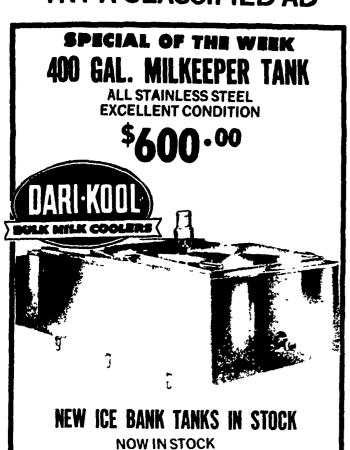
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Oat Cyst Nematode Infestation

recently alerted small grain farmers in the Northwest to be on the lookout for symptoms of oat cyst nematode infestation in their fields.

The warning follows discovery and identification of the pest on a farm in Washington County, Oregon, Sept. 3. Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) explained that destructive pest attacks oats, wheat, barley, rye and about 20 varieties of grasses. Primarily a European-Australian pest, this is the first time it has been found in the United States.

Leo G. K. Iverson, APHIS deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine programs, advised farmers who have received a diagnosis of magnesium or calcium deficiency or aluminum toxicity or oat yellows in their fields in the past three years to have a qualified nematologist recheck the site. "Oat cyst nematode can masquerade as any one of a number of other problems," Mr. Iverson said.

"Even though the pest may be present in the soil, aboveground symptoms may not show up until a host crop has been planted in the same soil for several years," he explained.

Poor growth in one or more spots in a field is the usually first aboveground sign of an infestation. The leaf tips of heavily attacked young oat plants may turn red or purple. Discolored leaves die off and the plant takes on a yellow appearance. Below ground, roots are thickened and much branched. As the infestation advances, it

The U. S. Department of causes stunted growth, Agriculture (USDA) wilting (especially at midday), poor root development, and early plant death.

Also referred to as the cereal cyst nematode, the destructive pest is known by the Latin name Heterodera avenae. It was found in a 25acre field on a 400-acre farm.

While no figures are available in the United States as to the pest's potential for destruction, Australia reports crop losses of up to 56 percent on oats and 35 percent for wheat.

APHIS--in cooperation with the state of Oregon-is currently conducting a delimiting survey to determine how far the pest may have spread. Oat cyst nematode is a soil-borne pest easily spread by the movement of infested soil. This can occur on tractors and other farm machinery, on a harvested crop, even on the soles of shoes and in trouser cuffs.

APHIS is planning symptom and biometrical surveys for 1975. The symptom survey will consist of tracking down leads from county agents and other extension personnel based on requests over the past three years to inspect damaged fields. These fields will be revisited and checked by a nematologist. The biometric survey-a scientifically designed statistical surveywill be carried out next summer.

APHIS is also sending a nematologist to Oregon to assist in the identification of the pest, Mr. Iverson said.

A fact sheet on oat cyst nematode is available and may be obtained from Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs, APHIS, USDA, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Foods Tailored For Elderly **Under Research**

Foods tailored to meet the special nutritional needs of the elderly may be available in the future if an Oklahoma agricultural research scientist has his way.

Dr. James Mickle of Oklahoma State University's Agricultural Experiment Station has already developed one su ch product and is working on others.

In a preliminary study of typical supermarket foods, he found that most of them are too high in carbohydrates and too low in protein to fill the nutritional needs of the elderly. Many of the readily available foods contain up to 15 percent sugar and less than 21/2 percent protein.

The Oklahoma scientist has come up with a baked custard designed to be sold as a dry mix to which water can be added before cooking. Such a mix is not commerically available now, so tasty recipes that were popular 40 to 80 years ago were collected and used in

formulating test foods. Since older persons' taste sensitivity is reduced, the recipes needed more sweetness. Fructose - a sugar made from honey was used. It provided the same number of calories as cane sugar but twice the sweetness.

Migrant Workers Are Few Growers make up 75 percent of today's farm

Gypsy Moth **Program Needs** Citizen's Help

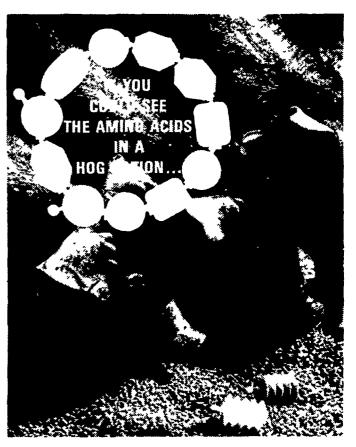
The Lancaster County Commissioners have asked the Department of Environmental Resources to spray areas of high gypsy moth concentrations in the County. Areas to be sprayed must be located and mapped by November 1st. The County Commissioners are asking for the public's help in locating these areas. The County does not have the manpower to check the over 28,000 acres of known gypsy moth concentrations and therefore, must rely on citizen help.

Anyone knowing of areas of at least 50 acres of woods with at least 2 (two) homes

per 50 acres which are infested with gypsy moths are asked to report these areas to the County Com-missioners Office at the Court House either by mail or phone (397-8201). The shortage of time and manpower will necessitate the county to check only those areas reported to the County Commissioners Office.

XXX

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