

Cereal Leaf Beetle Eradication Seen As Almost Impossible

Pennsylvania will have to learn to live with the cereal leaf beetle until more efficient control methods are developed, a state Department of Agriculture official believes.

Henry F. Nixon, director of the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry, told the Entomological Society of America at a recent meeting in New York City that eradicating the pest with techniques now available is "practically impossible."

The New York meeting was attended by more than two thousand entomologists from every state in the nation.

He said quarantines, such as are now in effect on the shipment of untreated hay, straw, small grains and corn from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties, are presently the best method of controlling the pest which causes extensive damage to grain crops.

The beetle was discovered for the first time in Pennsylvania in the four western counties six months ago. The State Agriculture Department imposed a quarantine and set up stations to fumigate crop shipments being made from the infested areas.

"Our present aim is to prevent the long distance spread of the beetle," Nixon said.

He said Pennsylvania's mountainous terrain may slow down the spread of the beetle which was blown in from infested areas in Ohio.

Nixon cautioned that wood lots and brushy waste land areas usually found on Pennsylvania farms are ideal places for adult beetles to spend the winter.

Entomologists from the state (Continued on Page 18)

Marketing Man Fears Tax On Cigars

A tobacco marketing expert told farmers this week, "We face a serious situation."

Mark S. Hess, Manager of the Agway Tobacco Marketing Division, told 50 farmers gathered at a meeting in the cooperative's New Holland warehouse Monday afternoon, "I am alarmed at the moment that we will probably have a 35 percent tax on cigars sold in Pennsylvania."

Hess said the cooperative had done what it could last summer to have the bill put on the shelf. "Now as far as we can tell both political parties agree and if it comes out it looks like there are enough votes to pass it," he said.

The manager said he recently had a conference with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary assured him he would do everything in his power to keep it from passing.

Hess said the proposed tax would increase a ten cent cigar to 14 cents. "If this happens we will have trouble selling them," he said. "I don't think the public will accept the increase."

The cooperative representative said the political people are committed to the best hope as that the people we talked to



CHECKING THE GRADE of a lath of tobacco at the Agway information meeting held at the New Holland warehouse Monday afternoon. (left) Leonard

Ford, USDA Tobacco Grader and Mark S. Hess, Agway Tobacco Marketing Manager. L. F. Photo

last week can go direct to the governor.

"The Lancaster County tobacco industry will be adversely affected if the tax goes on, he said.

In another part of the meeting Leonard Ford, USDA To-

bacco Grader, showed the he didn't think the hail cut damage was too bad from a

grader's view-point until it was

real noticeable.

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