

Chemical Sterilants Studied To Control Alfalfa Weevils

Agricultural Experiment Station scientists at The Pennsylvania State University believe they can use chemicals to sterilize male alfalfa weevils. If successful, their plan will control the alfalfa weevil, a pest causing nine million dollars damage to Pennsylvania crops each year.

Preliminary laboratory tests have found that a chemosterilant called apholate can produce moderately high sterility without killing the males. When the process is fully developed, sterilized male alfalfa weevils will be released into infested fields

to seek out female alfalfa weevils and make their eggs infertile. Experiments to date have found no significant adverse effects upon the mating behavior of the weevils, according to Dr. W. G. Yendol and R. K. Sprenkel, entomologists writing in a recent issue of "Science in Agriculture," the research quarterly of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

These entomologists believe a high degree of sterility can be produced when apholate is used at concentrations of 10 to 25 mi-

crograms per acre. Weevil concentrations of apholate over 25 micrograms have caused considerable deaths among male weevils.

In the experiments the eggs from normal females were examined after the females had mated with males treated with apholate. Sterility ranged from 27 to 100 percent.

In an overall control program, sterile male weevils might be used in conjunction with selective, conventional insecticides sprayed at proper times. However, such chemosterilants must be tested further for possible poisonous effects and for safe and effective methods to apply them under field conditions.

Form Calendar

(Continued from Page 1)

7:30 p.m.—Garden Spot Young Farmer meet, (Dairy Nutrition Class) School Ag Room
7:30 p.m.—Ephrata Young Farmer meet, School Ag Room

Wednesday, January 8

9:30 a.m.—Farm Income Tax meeting, Plymouth Meeting Mall, 1/2 mi North of Norristown
7:30 p.m.—Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program, (Handling and Marketing Quality Tobacco) Lincoln Independent School Bldg

Thursday, January 9

1:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Tobacco Show, Farm and Home Center.
2:00 p.m.—Tobacco Growers Assn meet, Farm and Home Center
4:30 p.m.—Lancaster County Voc Ag Teachers meet, Manheim Central High School

Friday, January 10

10 & 14 Public Hearing for preservation of Ag Land Harrisburg

Island's Fame

Cocos Island off the coast of Costa Rica, is famous as the repository of pirate treasure said to be buried near its shores. None of this buried gold has ever been found.

1:30 p.m.—Public Growing meet, Intercourse FHS Bldg



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