

## Campers Urged to Have Vehicles Inspected For Gypsy Moth

Residents of New England, New York, eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey who own camping vehicles are being urged by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to have their camping rigs inspected for gypsy moths by the North American Family Campers Association (NAFCA).

Now through August is the height of the camping vacation season. It is also the time when gypsy moths lay eggs—often on camping vehicles and equipment, USDA officials explained. Campers can avoid taking this

tree-defoliating pest to their favorite campgrounds and parks by having NAFCA members thoroughly inspect their camping rigs before leaving on out-of-state trips.

All inspections by the specially trained NAFCA inspectors are free. Camper owners should call locally publicized telephone numbers to arrange an appointment for the gypsy moth inspection. Inspections will be available from now through Labor Day.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

(APHIS) have been training groups of NAFCA inspectors since March. These NAFCA inspectors know how to find all stages of the gypsy moth on all types of camping rigs and equipment. When insects are found, they are properly removed and destroyed.

The cooperative inspection program is based on a USDA survey conducted during the summer of 1972. It showed that camping vehicles parked in the infested Northeast often become as infested as the trees surrounding the parking site. Since most campers are unaware that they are carrying gypsy moths, they can easily start a new gypsy moth infestation as they camp in uninfested areas throughout the country.

Although NAFCA is inspecting camping vehicles for residents of the Northeast U.S., all other campers who travel and camp in New England, New York, eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey are urged to give their own camping vehicles a thorough check for gypsy moths before leaving these infested areas.

Camper undercarriages, wheel wells and the depressions of cracks and crevices may contain gypsy moth pupae (cocoons) or buff-colored egg masses. All forms of the insect should be

scraped off and crushed, APHIS officials urged.

The gypsy moth was brought into this country in 1869 for scientific experiments, but accidentally escaped. The pests annually strip thousands of acres of trees in forests, homes, parks and recreational areas. During the summer of 1972, about 1.3 million acres were denuded. Successive severe strippings may eventually kill most trees although evergreens may die after one complete defoliation.

Eleven northeastern states are affected by gypsy moth—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

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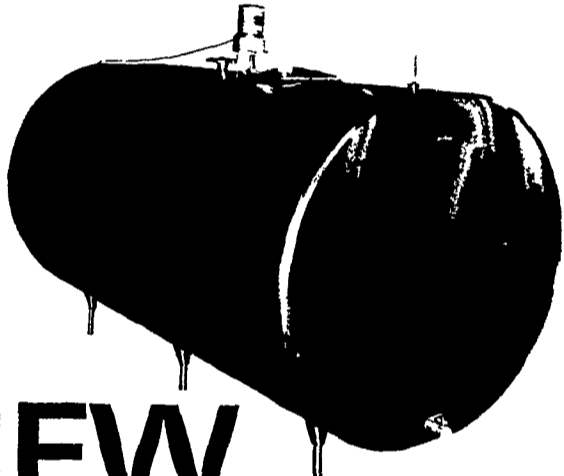
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