

EDITORIAL

SOME CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AMCA TO MOSQUITO CONTROL

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The American Mosquito Control Association held its twentieth annual meeting with the tenth annual meeting of the Illinois Mosquito Control Association in Chicago, March 1-4, 1964. The purpose of this report is not to review the program or proceedings there, although such a review would be worthwhile, but rather to discuss the value of the AMCA and some of its achievements.

The contributions of the national association can be grouped into three categories. The first is the information that can be obtained either from *Mosquito News* or from attendance at meetings. The annual subscription for *Mosquito News* is only \$8.00. Any conscientious manager should be able to find at least one article every ten years that would save his district \$80.00 and thus pay for the publication. Actually, improvements in control worth thousands of dollars to a district can be obtained from studying *Mosquito News* or attending meetings and discussing problems with others concerned with mosquito control. The old expression that two heads are better than one is true, particularly when some of the heads belong to the world's top authorities on mosquitoes and their control. Managers who neglect opportunities to confer and discuss their problems with the best minds in their field are not doing all they can for their districts.

The second category of contribution to mosquito control is that of helping in the development or evolution of what might be termed mosquito control technology. The information and procedures that are used to control mosquitoes today constitute an involved and complex technology that has evolved over many years and is continuing to develop today. This technology concerns everything from the policies and directives of the board of trustees to dipping procedures. The chief agency at present in this development of technology is the national association and its meetings. Here ideas and experiences are exchanged, developments reviewed, and new techniques proposed for future study, experimentation, and possible use. Every mosquito abatement district in Utah conducts a program based on a technology developed in this manner. We did not invent it. We use what has been given to us. Time does not permit a complete review of all the present procedures that are evolving, but they include new insecticides, biological and cultural control techniques, and procedures that will allow us to work harmoniously with other interests such as agriculture and wildlife. The AMCA provides a forum where research workers can present the results of their efforts. This is a powerful stimulant to research and channels a good portion of the creative talent of research workers into mosquito control problems. Without support, these activities would fade and all mosquito control programs, including those in Utah, would be adversely affected. We owe a debt to the past, but we can pay it only to the future by supporting and participating in the activities of the AMCA.

The third category in which the AMCA contributes to mosquito control programs is as an active agent in control. The most recent and conspicuous example of this is the development of good working relationships with wildlife interests on a national level. The spirit of cooperation developed by the National Mosquito Control-Fish and

Wildlife Management Coordination Committee has eased many problems and headaches that could have developed in Utah. Our own Utah committee is an outgrowth of the national committee, and over a period of time will be worth much money to the control programs in the state. At the present time, there is considerable discussion of the proper scope of mosquito control programs which does not appear in *Mosquito News*. These discussions will eventually resolve into a philosophy that will either include or exclude other vectors in mosquito control programs. This philosophy, developed on a national level, will then eventually determine a part of the future of Utah mosquito control programs. We are, therefore, involved whether we like it or not. We must participate and contribute. In summary I would like to reiterate that the American Mosquito Control Association contributes to mosquito control by providing information and the exchange of ideas; by being an important agency in the development of mosquito control technology and providing a forum for research workers; and by being an active agent of control on a national basis. In order to make these contributions the American Mosquito Control Association needs support from mosquito control workers in the form of membership and participation in meetings and the affairs of the association.

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