

THE COTTON CROP, THE BOLL WEEVIL, AND YOU

Thelma McNatt, '30

Some of the Many Uses of Cotton; One Method of Helping the Farmer Overcome the Boll Weevil Menace

HOW famous is that little insect which we call the boll weevil! Who in Arizona is not acquainted with him? How many times we stop at county lines when traveling and have our baggage inspected for this menacing creature. We are told that many years ago, this little weevil came to our country from Mexico, and it has been with us ever since. And not only with us here in Arizona but it thrives on the cotton grown in almost the entire southern cotton area. It causes losses of half the crop which the farmer succeeds in raising. This is a serious matter. Many farmers borrow money, which they use to defray the expenses of planting and harvesting the cotton crop, and which they expect to pay to the creditor when the crop is sold. Suppose a farmer estimates his yield of cotton at one hundred bales, if, contrary to his expectations, the boll weevil destroy fifty of those bales before the crop is picked his monetary return will be exactly half that which he hoped to receive. Due to the destruction of the boll weevil, he may not make even as much money as he borrowed to finance his undertaking. What is he going to do? Upon what will he and his family live? His children must have nourishing food if they are to become healthy citizens; they must have clothes which enable them to attend school if they are to become efficient members of society.

Since the cotton farmer is no more directly responsible for the presence of the devastating boll weevil than we are, why don't the rest of us attempt to help him out in his fight against it? How can we accomplish this? In the first place we can help to rid the country of another danger which is equally as destructive in its working as is the little insignificant insect of which we have been speaking. This second menace works in a different way, however. The little weevil pays too much attention to the cotton, he lives upon it—bores right into the cotton boll and helps himself too the contents. This second type is the kind which disregards the cotton. Cotton is picked,

ginned, spun into thread, woven into materials, and placed upon the shelves until we pass by the silk counter and hand our money to the clerk in exchange for some of the cotton fabric. If the farmer can get a good price for the cotton which the boll weevil leaves him, he will have more money with which to educate his children and to exercise preventive measures in his treatment of the cotton menace. We know that the greater the demand for a commodity the higher the price will be. If we, then, demand cotton materials, go to the retail stores and buy them we are doing our bit to help the farmer overcome the menace of the boll weevil. Why should we so harshly criticize the weevil when we, by our neglect and disregard for cotton fabric, cause the farmer to lose a great deal of money annually.

What is there to be said about cotton anyway? Is there anything in its favor? Cotton is the fiber of every day life. It has more than a hundred different household uses. It can be woven strong enough for an airplane's wings, or into fabrics of the sheerest delicacy. Cotton keeps us cool in summer without too rapid conduction of heat or absorption of moisture. On the other hand it may be woven or knitted into clothing almost as warm as wool. But it has other advantages. That little school or sport dress attractively made of cotton material will cost much less than one made of silk. After that exciting football game, the chic cotton sport dress is easily laundered and looks like new when it is worn again. There is no additional cost of fifty or seventy-five cents for dry cleaning as is the case when the silk garment is sent to the shop, or no can of explosive naphtha or gasoline around the house to disturb the peace of mind, when the cleaning is done at home. The cotton fabric is strong, as a result of the natural twist in the fiber, and the wearer is not afraid that the least rough surface will catch and pull the thread in the fabric leaving the surface frayed and tattered.

No one exercising good judgment would advocate the wearing of

cheap, unattractive materials. Cotton materials are neither cheap nor unattractive. On the contrary, they are woven in beautiful designs and printed in novel patterns and striking colors. There are piques, poplins, broadcloths, dimities, organdies, and prints of all descriptions waiting to be fashioned into neat, really becoming garments. Cottons are favored for ensembles, and plain colors combine very attractively with dashing prints. Not only are women wearing cotton fabrics to an increasing extent but men's sport suits are being made of it.

Quoting from the Textile World of September 29, 1928: "Cottons have returned to fashion prominence with indications of a still greater demand for smartly styled cotton dresses and piece goods in 1929." Results of a survey just completed by the New Uses Section of the Cotton-Textile Institute, Inc., show that:

1. More cotton dresses are being worn.
2. More cotton dresses were made and sold during the summer of 1928 than in 1927.
3. Retail sales of cotton piece goods this summer were larger in volume than in 1927.
4. Retail stores have been advertising fine cotton goods more extensively.

Every twenty-four hours the earth makes one revolution of its axis. It is continually moving and changing. We, likewise, change. Our desires and demands fluctuate. Those who are working for us and upon whom we depend for the clothes which we wear, try, to the best of their ability to adequately supply our changing demands. We will have more beautiful cotton fabrics at our disposal, than we now have if we but demand them. Our demands will force research upon those engaged in the textile industries, and as a result of their efforts we will be supplied with the material of our desire. Cotton fabrics will be styled up to our requirements.

