

The importance of the Southern Insect Management Research Unit cannot be overstressed. With the world's population steadily on the rise, there are now more men and women in need of quality food crops than ever before. At the SIMRU ARS research station in Stoneville, MS the harmful effects of insects on common southern row crops are researched. Of particular interest to the farmers of the American south are the crops corn, cotton, and soybean. An area of incredibly fertile soil and crop productivity, the Mississippi delta is an important area for agricultural study.

My name is David Liang and I work under the tutelage of Dr. Clint Allen. Dr. Clint Allen is one of several entomologists who work for Dr. Luttrell on the fourth floor of the USDA ARS building in Stoneville, MS. My fourth year to work at the USDA for Clint Allen, I have learned much this summer. My primary duties on the job are to travel to different locations across the state of Mississippi and Arkansas to collect insect samples. These insect samples are then recorded to track population growth over time.

Interestingly, no one has tracked the population growth of specific species of stinkbug across a large quantity of time in Mississippi. For this reason, Dr. Allen has been sampling various fields across Mississippi in an effort to track the population growth of the true green stink bug, the southern green stink bug, the red banded stink bug, and the brown stink bug. Unlike in Dr. Luttrell, Smith, and Greene's paper, *Seasonal Abundance, Species Composition, and Population Dynamics of Stink Bugs in Production Fields of Early and late Soybean in South*

*Arkansas* which displayed growing number of red-banded stink bugs in September and October as well as a small presence in July and August, there were virtually no red-banded stink bugs found during the summer months in Mississippi.

This summer, I helped Dr. Allen study the population growth of loopers, bollworms, and different species of stink bugs in Arkansas and Mississippi. Additionally, I assisted Dr. Allen in tracking the survival rate of tarnished plant bug nymphs in plots of soybeans over the course of several months. The final project I assisted Dr. Allen in was in varying topical trials. These topical tests studied the effects of varying quantities of pesticides used on different ages of looper larvae.