Weed-Eating Insects Can Be Beneficial

Weed-eating insects can have an important role in the nonchemical suppression of weeds and about 70 weed species are under study throughout the world for such biological control, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist said at the recent Weed Science Society of America annual meeting in

Dr Lloyd A Andres of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Albany, Calif., said that the weed-eaters are well adapted for the role because they multiply so fast and because they pick out only certain specific weeds to teed on.

"When a specific weed is suppressed, the particular insect leeding on it decreases in numbers, and if the weed "takes hold" again, the insects increase in numbers" the ARS Scientist

"The successful control of Klamath weed on Northwestern

ranges in the 1950's, the control of pricklypear cactus on Santa Cruz island off the coast of California, and the partial suppression of alligatorweed in the Southeastern United States, are but three examples of the use of insects for weed control," Dr. Andres said.

Dr Andres said that while insects do not completely eliminate weeds they keep them within manageable limits with minimal environmental distrubance and at comparatively little cost

There are some disadvantages to this type of control, he said, including the slow rate of control-it may take from 3 to 10 years for suppression to be noticeable; and conflicting interests As an example, conflicts may come when a plant is considered a weed by farmers in one part of the country and of value by wildlife enthusiasts in another

Farm Loans Increase in '72

Farm loans through Commonwealth National Bank's Agricultural Department and the Bank's wholly owned subsidiary, The Commonwealth National Agri-Loan Corp, were up significantly during 1972.

At year end total agricultural loans exceeded \$17,690,000 which was an increase of 167 percent over the previous year's total Of this \$17,690 000 the Agri-Loan Corp had a 99 8 percent increase over its portion of last year's

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source of funds for agriculture. With the combined resources of the Bank's funds reinforced by the corporation, the Bank can fully meet the loan requirements

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Joanne Sweigart

Pennfield Names Quality Supervisor

Joanne Sweigart, Stevens R1, has been named quality assurance supervisor for L. M. Sheaffer Co., the egg division of Pennfield Corp.

Mrs. Sweigart, a native of Lancaster County and graduate of Warwick High School, has been with the L. M. Sheaffer Company for six years and has held a variety of positions within the firm She is a licensed Penn-sylvania Certified State Inspector and has machine and hand candling experience.

She is married to S. Harry Sweigart. They reside in Stevens, R D. 1, and have four children, two daughters at home and a married son and daughter.

Guernsey Breeders Tour March 19

Monday, March 19, has been selected as the date for the annual Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders tour. Chester County Breeders and Guernsey 4-H Club members have been invited to join with the Lancaster County Breeders on this tour.

The tour group is scheduled to leave by bus from Raymond and Louise Witmer's Penn-Del Farm, Rt. 222 at Refton, at 8 a.m. Other pick-up points are at the Spanish Tavern, Quarryville, at 8:15 a.m. and Dick Linde's Lindenhof Farm at 8:30.

Stops included on the tour include Green Valley Farm at Avondale, Liseter Farm, A&P Milk Center at Fort Washington, the Quality Control Laboratory at Southampton, and Walleby Farm at Collegeville.

Reservations are due through members of the tour committee by March 15. Tour committee members are: K.D. Linde, chairman, 529-2513; Fred Crider, 529-2862: Neal Johnson, 548-2430; Kenneth Garber, 464-2894. Cost of the bus tour will be \$3.50 per person. The committee reminds everyone to bring a box lunch. Milk and coffee will be provided by Mrs. DuPont, owner of Liseter

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