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Federal agricultural quarantine and plant pest control activities were consolidated Sept. 3, into a single, cohesive unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The merger joins together the former Plant Protection Division

and the Agricultural Quarantine Division and the Agricultural Quarantine Division of APHIS into a single Plant Protection and Quarantine Program under Deputy Administrator Leo G.K. Iverson.

The change, which has been in the planning stage for some months according to APHIS Administrator Dr. Francis J. Mulhern, "will greatly improve our ability to marshal manpower and resources when and where they are needed to combat the introduction and spread of agricultural pests and diseases. As a result, we will be able to make more effective use of our total staff of quarantine inspectors at ports-of-entry and plant protection specialists located throughout the U.S."

Functions of the newly consolidated unit include:

- Cooperative programs with the 50 States, Mexico, and Canada for the control and eradication of such plant pests as: gypsy moths, fire ants, pink bollworms, grasshoppers, etc.;
- Monitoring the impact of such pest control programs on the environment;
- Promoting safe and effective use of pesticides;
- Preventing the importation and exportation of pests and diseases that are injurious to plants and animals;
- Preventing the transportation and spread of "hitchhiking" pests in interstate commerce; and,
- Certifying plants and plant products for export when they meet the requirements of importing countries.

Deputy Administrator Iverson said that the newly consolidated headquarters staff located at Hyattsville, Md., has been converted into a program Development and Planning Staff headed by Donald R. Shepherd.

Field operation of the two former divisions have also been consolidated, with new regional headquarters located at Moorestown, N.J. (Northeastern Region); Gulfport, Miss. (Southeastern Region); Brownsville, Tex. (Southwestern Region), and Oakland, Calif. (Western Region).

The new alignment will not affect the current location and staffing of agricultural quarantine inspection at ports-of-entry, or the plant protection State offices. Likewise, no change is being made in the Mexico Region of the plant protection activities, Iverson explained.

Greenhouse Training Program Scheduled

The Penn State Cooperative Extension Service has announced that it will conduct a training program for greenhouse employees and foremen. The program will be conducted one day each week for five weeks at the Penn State Graduate Center, Gulph and Henderson Roads, King of Prussia. The course will cost \$20.

Classes will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Subjects to be covered and the dates are: Sept. 27, plants and their growth; Oct. 4, principles of fertilization; Oct. 11, fertilizer practices; Oct. 18, plant propagation; Oct. 25, greenhouse structures.

Closing date for registration is September 22. Any greenhouse employee who wants to register can do so by sending a check for \$20 (payable to Bucks County Cooperative Extension Service) to James K. Rathmell, Jr., Floriculture & Nursery Agent, 400 Markely St., Norristown, Pa 19401.

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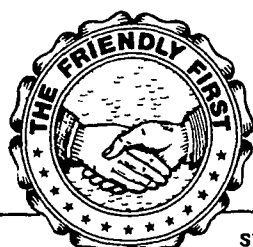
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