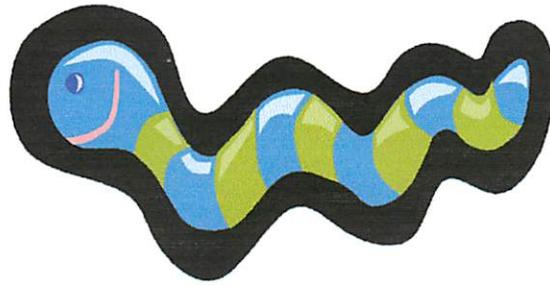


# Summer 2011 Research Experience



Submitted by: Jesse King

August 4, 2011

USDA  
Stoneville, Mississippi

## My 2011 Summer Research Experience

I am Jesse King and I am a biological science aide for the Southern Insect Management Research Unit. I have been a part of this organization for two years now. The USDA Research Center is one of the major research establishments of ARS. The Center consists of seven Research Units, with scientists conducting basic and applied research in several areas. One of USDA goals is trying to improve the safety and efficiency of the pest control for cotton, maize, soybean, sweet potatoes and other row crops. This is important because agriculture provide the food that we eat everyday. It is also important because agriculture provides a quality food supply unlike the third world countries.

This summer I learned many new things along with my co-workers. I learned how to identify various types of insects, how to sweep to find plant bugs, and how to determine whether cotton plants have been damaged or not. I also learned the steps and procedure for catching wireworms. I learn many things from the article *Effectiveness of Different Seed Baiting Methods for Wireworms in Sweet Potato*. The author of the article is Dakshina R. Seal, Richard B. Chalfant, and Melvin R. Hall.

According to the article there are seven different seed baits: Corn, Wheat, Corn-Wheat, Rape, Cowpea, Sorghum, and Triticale. When my co-workers and I went to the field and to catch these wireworms we use corn. The purpose of using corn is because of the scent. Wireworms are attracted to the corn's scent. First, we got sixteen cups, 2 garbage bags, and filled the cups half way with corn. Then we poured water into the cups so that the corn was damp moist. Next, we walked through the corn fields we found a good spot in each sixteen plot to dig at least 6 to 9 inches into the ground. Then we poured the corn into the hole, cut the garbage bags into small pieces and covered the hole. We put dirt on top of the garbage bag so the wind wouldn't blow it off. Finally, we put a flag beside it to locate it between the tall corn.

Moreover, I have learned a lot from the field experiences I had this summer. I worked with people who made my research experience a memorable one. Together, we worked hard, learned a lot and most importantly, got the job done. I hope their experience was as rewarding as my mine.