

New pests loom on soybean scene

OCEAN CITY, Md. — At least two insect pests on the Delmarva peninsula appear to be shifting their chewing preferences to the detriment of soybean growers, says Dr. J. Lee Hellman, Extension field crop entomology specialist at the University of Maryland in College Park. Hellman was a morning program speaker last week during the 14th annual Delmarva Soybean meeting, held in the Ocean City convention hall. He was teamed with Henry P. Wilson, a plant physiologist at the Eastern Shore branch of the Virginia Truck and Ornamentals Station near Painter, Va. Their joint topic was "Chemical Update."

The two "new" pests looming on the lower Eastern Shore soybean scene, Hellman noted, are the silver-spotted skipper and second-generation armworms. In addition, the Mexican bean beetle is expected to be back in record numbers this year throughout the Delmarva area. And an outbreak of corn earworms could well hit soybean fields if hot, dry weather occurs at a critical stage in corn maturity during July to early August. "The silver-spotted skipper is a crazy-looking caterpillar with a big brown head and two yellow eye spots," Hellman reported. "It has a skinny back and a fat, plump, yellowish-green,

hairless body." In early stages of infestation, the skippers are not easily detected because they make folds in the soybean leaves which furnish good hiding places. In later stages, they often tie several leaves together and hide among them. Until three years ago, the silver-spotted skipper was only a minor pest of soybeans in the Delmarva area. It formerly did most of its feeding on black locust trees. But it now seems to have developed a shift in host preference toward soybeans. Last year, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, it stripped foliage completely off the

soybean plants in some fields. Management practices for control of the skipper are almost identical to those for Mexican bean beetles and for Japanese beetles, Hellman noted. For now, threshold infestation levels at which spraying is recommended are the same for all three insects. Because of its newness, the silver-spotted skipper presents some control problems, since no insecticides on the market are currently labeled for use against this pest. However, a request for emergency registration has

been requested from the state Department of Agriculture. It is expected to be granted in time for the summer spraying season. Lannate, Orthene and PennCap M all seem to work well against both the skipper and the Mexican bean beetle. For second-generation broods, spraying by air is recommended when infestations pass the threshold level. Applying two or three gallons of water per acre should be sufficient, the Maryland Extension specialist said. However, applying up to five gallons of water per

acre is recommended when spraying to control earworms. The extra water is needed to penetrate soybean foliage. Hellman emphasized that making careful decisions on whether and when to spray is a crucial element in soybean pest control management. The insect scouting program of the Extension Service in Maryland and Delaware is designed to help farmers make wise choices in this regard. Those not already in the program are urged to contact their county extension agricultural agent for details.

Adams County plans farm forum

GETTYSBURG — "Energy Sources for the 80's" will be the theme for the second annual Adams County Farm Forum sponsored by the Adams County Agricultural Council. This year's forum will feature John Martin, engineer with Seafair and Roland, Chicago, Illinois and Robert La Turner of La Turner Buildings. Martin will be discussing the topics "Alcohol Production on the Farm" and "Methane as an Energy Source." He is an engineer specializing in developing new energy sources for farms. He designed the methane generator for Mason-Dixon Farms and is currently working on more efficient alcohol production systems. "Use of Passive Solar Energy in Agriculture" will be the topic for Robert La Turner. La Turner has designed over 500 turn key passive solar buildings for use as hog

houses, farm shops and grain dryers. The program will conclude with a tour of Mason-Dixon Farms, Gettysburg, to see a methane generator in operation. This family corporation is generating their own electricity for their dairy operation from methane gas. The methane gas is being produced from the solid waste generated by the 600 cow milking herd. Pre-registration is

required for this one day conference. Reservations must be made by Friday, February 29 by contacting the Adams County Cooperative Extension Service Office, 999 Lincoln Way West, Gettysburg 17325 or call 717/334-6271. A registration fee of \$8 per person is being charge to cover the cost of lunch and other program expenses. Checks should be made payable to Adams County Agricultural Council.

York Baby Beef Club holds meeting

YORK — The York County 4-H Baby Beef Club held their monthly meeting on February 4, 1980, at the 4-H Center. All new members were welcomed. Every family should obtain a copy of the York County 4-H Baby Beef Club rules. If you have not received one, call the ex-

tension office or get one at the next meeting. Leroy Bowles gave a report on the Farm Show. Bill Wise reported on the Baby Beef Banquet, and plans for the up-coming Preview Show were explained by Christine Shive.

The York County 4-H Lamb Club and the Swine Club joined the Beef Club to watch a slide presentation on the Beef Referendum and a movie called "TV Highlights on Agriculture Commercials" which was put together by the PA Agri-Women's Assoc. Reported by Christine Shive.

Poultrymen

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crease by 25 per cent in 1980. The further processed egg will keep the price of shell eggs from dropping, he said. He described a new mode of packaging the processed egg, called pure pack. The eggs are poured into a plastic package without being touched by human hands, then they're frozen. While in the package, the eggs can be boiled to

scrambled egg consistency and then satellited out to restaurants or institutions and will still be 140 degrees Fahrenheit when they arrive, Patterson noted. "We are on a threshold of a fantastic new era of processing and marketing the new frozen processed egg," he said, "and at this point, we don't have any where to go but up."

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