# USDA kicks in \$100,000 for Eastern Shore beetle blitz

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has given the green light to a joint effort blitz against the Mexican bean beetle on the central and upper Eastern Shore of Maryland. APHIS has agreed to back the project with approximatey \$100,000 in funds.

The project, utilizing parasitic wasps which destroy the Mexican bean beetle larvae by laying eggs in them, is to be carried out by 300 soybean growers in Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester counties through the efforts of APHIS, the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Section and the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service.

County agents are now

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - The signing up growers who have planned a massive agree to plant full season soybeans and provide a 'nurse plot' for parasite rearing on their farms.

According to William F. Gimpel, Jr., who is spearheading the project for MDA, "Mexican bean bettles are the number one insect pest of soybeans in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic states. For several years MDA and the Extension Service have been using bean beetle parasites to combat the pest in Maryland.

"1979 was a season in which the cool, wet weather was good for a buildup of high populations of Mexican bean beetle and we expect potentially large numbers of the pest in the 1980 season. "Therefore, for 1980 we

Chester Co. PFA to hold annual meeting

Chester County Pennsylvania Farmers Association will hold their annual banquet on Thursday, March 27.

started at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Holiday Inn at Lionville

Joan Schmidt, the information director for the Robinson, 717/529-2508, or Clifford Jones, Secretary of member.

LIONVILLE - The the Department of Environmental Resources, will be the main speaker.

The cost of the banquet will be \$7.75 per person, and The annual event will get advanced registrations tarted at 7 p.m. and will be should be made by March 20. Tickets can be purchased from Tom Wilkinson, 215/274-8171, or Janet association, announced any respective board

demonstration project employing several new techniques to meet this challenge and prove that the parasites, if employed with proper timing, numbers and skillful management, can do the job of holding bean beetle populations in check and thus prevent serious damage to the crop and heavy yield losses to soybean growers.

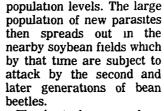
"Our efforts in Maryland are part of a regional project that will involve soybean growers not only in Maryland, but in Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia as well...all states in which the Mexican bean beetle is the major insect pest of sovbeans.

"Results of the demonstration project will affect decisions by APHIS whether or not to release the parasites in at least 11 other states," Mr. Gimpel said.

Here's how the project works on the farm: farmers who plan to grow full season soybeans this year contact their county agricultural extension agent and sign up for the program.

They agree to allow a oneeighth acre 'nurse plot' to be established on their farms adjacent to soybean fields. The nurse plot is planted very early to snap beans which attract the adult Mexican bean beetles coming out of hibernation.

Parasites are then released to attack this first infestation of bean beetles build up heavy and



Thanks to large numbers of parasites, the bean beetle never get a chance to build up to levels that will cause heavy damage to the valuable soybeans.

Farmers in Kent County interested in the program are asked to contact Agent James Milliken (301/778-1661); in Queen Anne's County, Agent Paul Gunther 301/758-0166; in Caroline County, Agent Robert Rouse (301/479-0990); in Talbot County, Agent Donald Osburn (301/822-1244) and in Dorchester County, Agent Ronald Wade 301/228-8800.

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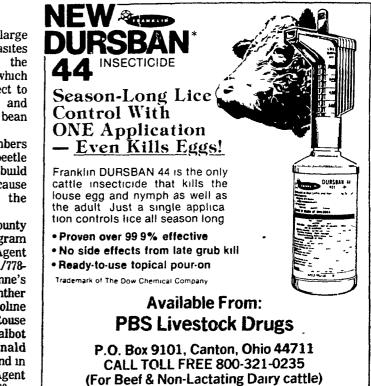
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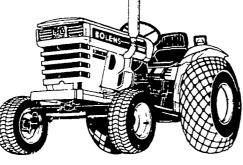
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