

# Gypsy Moths Defoliate Over 400,000 Acres in Pa.

Washington—Gypsy moth caterpillars defoliated an estimated 404,000 acres of woodland in Pennsylvania this summer, the USDA reports. This represents a drop of 194,200 acres from the 1971 defoliation figure. Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

(APHIS) state that the gypsy moth is as much of a problem as ever—even though acres defoliated decreased this year. The pest is continuing to spread, they explain, and is now invading states with high percentages of esthetically and commercially valuable susceptible trees.

In the infested Northeast, Connecticut was the hardest hit with 513,900 acres defoliated (although part of this figure is attributed to the elm spanworm). Leaf-eating caterpillars also did heavy damage to foliage covers on an estimated 226,100 in New Jersey; 170,000 acres in New York; 22,500 acres in Rhode Island; 20,500 in Massachusetts; 4,200 in Vermont; 200 in New Hampshire; and 40 in Maine.

APHIS scientists attribute this season's decrease in defoliation to a combination of natural factors and to cooperative Federal-State and private control treatments in areas where gypsy moth outbreaks posed a serious threat to trees. Persistent wet weather during June, for example, aided in development of wilt disease—a

deadly virus that can occur naturally when caterpillar populations remain at high levels for successive years. In some areas—particularly Connecticut and New Jersey—many of the pests starved because there were more caterpillars than leaves. Hurricane Agnes was a factor, hitting the infested Northeast before caterpillar feeding reached its heights. And, cooperative USDA-State parasite rearing and release programs contributed to the decline in insect populations in some areas.

APHIS scientists state that gypsy moth research and control is a high priority program because of the large number of trees killed or damaged by the pest annually. In 1971, for instance, State foresters reported more than 1,000,000 oaks, 9,000 eastern hemlock and 8,000 white pine killed as the direct result of a three-year gypsy moth infestation in the Newark, N.J., watershed.

In recent years, gypsy moths have begun to spread beyond the infested Northeast. APHIS

scientists are especially concerned about the damage gypsy moth feeding might do to the extensive oak forests of the Appalachian and Ozark Mountain ranges and Southern oak-pine forests. Dead trees are often replaced by species that are nonsusceptible to gypsy moth damage—but are also less

desirable esthetically and commercially.

This year, gypsy moths were trapped in Iowa, Tennessee and West Virginia for the first time ever. Moths were also discovered for the second successive year at new sites in Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

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## Farm Calendar

(Continued From Page 1)

Columbus, Ohio, October 11-22.

Thursday, October 12

10 a.m. — Semi-annual open class Fat Steer Show and Sale, New Holland Sales Stables.

7 p.m. — Homebuilders Fall Ladies Meeting, Mellingers Mennonite Church.

Friday, October 13

7 p.m. — Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meeting, Holiday Inn, Ephrata.

## Dairymen Elect Officers

District Six of the Interstate Milk Producers Cooperative held its annual meeting on Tuesday night at the Ronks Fire Hall. Officers elected during the meetings were:

Christiana Local - president, Charles L. Groff; vice-president, Raymond M. Hoover; secretary-treasurer, Marvin E. Hershey; delegates, J. Kenneth Hershey, Melvin L. Hershey and Norman L. Hershey; alternate delegates, L. Delmar Neff, Kenneth A. Skiles, Menno L. Eby, Jr.; Lancaster Market Committee, Jacob L. Kreider.

New Holland - Leola Local - president, Melvin S. Groff, vice-president, Monroee W. Good; secretary-treasurer, Walter C. Martin; delegates, John R. Groff, Walter C. Martin; alternate delegates, Elias S. Beiler, Clarence M. Hoover.

Paradise Local - president, J. Ray Ranck; vice-president, Ivan Bowman; secretary-treasurer, C. Nevin Hershey; delegates, Joseph L. Fisher, Roy C. Neff, Melvin R. Stoltzfus; alternate delegates, Elvin W. Groff, John L. Hershey, C. Melvin Neff.

Witmer Local - president, Robert T. Bowman; vice-president, Mark P. Stoltzfus; secretary-treasurer, J. Donald

Myer; delegate, Harvey E. Heller; alternate delegate, Dale R. Clymer; Lancaster Market Committee, Frank L. Hershey.

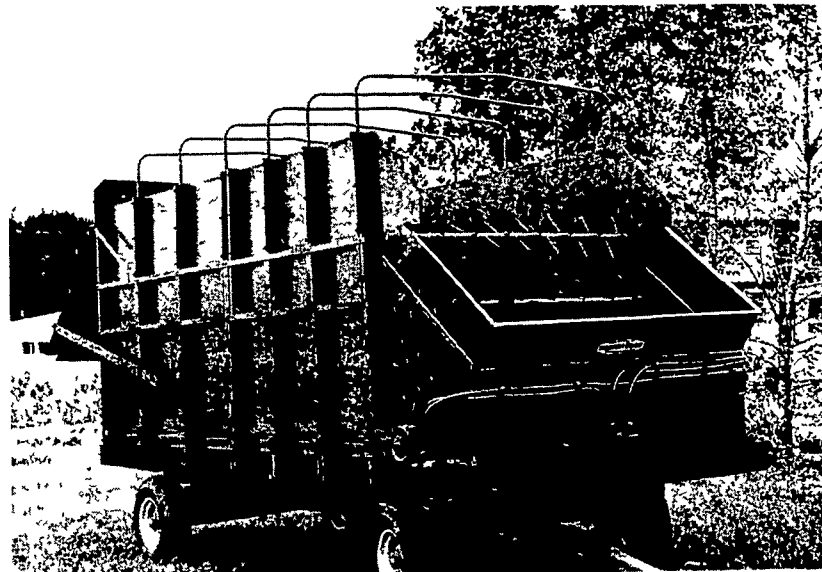
### To Evaluate Livestock Waste Disposal System

Additional regulations concerning livestock wastes may make it necessary for many producers to change their manure storage or disposal system. The possible pollution of water supplies is much more severe than the danger of air pollution in this respect. Producers who are remodeling their barns, or changing their manure handling practices, are urged to give some thought to an approved waste disposal system. In fact, some areas may include definite plans for this system before a building permit is issued. Run-off water from barnyards and manure storage areas will have to be kept out of nearby streams or water supplies. A Water Quality meeting scheduled for October 19 in the Farm and Home Center will cover many of these important regulations.

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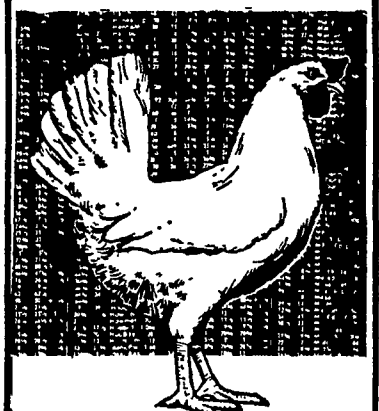
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