

## Md. weed specialist assumes post

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Betty J. Hughes, a farm-reared native of Felton, Del., will coordinate the weed control aspects of this year's pest management program for the Maryland Extension Service.

The new weed control extension assistant began work in Maryland Monday, April 7. She will report directly to Dr. Galen P. Dively, Extension entomology specialist, who has headed the integrated pest management program in Maryland since its inception in 1972.

Miss Hughes will also act as a liaison person between county Extension agricultural agents

throughout the state and Ronald L. Ritter, extension weed control specialist in the agronomy department at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Her inter-departmental ties represent the evolving nature of integrated pest management into a program which services all types of field crop problems, Dr. Dively commented.

Originally an insect scouting activity in sweet corn fields on Maryland's Eastern Shore, the pest control program now operates statewide. Its Eastern Shore emphasis has shifted to soybeans and small grains in cooperation

with the University of Delaware.

West of the Chesapeake Bay, the emphasis is on corn and alfalfa. This phase of the program is supervised by J. Lee Hellman, extension field crop entomology specialist at the University of Maryland.

The field corn program offers early-season insect and weed scouting service. In alfalfa fields, the program provides full-season insect scouting for leafhoppers and alfalfa weevils.

Since weeds are the biggest concern for most corn growers, Miss Hughes will devote much of her time to this crop, Dively reported.

A twofold approach is planned, as follows:

Early-season scouting to make recommendations for post-emergent weed control; Weed mapping in the fall to furnish strategy for tailormade recommendations next year on participating farms.

Dively lamented that, during the past two years, 30 percent of the scouted corn acreage in Maryland had weed problems serious enough for herbicide treatment.

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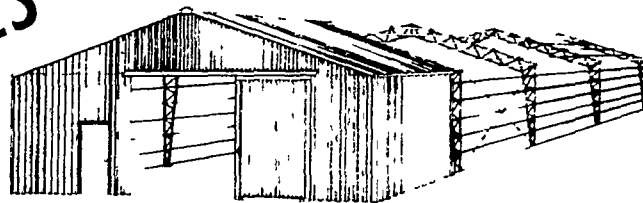
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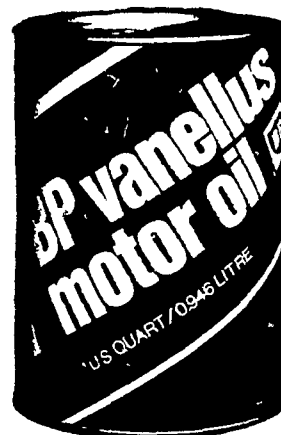


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