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Book Review of *Entomology at the Land Grant University: Perspectives from the Texas A&M University Department Centenary* Edited by Kevin M. Heinz, Raymond Frisbie, and Carlos Bogran

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Entomology at the Land Grant University: Perspectives from the Texas A&M University Department Centenary. Edited by Kevin M. Heinz, Raymond Frisbie, and Carlos Bogran. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2005. xi + 341 pp. Figures, references. \$45.00 cloth.

This book offers the texts of twenty-four presentations given in a series of minisymposia organized to commemorate the centennial of Texas A&M's Department of Entomology. Although not stated explicitly by the editors, the central theme for these symposia seems to be the contributions of the discipline of entomology to modern society. The presentations cover a wide range of topics dealing with the importance of insects in both natural ecosystems and agricultural systems; insects as models for scientific research; challenges associated with effective management of those species that are pests in systems designed for food and fiber production; and the role of entomology departments within academic institutions, particularly land-grant universities. The list of contributors to these symposia is impressive, as are the universities and other institutions they represent across the United States as well as in Europe and Africa.

Many of the presentations should be of particular interest to scientists, consultants, and end-users of information developed to address the challenges of providing effective means for controlling insect pests and, at the same time, providing a safe, wholesome food supply. Several presentations also emphasize critical concerns for the maintenance of species diversity and the sustainability of natural environments. Thus, the focus of many of the presentations is on the basic principles of integrated pest management (IPM), a system emerging from innovative thinking among scientists in entomology and several related fields including plant pathology and weed science. Through IPM, several contributors aver, emphasis is placed on maximizing net income rather than on maximizing gross yield. "Our War with the Insects: Analysis of Lost Battles" proposes that in our attempts to manage pests we must strive to learn, to anticipate, and to adapt if we hope to develop effective, sustainable control programs. Much of the information relating to IPM is directly applicable to production systems in the Great Plains.

Several presentations focus on the structure and operations of academic units such as entomology departments allied with disciplines important to agriculture. The necessity for effective interactions among faculty with roles in teaching, research, and extension is forcefully underscored. With the rapid pace of scientific discovery and the development of new technologies, communication within

and among disciplines is absolutely essential. The book emphasizes the critical contributions of land-grant universities to production agriculture and to society in general. These contributions become increasingly important as the human population attempts to keep pace with the rapidly growing knowledge base, as described in a section entitled "Development and Delivery of Science-based Knowledge to the Public." Although means for improving information transfer have always been important in the land-grant system, new technologies ranging from cell phones to the Internet are changing the ways we communicate barely imagined twenty years ago.

While all of the presentations are stimulating, the volume might have been improved in several ways. The preface, for instance, fails to prepare the reader adequately for the breadth of topics covered or to provide a satisfactory overview. A summary by the editors for each of the seven sections also would have been helpful. And sharper editorial eyes could have reduced redundancies. There are instances where the same information is repeated in two or more presentations. For example, the federal legislation resulting in land-grant universities as they exist today (Morrill Act, Hatch Act, and Smith-Lever Act) is gone into several times, as is the story of Seaman A. Knapp, who is credited as the originator of the first extension program.

This book recounts the story of entomology in the land-grant system from the viewpoint of entomologists. As an entomologist myself, I found the presentations particularly engrossing. The book also contains information of general interest, however, about the roles of teaching, research, and extension in the land-grant system, and how faculty with assignments in these three areas must cooperate to promote effective information transfer to consumers. There are also abundant examples that stress the importance of insects in ecosystems, in production of food and fiber, and even in the movies. **Richard Berberet**, *Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Oklahoma State University*.