

Forest Service Reports Insect Conditions in U. S.

Heavy gypsy moth defoliation was reported on about one million acres in New England and adjoining States during 1970. The forest tent caterpillar defoliated almost two million acres in Minnesota, 250,000 acres along the Ohio-West Virginia border, and 110,000 acres along the Maryland-Pennsylvania border.

These and other facts are described in the 21st annual report on the scope, severity, and trends of the more important forest insect infestations in the United States. The report, entitled "Forest Insect Conditions in the United States, 1970," is issued annually by the Division of Forest Pest Control, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The gypsy moths and tent caterpillars were the major threats to trees in the Central States and the Northeast, but they were only two of 25 species of active defoliators which caused more than seven million acres of defoliation during the year. In the West and South, bark beetles were the dominant marauders, killing several billion board feet of softwood timber. As a result, the Forest

Service is stepping up research in both defoliation and bark beetles.

During the past year, 714 million acres of the Nation's forested lands were examined, both from the air and on the ground, by Federal Pest Control personnel to detect and appraise forest pest infestations. Twenty-seven states participated in the program, sharing in the cost of surveys and evaluation on non-Federal lands.

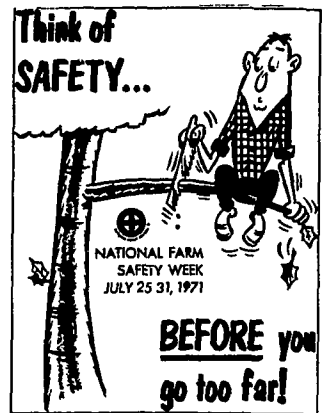
Commenting on the value of the report, Chief of the Forest Service Edward P. Cliff said: "Although compiled primarily for public and private land managers to keep them abreast of insect conditions on their own and neighboring lands, the report is also useful to students and others interested in forest insects and their effect on the environment. Volumes kept over the years will serve as useful historical records of forest insect trends and occurrences of outbreaks."

Chief Cliff said that Forest Pest Control personnel in the South are utilizing a time-sharing computer system to assist them in analyzing data collect-

ed during surveys and pilot control studies. He pointed out that this system helps reduce the time lapse between surveys and reports to the land manager, and, more importantly, it frees scientists for other pest control jobs.

During the past year the Forest Service and cooperating States continued to emphasize application of integrated con-

trol measures to reduce forest insect populations to manageable levels. More attention was given to determining the economics of control, and cost-benefit evaluations were made for the spruce budworm and the mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine. It is planned that other major forest insects will undergo similar economic analysis.



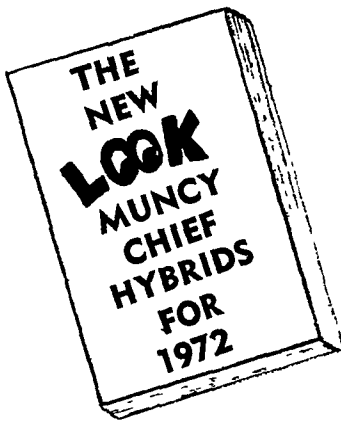
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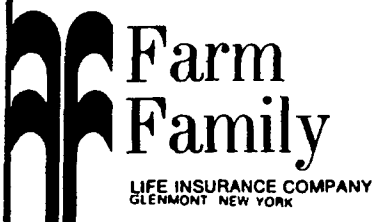
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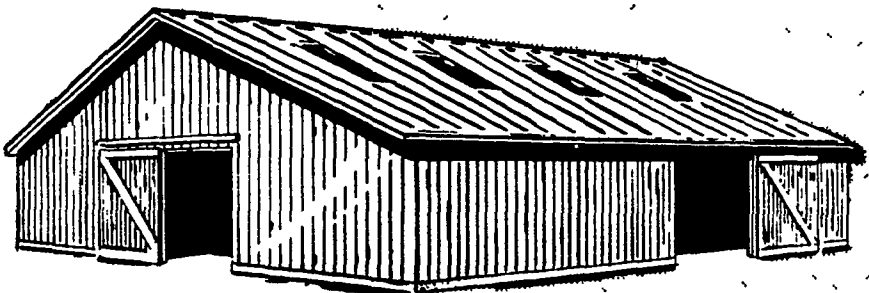
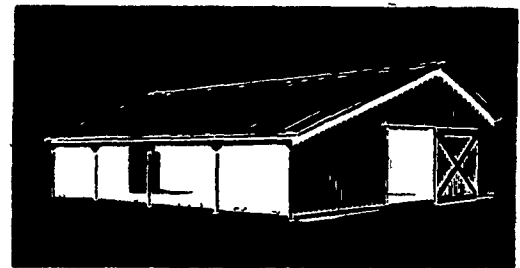
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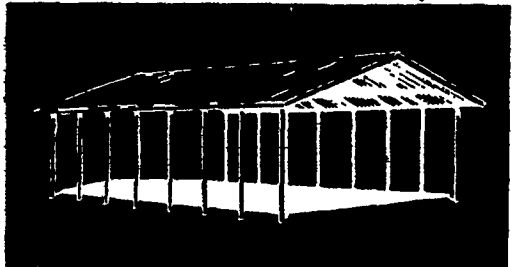
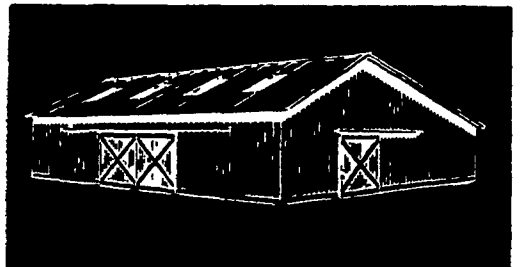
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