

USDA Unleashes Parasite To Kill Alfalfa Weevils

A new weapon in the fight against alfalfa weevil — parasitic insects that prey on and destroy weevils — has been introduced in Pennsylvania this spring, the State Agriculture Department announced recently.

The move was described by State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull as "another important step in our constant battle to prevent crop losses for our farmers." He pointed out that the increasing severity of alfalfa weevil damage in recent years has led some farmers to substi-

tute other forage crops for alfalfa.

Alfalfa hay is an important feed for livestock, particularly dairy cattle. More than half of the three million or more tons of hay produced each year in Pennsylvania is alfalfa hay. Henry F. Nixon, director of the department's Bureau of Plant Industry, said the alfalfa weevil problem exists in virtually every part of Pennsylvania, with

heavy infestations in southeastern counties.

The most commonly used spray material offers only limited control, he said, since the recommended time of application is when "50 percent of plants in a field show damage." If uncontrolled, weevils can strip a field clean in a short time leaving only brown stems and leaf ribs, Nixon said.

Two chemical pesticides that are effective in weevil control — Dieldrin and Hepta-

chlor — may no longer be used on forage crops. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned them because of the risk of residue showing up in milk.

The parasitic control program has been developed by the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Moorestown, N. J. Over a period of years, scientists studied and selected parasites that have been effective in weevil con-

trol with no after problems. Nixon said a quantity of the parasites have been obtained and are being placed in selected, unsprayed fields in the state.

CHILD'S SAFETY

If a child's clothing shows up against the background in which he is playing, he will be more easily seen, reminds Ruth Ann Nine, Penn State extension clothing specialist. Outer garments in attention getting colors can give this protection.

4-H Club News

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group on selecting and buying fabrics.

The next meeting will be held on June 21.

HILLTOP STITCHERS ORGANIZE

by Donna McCoy, reporter
The Lexington Hilltop Stitches 4-H Club met at the Brunneville Fire Hall on May 21. Nineteen girls were enrolled.

Officers were elected as follows: Margaret Keith, president; Candace Seveiling, vice president; Marta Smith, secretary; Mary Spangler, treasurer; Donna McCoy, news reporter; Mary Swarr, song leader; and Susan Keith, game leader. Her assistants are Debra Kleinfelter and Susan Sharpless.

Representatives for posture queen were also chosen. Candace Seveiling is the junior representative and Mary Swarr is the senior representative.

That evening, the Spring Jamboree was held at Leola. Thirteen girls attended. Candace Seveiling won a cash award for her high scoring in the games.

The next meeting will be held June 10 at 1 p.m. in the Brunneville Fire Hall.

DRUMORE CLUB HOLDS RED CROSS MEETING

by John Douts, reporter
The Drumore 4-H Club met at Dan Trimble's house at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18th.

President Jay Lehman called the meeting to order after which the 4-H Club pledge was repeated by the members. Secretary Ann Lefever then took roll call, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer. The date for the chicken barbecue was changed to July 31.

There were two new members admitted to the Club, they were Pam Stanley and Charles Grist. There were 23 members present and seven parents and leaders.

Mrs. Vogt, an American Volunteer Worker from Lancaster, showed a film on artificial breathing called "rescue breathing." After the film, members tried artificial respiration on a dummy.

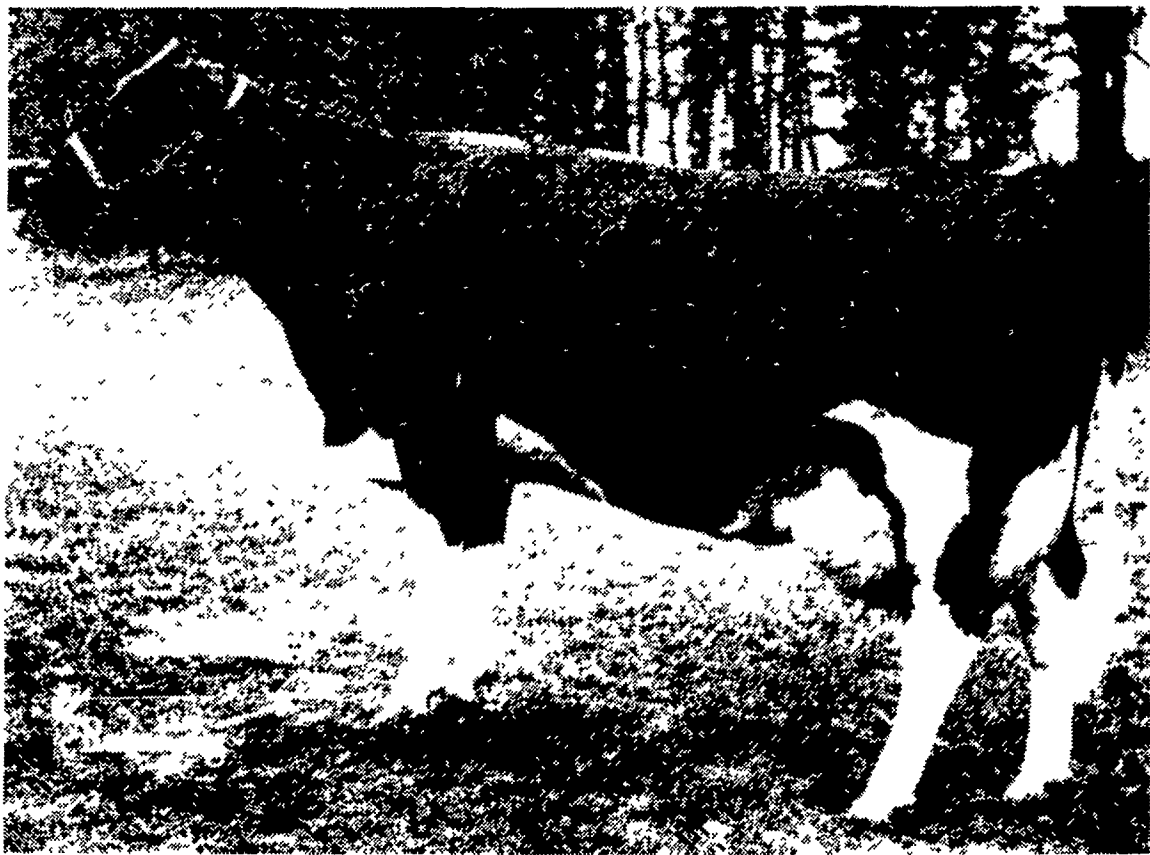
Linda Delong gave a demonstration on how to dress a chicken.

The next meeting will be held June 15 at 8 p.m. at the Chestnut Level Church House. The program will include fun night and parent's night.

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