



Boll Weevil Bugle

A Newsletter for the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program

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Danny Kiser, Interim Director

July 2003

Eradication Program To Begin in NE Delta Zone

Preparations are underway and activities started to begin the eradication program in the Northeast Delta zone. Mapping and trapping have begun. Aerial spraying is scheduled to begin in August. This will bring all cotton growing areas of Arkansas into the program and we expect to achieve the same successful results as we've experienced in other zones.

On May 22, the Arkansas State Plant Board met in Blytheville and voted to implement a mandatory eradication program in the Northeast Delta zone for the 2003 crop season. Following this meeting, your Foundation Board met on May 27 to discuss the Plant Board's decision and consider what we had to do to implement this program. Since then, the ABWEP staff has been very active in identifying new office locations, hiring and training new staff, purchasing necessary supplies and equipment, mapping fields and sensitive areas, and setting out traps. All activities are on schedule.

The implementation of this zone will save the overall Program millions of dollars that would have been spent on creating and maintaining a buffer around this area and will keep your Program moving forward on a financially sound basis. Up to the beginning of this year, Arkansas cotton growers have invested approximately \$104 million in

the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program. The cost of treating a buffer area would have continued to grow to \$2.7 million in 2003, over \$4 million in 2004, and approximately \$5.7 million in 2005 and beyond. Implementation of this zone protects your investment and brings us closer to an eradication date, along with the higher yields at reduced expenses that accompany eradication.

The Northeast Delta Zone program will be funded by a combination of Northeast Delta Zone grower assessments, state funds, federal grants, contributions from the Southeast Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (Note: this is not the Southeast Zone in Arkansas but the Southeastern United States Foundation) and ABWEP.

Spring Trapping Reports Continue Dramatic Decrease

Boll weevil trap catches in the Southeast, Southwest, and Central zones show at least a 99.97% decrease in weevil captures with the Southeast zone continuing its 100% reduction level for this year. The latest spring 2003 trappings figures as of June 15 are:

Southwest Zone: Not a single weevil has been trapped in the Southwest zone during the 2003 season, making it the first zone to show a 100% reduction rate since the beginning of the program in 1998.

Continued on Page 2

Trappings, continued from page 1

The 1998 season average of boll weevils per trap per week was 11.25.

Southeast Zone: Eradication was begun with a diapause program in 1999. The 2003 season to date average of boll weevils per trap per week is 0.0043. This represents a reduction of 99.97% in weevil population from 2000 to 2003.

For the first full season program of 2000, the average number of boll weevils captured per trap per week for the same time period was 13.8 per trap per week.

Central Zone: For the 2003 season to date, the Central Zone has averaged 0.0081 weevils per trap per week for a 99.97% reduction in weevil populations from 2000 to 2003. The Central Zone began a diapause program in 2000 and averaged 28.8 weevils per trap per week during the same time period.

Northeast Ridge Zone: A diapause program was initiated in 2001 and the zone completed its first full season in 2002. The zone averaged 0.629 weevils per trap per week in the 2001 season. For 2002, the average was 0.226 weevils per trap per week, representing an 64.2% reduction of weevil population.

For the 2003 season to date, the average number of boll weevils per trap per week is 0.23. The Northeast Ridge zone continued to show elevated boll weevil counts on the eastward boundary along the St. Francis River due to migration of weevils from the non-eradication area in the Northeast Delta zone.

Northeast Delta Zone: Traplines in the non-eradication area of the Northeast Delta zone showed a count of 1.94 weevils per trap per week up to the week of June 15. (2003 trapping information comes from two traplines in the Delta zone during the 2003 season.)

Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program

Field Office Staff Contacts:

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SOUTHWEST zone

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FUS 312 Larry Johnson, Jr.	(870) 270-7059
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DS Kimberly Fleeman (Osceola)	(870) 740-8533

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SOUTHEAST zone

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FUM 216 Donnie Watson	(870) 692-6370

Inside:

**Northeast Delta Zone eradication program
underway**

**Spring 2003 Trapping Information
Shows 97% - 100% Reduction
In Three Zones**

Updated Contact Information

AZ0703

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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