The history of people is studied largely through the knowledge of their choice of clothes. When our

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BROODING CHICKS IN ARIZONA

C. F. Rowe, Extension Poultryman

Chicks More Successfully Raised in Small Groups; Types of Brooders That Give Good Results; Things Not To Do

THE development of the poultry industry in Arizona along commercial egg lines has brought the poultrymen face to face with the problems of brooding chicks in large numbers. Under such conditions losses have been quite heavy during the first four weeks. This loss can most generally be attributed to poor brooding equipment and bad methods of feeding.

A roomy, substantial brooder house that can be kept clean, dry, and well ventilated is one of the first essentials of good brooding equipment. This house may be constructed of galvanized iron, lumber, or adobe. The adobe house has the disadvantage of being immovable and unless cost of construction is the limiting factor, should be discarded in favor of either of the other two. Lumber will be found most desirable in the higher altitudes, while in the southern part of the state the galvanized iron is giving excellent results.

The 12x12 foot portable combination brooding and growing house is becoming quite popular, and will accommodate 500 chicks until they are old enough to segregate the cockerels and pullets, after which it will accommodate the pullets until they are ready to be placed in the laying house. This house should be at least 7½ feet high in front and 6 feet in the rear.

The front is provided with a screen wire opening, 3 feet wide and extending the full length of the front. A roll curtain may be used for protection against rain, and in the colder sections glass substitute placed in frames are inserted in order that proper temperatures may be maintained and the ultra violet rays admitted. The door is placed in the end of the house near the front edge and the upper half of the rear wall is hinged to allow raising during the hot summer weather. As ample ventilation is of utmost importance, and in no case should the entire front be completely closed.

For larger numbers of chicks either several of the portable houses or the larger type of house may be used. It is well to bear in mind that under average conditions chicks are more

successfully raised in small groups than in the larger. Five hundred is generally considered a satisfactory sized group. Plans and specifications for the larger sized brooder houses may be had by writing directly to your County Agent, or to Agricultural Extension Service, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

Brooders

There are many makes of brooders on the market that give good results under good management. One of the first considerations is the size of the canopy. It has been observed that in some of the brooders in use, the size of the canopy is insufficient to carry the number of chicks it is rated to carry. Unless there is ample room, chicks will crowd, causing those near the heat to become overheated and to sweat, while those on the outer ring may become chilled.

Ventilation under the hover is very important. Too often sacks are tied around the edges of the hover cutting off all circulation of air. If these are to be used they should be scalloped to allow the air to properly circulate.

The heating device should be large enough to produce ample heat, and if provided with a pipe extending well up to or through the roof, will greatly assist in carrying off foul gases and used air. The thermometer should be suspended about 6 inches from the outer edge of the canopy and the bulb hanging about 1½ inches above the floor. For the first week the heat should range at about 95 to 100 degrees under the hover, the second week, about 85 to 95 degrees and thereafter about 80 degrees. The feeding room will necessarily be several degrees below this temperature. Sand should be spread under the hover, or better, over the entire brooder house floor to assist in sanitation and prevent floor drafts. Fine cut straw is placed over this outside the hover.

The brooder should be lighted two or three days before the chicks arrive in order to make sure that it is working and to have the temperature at the right degree. The heating apparatus must have daily attention

to prevent the wicks from charring or grates from being covered with clinkers, or other trouble.

Mash hoppers, drinking fountains, and the like, should be ample, and thoroughly cleaned each day.

Things Not To Do

Don't crowd chicks under too small a hover or into too small a house.

Don't fail to cull out weaklings.

Don't shut house up too tightly.

Don't allow floor to become damp.

Don't allow drafts on chicks or brooder.

Don't neglect sanitation.

Don't try to brood chicks of different ages under the same hover.

Don't depend on incompetent help.

Don't take everybody's advice.

Don't leave dead chicks under hover.

Don't fail to follow a good feeding program.

Don't use too much antiseptic in the drinking water.

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record is on the pages of history what will be said about us in regard to the suitability of our dress? If we are appropriately dressed our attire should always correspond with the occasion. We believe that cotton materials are in perfect harmony with school and sport activities and it is in connection with such that their selection shows good taste and genuine economy. Let's work together to exterminate all menaces to the cotton crop, and make 1929 a big cotton year in Arizona!

First Californian: How old are you?

Second Californian: Three years old next September. I really didn't begin to live until I came to Los Angeles.

Friend: Do you know, old man, that's a swell looking nurse you've got!

Patient: I hadn't noticed.

Friend: Good lord, I had not idea you were so sick.