

Cereal leaf beetle

[Continued from Page 1]

some confusion does exist. The program to fight the gypsy moth which, according to recent newspaper reports, is expected to cause some damage in isolated areas in the county, particularly in Cumru Township, is being conducted by the state, Haldeman pointed out, and should not be confused with the control experiment for the cereal leaf beetle.

The function of the Co-Operative Extension Service, he further commented, is primarily an educational one. Regarding spray programs, "if people call, we tell them how to proceed," he said.

"Spray programs have been operated at the federal, state, and county levels in the past, but the county has not been active in them for the past couple of years," Haldeman continued.

He expressed confidence that some of the parasites which have been put out in similar pest control programs have been effective. Although acknowledging that the cereal leaf beetle control experiment "is something which requires close study" to determine its effectiveness, he pointed out that the pest does not pose an immediate threat to crop yields in Berks County.

In addition to the county farms in Bern Township, the infected larvae received at the Agricultural Center will be distributed to two other farm locations in the eastern and western sections of the county.

Other educational programs planned by the Extension Service during the coming summer months include methods of combating problems created by blackbirds and the Multiflora Rose.

The Berks County Penn State campus has become infested with blackbirds, Haldeman said, "and in the latter part of July or early August, we will be out there using distress bird calls, noise makers, and the like, to disturb the flocks coming into the winter roost area."

He added that his office will "also be working with farmers in an educational way on the problem of birds in their feed lots." Although a date has not yet been set, an informational meeting dealing with this problem is planned for later in the summer.

The Co-Operative Extension Service and the County Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS) are cooperating in the program aimed at combating the spread of the Multiflora Rose. The ASCS, whose roll in the project is cost sharing with the farmer, said that because of limited funds this year, five farms in the county have been selected for "demonstration only" of the Tordon 10K Pellets, a highly effective brush killer which is applied to the soil for the control of undesirable woody plants. The exact dates, times and locations of the demonstrations will be released on availability of the product which is expected around July 1.

The ASCS is hopeful that next year funds will be available to assist all farmers who wish to enroll.



The treatment for the cereal beetle begins with placing blade of oats infected with larva into the field.

Meat imports up

WASHINGTON — U.S. cattle imports continue to zoom. April total, at 78,492 head, is more than eight-times the April 1975 total. That brings cattle imports for the first four months of 1976 to 290,551 — nearly nine-times the Jan.-April total of a year earlier. But last year's total cattle imports,

at only 380,622 for all of 1975, were the lowest since 1966. On hog imports, the April total, at 4,637 head is double that of a year earlier; Jan.-April total, at 12,545 head, up one-third from a year earlier. But, hog imports for all of 1975 totaled only 23,768 head, down from 196,347 head in 1974 — and the lowest since 1969.

Parity unchanged

WASHINGTON — Dairy price support prices remain unchanged. Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, noting that milk production has been increasing at a greater than seasonal rate,

said the current \$8.13 per cwt. price for manufacturing milk would continue for July-Sept. quarter. Level of support was 80 pct. of parity in April. He estimates it will still be 80 pct. on July 1.

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