

Historical Update Livestock Insect Workers Conference 1996-2006 by John B. Campbell

I presented a limited review of Veterinary Entomology at our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Kerrville, Texas in 1996. It covered the years 1946-1996. This update will be even more limited but will cover at least most of the highlights.

We have lost considerable manpower in veterinary entomology in the last 10 years. Quite a few of our stalwarts have retired. In ARS these include: Roger Drummond, Sid Kunze, Phil Scholl, Gus Thomas, Truman Fincher, Ed Schmidtman, Dick Patterson, Gary Mount, and probably two or three more that I am unaware of the person, location or year.

In the university group the retired ones include: Charlie Pitts, Russ Wright, Bob Barker, Jerry Butler, Fred Knapp, Elliot Krafshur, Cliff Hoelsher, Jack Lloyd, Maxi Noland III, Jakie Hair, Bill Jones, Craig Sheppard, Bill Lyons, and John Webb. LaMar Meeks died, Rob Hall went to Law School and is now involved some in forensic entomology, Rick Meyer has moved to Washington D.C. but is still active in Regional Research Planning, and Rick Weinzerl is no longer involved in veterinary entomology extension efforts.

While some of these people have been replaced a good many have not been. Kentucky, Florida, Kansas, California, Texas, and now Oklahoma have replaced the retirees and Greg Johnson at Montana State has come back into the fold.

However, overall the universities have greatly reduced extension and applied research. The USDA-ARS has shifted some from applied to basic research and have reduced their overall effort in veterinary entomology. In the Animal Health industry we have lost over half of the companies and consequently many people with expertise in livestock insect control. These reductions would imply that veterinary entomologists have solved most of the animal insect problems. I don't believe livestock producers or wildlife specialists would agree with that assumption.

In our service arena we are still far behind our crop entomology counterparts in livestock insect IPM and in genetic manipulations for host resistance to parasites. But of course, the crop entomologists outnumber us on the order of 10-1 and outspend us by about 1000-1.

Research on insecticide control in the U.S. consists primarily in the development and use of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation pyrethroids and a few biologicals such as the endectocides and spinosid. There is some research on host-insect immune systems and some on the physiology of parasitic insects in terms of resistance to insecticides and in the immuniochemistry of the insects.

There are a few studies in progress on insect transmission of diseases to animals and on biological agents that may control insect parasites of livestock.

The Southern Regional Research project which includes scientists from around

the U.S. is being rewritten for 2007. Members of this project have focused on the source and movement of stable flies on range and pasture cattle or on insect control of poultry on swine facilities by a variety of methods. Some research on stable fly trapping is also being conducted.

Bayer Animal Health has volunteered to provide the award for the Lifetime Achievement Award in Livestock Entomology. Several other companies continue their strong support for the LIWC meeting and we are grateful to all of the companies for their support.