.... ice. However, the practice on tobacco stalks after hargenerally has not been fol vest. These relatively small, lowed systematically.

ARS studies show that laying sites. when early stalk cutting is carried out by a high per-Scientists and tobacco farm- centage of growers in an arers know that if you cut ea, the practice can be a this year's tobacco stalks as valuable nonchemical way to more larvae to feed and desoon as the last commercial- control or suppress horn-

Early stalk cutting deworm infestation, according stroys the suckers, or secto the Agri. Research Serv- ondary shoots, that appear

tender shoots appeal to hornworms, both as food and egg

Allowing stalks to stand encourages a late summer build-up in hornworms. More are laid, producing velop on the suckers, and then burrow into the ground to pupate through the winter. Finally, more adults emerge early in the next growing season, and a larger hornworm population gets a head start on the new crop.

In 1963, ARS entomologist W. S. Kinard, working in cooperation with the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, enlisted the aid of most of the tobacco growers in a 12-mile circular area near Florence. Many growers agreed to cut their own tobacco stalks as soon as possible after final harvest.

Eighty-seven percent of the growers within the selected area cooperated the first year, 1963, and 94 percent the following year. Results of these cuttings showed up in the 1964 and 1965 sea-

During both of these years, the scientists compared numbers of hornworm eggs and very small larvae on tobaccol plants in test plots both within and outside the circular area. As would be expected, considerably lower intestations occurred in the plots inside the circle than outside, and the level of infestation was the lowest close to the center of the circle This difference was even larger in 1965 than in

Results so far, although incomplete, are encouraging to all concerned. Growers are so pleased that Kanard is getting nearly 100 percent cooperation within the test area. To insure complete stalk destruction, c custom operator has been employed to cut the small percentage of stalks not cut by growers

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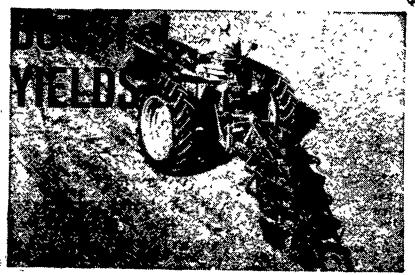
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