

Nicholas Holmes  
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SIMRU STEP Employee

## My Experience as a SIMRU STEP Employee

As a kid growing up in the Mississippi Delta, I've always been surrounded rather than a cotton field, soybean, rice, or cotton fields. While growing up around these fields have always notice these objects placed in or alone side the fields. I never knew the purpose of those objects until this summer when I started working for the USDA-ARS under Dr. Ryan Jackson the leading scientist of the insect pest management project as a SIMRU employee. While working under Dr. Jackson I learned that those objects alone side the roads near fields are traps for the tobacco budworm and the bollworm moths. I traveled around Delta once a week this summer to certain locations checking the number of moths in the traps as well as collecting the moths out of the traps to bring back to the lab. All this data collecting is necessary to see if it's a rise or decrease in the moth's populations in the counties of the Delta. Also for the ones that are taking back to the labs several test are ran on them including one that a wing is removed from the moth and put inside this machine and this machine determines whether the moths host plant was a C3 or C4 plant. Overall I have learned a lot this summer and I would like to thank Dr. Ryan Jackson and everyone else who contributed to me having this opportunity of working here and learning things that would benefit me in my future hope that I was a big help to Dr. Jackson and the rest of the crew in the Southern Insect Management Research Unit.