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Dutch Elm Disease Control Breakthrough Seen by USDA

The Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture has made a discovery that may lead to control of the Dutch elm disease, which is killing some 400,000 American elms each year.

Chief Edward P. Cliff of the Forest Service said the possible control factor is a sex lure that might be turned against the beetles which carry the disease.

He reports that a team of scientists from the Forest Service's Shade Tree Research Unit at Delaware, Ohio, and the State University College of Forestry at Syracuse University has just made the discovery. It reveals that virgin female beetles produce a chemical scent which is highly attractive to flying male and female elm bark beetles.

Chief Cliff says the scientists are now working to isolate, identify, and artificially produce this chemical attractant. They think identification of the natural lure can lead to a man-made substitute which can be used to regulate populations of the destructive beetles.

Discovered in this country in the early 1930's, Dutch elm disease has already killed more than 12 million American elms, which rank among the most favored of shade trees.

The disease, in the form of a fungus, is carried from tree to tree by the beetles. The fungus attacks the circulatory system of

the elm, literally strangling it to death.

In field tests at Syracuse, N.Y., in August and September of last year and in June of this year, Drs. John Peacock and Charles Lincoln Forest Service entomologists, and Drs. John B. Simeone and Robert M. Silverstein, an entomologist and chemist, respectively, at State University, confirmed the virgin beetle's attractive scent.

They say it apparently works in combination with an elm wood attractant previously reported by a team of scientists at the University of Wisconsin. The aim is to adapt that scent so large numbers of the destructive beetles can be lured into small areas and eliminated. Chief Cliff says

He reports that the sex attractant study is one of several projects

currently underway by the Delaware, Ohio, research laboratory to develop an integrated program for elm bark beetle control. Recently, Forest Service entomologists there working cooperatively with university and other government scientists, came up with significant findings on elm bark beetle parasites, feeding stimulants and safer insecticides to be used against the beetles.

Earlier this year also the Forest Service awarded a \$51,000 research grant to Ohio State University for follow-up on the feeding stimulation studies the university has been conducting.

These research projects are part of the Department of Agriculture's continuing program to develop additional safe and effective insect control methods.

Corn Belt Hog Supply Is Up 13%, USDA Says

USDA's Crop Reporting Board estimates hogs and pigs on Corn Belt Farms (as of September 1) at 506 million. That's up 13 per cent from a year earlier.

Breeding hogs at 72 million

are up 11 per cent market hogs, at 434 million, up 13 per cent.

The states included in the report are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Sharpest increase from a year ago totals was in Kansas (21 million), up 25 per cent. Iowa, the Nation's leading hog producing State (with 15.5 million) showed a 10 per cent increase, while Illinois' total (at 7.7 million) was up 14 per cent.

Meanwhile, the June-August pig crop in those States was estimated at 18.1 million head, up 14 per cent from a year earlier.

But, hog producers in the 10 States reported they intend to farrow 2.4 million sows during September-November, 13 per cent more than last year, and 2.0 million during December 1970 — February 1971, 6 per cent more than a year earlier.

● **Farm Calendar**

- (Continued from Page 1)
- Feature white elephant sale
- Sue Power and NEBA Open House Tunkhannock, October 8-11
- Friday, October 9
- 7 p.m. — Pa. Egg Marketing Association, Schufft's Restaurant, New Cumberland RD.
- Saturday, October 10
- 1-5 p.m. — Milton S. Heishey Medical Center open to public October 10-11
- 7:30 p.m. — Fiftieth Anniversary of Lancaster County Pomona Grange, Fulton Grange Hall, Oakton

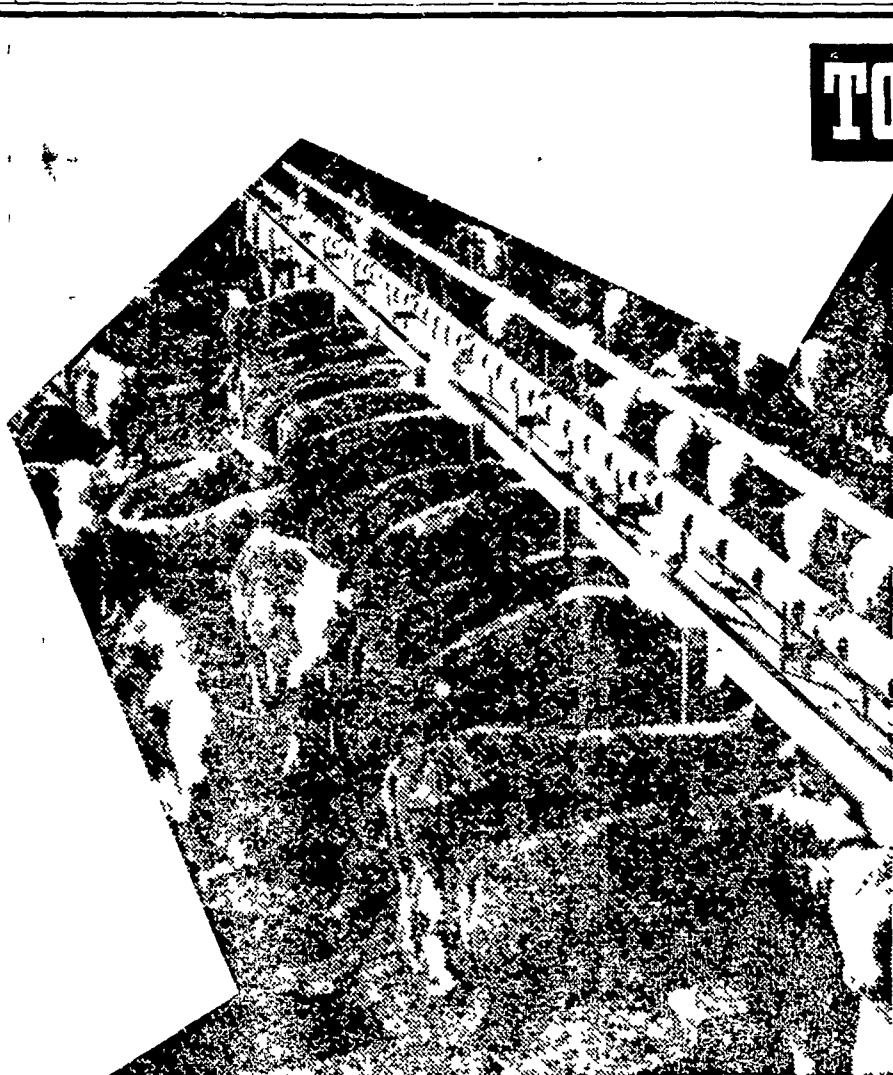
Grange Photo Winners

The Fulton Grange has announced winners of the recent color photo contest.

The winning photos will be entered in the state Grange contest October 26-29.

Mrs. Stanley (Dottie) Stauffer Jr. won both first and second place in three categories — animals, people and close ups.

Mrs. Richard (Harriett) Holloway was first in scenes and Norman Wood was second.



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