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Corn Borer Control by Good Farming
Michigan State University Extension Service
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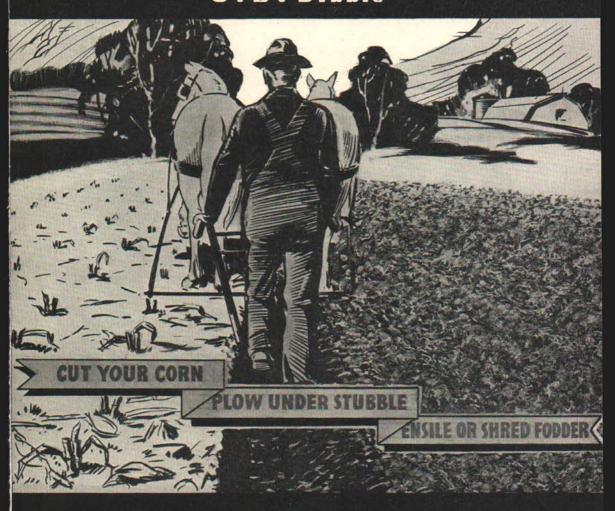
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CORN BORER CONTROL
by *Good Farming*
C . B . Dibble

CUT YOUR CORN

PLOW UNDER STUBBLE

ENSILE OR SHRED FODDER

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
Of Agriculture and Applied Science
EXTENSION DIVISION
R. J. BALDWIN, Director

CORN BORER CONTROL IN MICHIGAN

NOT EXPENSIVE   **PROTECTS $30,000,000 CROP**

Corn Borer Control Practices on most Michigan farms involve no added cost in producing the corn crop. The measures necessary for the control of the corn borer are simple cultural practices and fit the crop plan on most Michigan farms, involving only careful attention to some operations in handling the crop.

Corn borers spend the winter in corn stalks. It is difficult to find the pests in other plants except weeds growing in heavily infested corn fields.

Fig. 1. High Stubble Leaves Many Borers.

No practical method has been devised for killing the adult moths that lay the eggs nor for destroying the eggs on the plants in the summer.

Early plantings show higher infestations and more severe damage than later plantings in the same locality. However, if all corn were planted later the infestation would still occur and the yield would be decreased materially by this practice. **Sweet corn for canning** can be protected somewhat by delaying the planting date.

HOW TO CONTROL THE BORER

After several years of careful study in corn borer districts, farmers and entomologists have found that the practices outlined in this bulletin are the simplest and least expensive effective methods of combating this pest. These may be modified slightly on individual farms if necessary.

The success of this program is dependent on the corn growers in any locality. They must kill the borers wintering over in their corn or

Fig. 2. Well Shredded Fodder Is Safe.

fields each year. This practice combines with the weather and natural corn borer enemies such as insects, parasites, birds, and other animals to hold the borer in check and permit successful corn growing in Michigan.

HOW TO KILL THE BORER

If corn **IS** cut.
  1. Cut the corn low—4 inches or less.
  2. Ensile or shred the fodder.
  3. Plow under all stubble cleanly.
If corn is **NOT** cut.
  Plow under whole stalks completely or bunch the stalks, burn and plow under remaining refuse.

PLOWING

Plowing is usually the cheapest effective treatment for corn refuse not otherwise destroyed. Stubble may be plowed under with any good single bottom plow and kept down. Whole stalks usually require wide bottom plows and the use of wires for a clean job. The plowing job must be clean to be effective and must be followed by careful subsequent cultivation that does not bring pieces of stalk to the surface.

A plowed field must be free from surface refuse to kill the borers. Fall plowing when possible is desirable. All control work should be completed by June 1.

Fig. 3. Wide Bottoms Plow Whole Stalks Cleanly.

Fig. 4. Borer Damaged Corn.

REMEMBER

Cut corn as low as convenient. Plow under all stubble and corn refuse. Do not drag refuse to the surface.

Box Holder,

Rural Route No. ....