

Gypsy Moth Doubled Last Year in State

Leaf-eating gypsy moths defoliated twice as many acres of Pennsylvania woodland in 1973 than the previous year, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) official. William Keim, Assistant State Plant Protection and Quarantine Supervisor for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in University Park, said that 856,710 acres were defoliated last year compared to 404,060 acres in 1972.

"The heavy rains produced by Tropical Storm Agnes in June 1972 undoubtedly held defoliation down in the northeastern and central parts of the state that year," Keim observed. "However, these very same areas showed dramatic increases in 1973 as the moth regained its foothold." The pest, which was brought into this country in 1869 for scientific purposes, but accidentally escaped, has generally been

spreading its destruction toward the western part of the state. Although defoliation was reported in only 18 of the state's 67 counties last year, 51 eastern and central counties, including Lancaster, are considered "generally infested" and therefore "regulated" by USDA.

Trapping surveys, coordinated by USDA, have indicated the presence of gypsy moths in all 51 counties, even though a majority of them had no significant defoliation. Moreover, these surveys have also detected the insect in ten non-regulated counties. Venango was added to the list for the first time last year.

In a "regulated" area, most trees, shrubs, timber and timber products, stone and quarry products cannot be transported out unless they are accompanied by a certificate or permit indicating that they are gypsy

moth free. Keim pointed out that in Pennsylvania the gypsy moth's proliferation was primarily due to the insect's natural spread from known infested areas. However, he cautioned owners of campers and trailers to be on the lookout for egg masses that may form on these vehicles.

"The majority of new moth finds in 1973 nationally resulted from the movement of recreational vehicles or infested objects from the Northeast," Keim remarked. "Fortunately, the establishment of a true infestation is unlikely when the moth catches are far from generally infested areas."

In an attempt to reduce this threat USDA will treat potentially hazardous campsites this spring and also provide free vehicle inspections upon request. Campers and trailers parked in areas designated as hazardous will have to be checked before they can be moved out of such an area.

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First prize in the Manheim Central FFA safety poster contest went to Craig Shreiner, center. Jay Young, left, and Dee Enck also were prize-winners.

Manheim FFA Poster Contest Winners Named

The first annual Safety Poster Contest conducted by the Manheim Central

FFA Chapter was won by Craig Shreiner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd M. Shreiner, 141 North Charlotte St., Manheim.

Over 100 junior agriculture students from seventh and eighth grades participated in the contest, which was designed to encourage farm and home safety consciousness among the students. According to Glenn Weber, teacher of agriculture, the students designed safety posters on a variety of subjects, ranging from home and farm safety to environmental safety subjects.

Second place was won by Curvin Rutt, son of Mrs. Lizzie Rutt; third place Dee Enck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Enck; fourth by Ron Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Smith; fifth by Jim Rhoads, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rhoads; sixth by Lori Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Miller; seventh by Jay Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Young; eighth by Jon Shank, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Shank; ninth, Dale Ober, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ober, and tenth, Joyce Forsha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Forsha.



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