

My name is Shelby Reister and I work for Dr. Clint Allen. I am a recent graduate of Washington School and plan to move to Auburn next week to start a new chapter of my life. Working for the USDA-ARS SIMRU unit for two summers, and also during the school year, has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have learned so much, and handling all of our insects has become second nature to me.

Our average day is rearing our two insect colonies, loopers and tarnished plant bugs. We feed these two colonies every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This includes using the diet that we make during the week to feed our insects. We also infest our looper colonies, which include Soybean, Cabbage, Mint, and Stoneville Cabbage loopers. We actually started our Stoneville Cabbage colony this summer. Our crew planted the cabbage and collected the larvae that were on the plants. We reared the larvae and the third generation of eggs were just infested this week.

The insects that we rear are used for tests and also for easy access during the off season. One specific test that we've done using the loopers involves their thoracic leg colors. In an experiment done by Douglas Jost and Henry Pitre, the percentages of black legs on Soybean Loopers was much higher than those of Cabbage Loopers. We compared our data with this and found that it was true. The leg colors varied in different generations of both loopers; however, the percentages were still higher for Soybean Loopers.

I did not realize at first that being part of the Southern Insect Management Research Unit would be so beneficial for my future. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to work for this unit and with such a great crew. Everything that I have learned this past year has helped in so many ways. I have learned a great work ethic, improved my organizational skills, learned how important teamwork is, and also I have expanded my scientific knowledge and vocabulary. I will be so happy to take all of these things with me and my journey to Auburn and their Entomology department that I will be working for soon.

My name is Shelby Keiser and I work for the Clinton Administration in Washington

School and plan to move to Auburn next week to start a new chapter of my life. Working for the USDA-ARS SARE unit for two summers, and also during the winter, has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have learned so much and fulfilled all of our dreams. Has become second nature to me.

Our average day is reading our two insect rearing papers and finished plant propagation. These two colonies every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This includes being the first that we make during the week to feed our insects. We also infect our lobster colonies which include *Soybean* (Cabbage, Mint, and Stoneville Cabbage) papers. We actually started our Stoneville Cabbage colony this summer. Our crew planted the cabbage and collected the larvae that were on the plants. We raised the larvae and the third generation of eggs were just hatched this week.

The insects that we rear are used for tests and also for egg assays during the off season. Our specific test that we've done using the lobster involves their thoracic leg color. In an experiment done by Douglas Lee and Henry Hines, the percentages of black legs on lobster larvae was much higher than those of Cabbage larvae. We compared our data with this and found that it was true. The leg colors varied in different generations of both larvae; however, the percentages were still higher for lobster larvae.

I did not realize at first that being part of the Southern Forest Management Research Unit would be so beneficial for my future. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to work for this unit and with such a great crew. Everything that I have learned this past year has helped in so many ways. I have learned a great work ethic, improved my organizational skills, learned how important teamwork is, and also I have expanded my scientific knowledge and vocabulary. I will be so happy to take all of these things with me and in Auburn and their Entomology department that I will be working for

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