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# Developments in the Corn-Borer Battle

Practically every farmer in Illinois wants to know with what success the fight against the European corn borer is being waged.

During 1928 the fight was carried forward on all fronts, under a unified program worked out by the states interested and the Federal Government. The strict quarantine measures against shipping out of infested territory corn or other plant products likely to carry the borer have prevented any known long-distance jumps by the insect, but no way has been found of preventing the natural spread by flight. In 1928 the borer extended his range 10 to 30 miles westward and southward from the border of previous infestation. This is less than the spread that occurred in 1927.

In Indiana the borer has spread westward by flight to within about 30 miles of the Illinois border.

Damage last year by the corn borer in the United States was not heavy. In Indiana no commercial damage occurred. In Ohio and Michigan commercial damage was limited to relatively few fields along the shores of Lake Erie. In Canada, owing to the extensive clean-up there, conditions improved greatly in the heavily infested counties of Essex and Kent and some good corn was raised in those counties.

The work to develop better methods of control was carried out by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station and the State Natural History Survey essentially as planned. Some thirty-five varieties and strains of Illinois corn were grown in the area of heaviest infestation in Ohio. Some of these strains appeared to show more or less resistance to corn-borer attack, tho no conclusions can be drawn from one season's work. Studies are being made to develop better and less expensive methods of cleaning up crop refuse under Illinois conditions.

The production of parasites which can be used to control both the corn borer and some of our other common insect pests is being intensively pushed. This method of combatting the borer looks very promising, tho several years of work will be necessary before definite results can be obtained.

Just when the corn borer will spread into the Illinois corn belt no one can say positively—much depends upon weather conditions during the growing season—but the results of last season's campaign indicate that a successful fight *can* be waged against this insect. The clean plowing-under of cornstalks and weeds has proved to be one of the most effective ways of fighting the borer, and it is one of the principal measures on which reliance will have to be placed when the insect reaches this state.

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## The Corn-Borer Advance in 1928

The black squares indicate the spread of the European corn borer in 1928. The insect is now about 30 miles from the eastern border of Illinois

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