

Wasps Released to Combat Cereal Leaf Beetles

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently completed the release of 850,000 tiny wasps, as part of an eight state biological program to control cereal leaf beetles—a pest

of small grain crops. States covered in the program are Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Leo G. K. Iverson, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), explained that the wasps, about the size of a pinhead, are natural enemies of the cereal leaf beetle, but are harmless to man, animals, and other insects found in the United States.

The cereal leaf beetle is a foreign pest that invaded this country in the early 1960's. Iverson said that APHIS, cooperating with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), went to the beetle's European homelands in search of its natural enemies, and found the wasps.

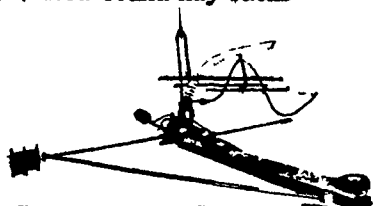
Under a cooperative state-federal agreement, wasps are being reared in laboratories and field insectaries for release each summer throughout infested states. The wasps seek out cereal leaf beetles. One wasp species parasitizes and destroys the beetle's eggs, and three other species kill beetle larvae.

"We are still evaluating the effectiveness of this wasp rearing and release program, which was initiated in 1967," according to Iverson. So far, the wasps have been forming colonies successfully, and appear to be spreading naturally.

"Surveys have revealed wasps as far as 100 miles from their nearest release point within the United States. And, although none of the beneficial insects has been released in Canada, they have been recovered 300 miles north of the U.S.-Canadian border. These results are very encouraging," Iverson concluded.

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Sewage Facilities Said Here to Stay

Regional operation of sewage facilities "is here to stay", according to Donald Berman, director of the Department of Wastes Systems Management of Allegheny County.

In a speech before members of the Water Pollution Control Association of Pennsylvania, meeting in annual conference at Penn State University, Berman said that regional operation of sewer systems and sewage treatment plants is based on the needs of modern society.

These needs include (1) The use and reuse of common water supplies by many communities in a given area, (2) the expansion of population into suburban areas, (3) physical laws that set up natural watersheds, governing the flow of water and wastewater, (4) the huge cost of sewerage systems, requiring the economies of scale provided by regional systems.

Berman said that Allegheny County is already embarked on a program to expand its regional sewer collection and treatment system. The county is now providing treatment for all or part of the wastes from 77 municipalities. This service will be further extended in the future, to include other communities.

Berman is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University with B.S. and M.S. degrees. He served for 20 years as a consulting engineer for Green Engineering Co. of Sewickley, and was vice president of Green's environmental engineering division. He is the first director of Allegheny County's new Department of Waste Systems Management.

Farm Women Calendar

Saturday, August 18

12 Noon - Farm Women Society 3 entertain local 4-H Clubs, Covered Dish Luncheon, Shady Grove.

Sunday, August 19

Farm Women Society 31 Family Picnic, Mrs. Eleanor Kreider's.

Monday, August 20

6:30 p.m. - Farm Women Society 30 Family Picnic, home of Mrs. Dwane Hostetter.

Thursday, August 23

7:30 p.m. - Farm Women Society 26 Fun Night, Sharon Brubaker, hostess.

Saturday, August 25

1:30 p.m. - Farm Women Society 26 Fun Night, Sharon Brubaker, hostess.

Saturday, August 25

1:30 p.m. - Farm Women Society 5 meeting, Amanda Holbein, hostess.

7:30 p.m. - Farm Women Society 27 meeting, home of Mrs. Arthur Wenger

Homemakers Camp, Camp Swatara, August 26 - 28.

The Old Timer



"Punctuality is a device for getting some time to yourself."