

Life Cycle Determined For Oak Insect

Entomologist at The Pennsylvania State University have determined the life cycle of the oak leaf roller, an insect killing 43 per cent of the oaks in nearly 900,000 acres surveyed in Pennsylvania. The biology of the oak leaf roller was described September 27 by Dr. Ralph O. Mumma of Penn State at an eastern branch meeting of the Entomological Society of America held in Hershey. Dr. Mumma indicated that biological information must be available before effective programs to control the oak leaf roller can begin. He said

the eggs start hatching in late April and have completed hatching by May 10. The larvae then go through five stages, reaching the final larval stage by about June 15. Then they pass through the pupal stage with adults emerging around July 3.

If spraying with pesticides is to be done to control the oak leaf roller, then the middle of May is the best time to do it, Dr. Mumma pointed out. On the other hand, natural parasites such as flies take a heavy toll of larvae, especially in the latter larval stages during early June.

In the pupal stage, a certain parasitic wasp emerged from 32 per cent of the pupae examined in 1974 field studies. However, the number of parasites can vary year by year. In 1973, the wasps emerged from only 3.4 per cent of the pupae studied.

Dr. Mumma quoted Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources information describing the oak leaf roller as "the worst

forest insect disaster in Pennsylvania during this century." From 1970 to 1972, of nearly 900,000 acres sampled, 43 per cent of the oaks were killed with a lumber stumpage value of 57 million dollars.

Working with Dr. Mumma and associates on Penn

State's oak leaf roller project is Dr. Lawrence E. Hendry in chemistry. The two scientists are investigating the use of the female, sex attractant pheromone. With this product they hope to confuse the males so they can not find the females and thus will not mate.

Horse Disease Meeting Scheduled

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) the incurable horse disease that is being found in 1-2 percent of the horses in Pa. will be discussed on Thursday, October 31, 1974, 7:30 p.m. at the Hummelstown High School Auditorium according to John P. Harris, Associate County Agent, Dauphin County.

Dr. H. S. Forney, VMD, chief of Miscellaneous Diseases, Bureau of Animal Industry, Pa. Dept. of Agriculture will discuss the History and Present Status of EIA in Pa. The rules and regulations concerning this disease will be discussed in detail.

Dr. John Ersoz, VMD, Chief Pathologist in charge of Equine Diseases, Summerdale Laboratories, BAI, Pa. Dept. of Agriculture, will discuss how the disease affects the horse, the pathology & diagnostic methods to determine whether a horse is positive or negative.

The test is known as the Coggins Test. This method is approved by the USDA and has enabled New York State to nearly eradicate the EIA disease. The disease causes anemia, weakness and debility in horses rendering some of them virtually useless and even killing a small number each year. The disease is spread principally in the pasture months by blood sucking insects which transfer the virus from carrier horses to

susceptible horses. Every horse owner should understand the disease and have knowledge of the rules and regulations. Anyone planning to purchase a horse should insist that a negative Coggins Test report be provided prior to purchase. This disease is being found throughout Central Pennsylvania.

This Educational-Informative Meeting is open to the public - free of charge.

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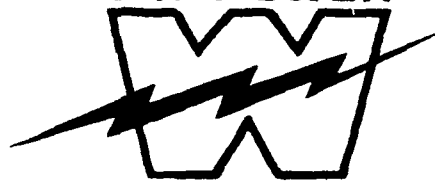
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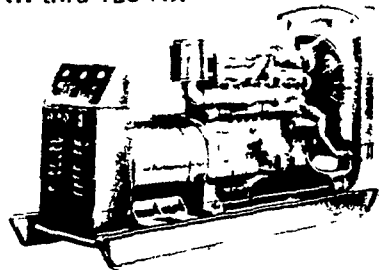
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