facts:

- Nov. 30: Ballots are mailed to eligible growers.
  - Dec. 1: First day of voting.
  - Dec. 14: Deadline to postmark ballots.
  - Dec. 23: Ballots will be counted.
  - 66.7% must vote “yes” for passage.
  - Zone includes Mississippi and eastern Craighead counties.
  - Southeastern Foundation will manage eradication in the zone, for \$8/year for 7 years.
  - Arkansas Program retains management of the state's four other active eradication zones.
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Ballots will be mailed to all eligible growers in the Northeast Delta zone who reported cotton acreage during the 2001 season. Ballots will be mailed by Nov. 30, and voting will begin on Dec. 1.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than Dec. 14. Ballots will be counted on Dec. 23.

Additional ballots will be available at FSA offices in the two counties. Eligible growers may cast only one ballot.

By law, at least 66.7 percent of those voting must vote “yes” to approve the new eradication Program. Past referenda have received 60 percent support but less than the required 66.7 percent.

*Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

# **Foundation requests referendum** *for* **NE Delta Zone**

## **Vote planned Dec. 1 - Dec. 14**

***Southeastern Foundation offers to manage  
eradication in new zone***

***Arkansas retains existing eradication programs***

Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program  
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