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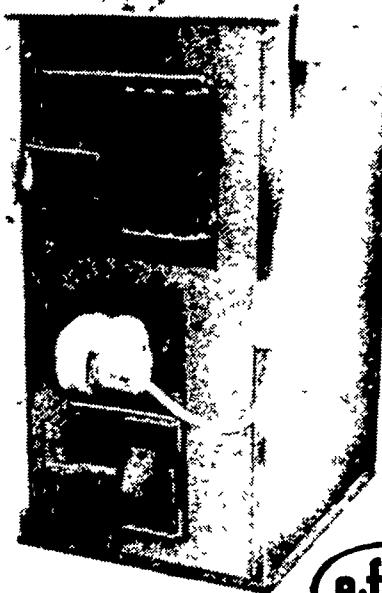


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# Delaware to try pest management on apples

NEWARK, Del. — The Delaware extension service is tackling one more crop this summer in its campaign to help farmers cut down on the use of costly pesticides through a technique known as integrated pest management. This time, the target is mites and other insects which feed on apple trees.

Apples are a small crop in Delaware, but according to extension pest management specialist Mark Graustein, growers here are very interested in trying some of the successful programs now in use in other states.

Integrated pest management is a system of pest control which makes use of a wide range of methods to hold populations of crop-damaging insects below levels that cause economic loss. These methods include the use of beneficial insects that prey on these pests, as well as the judicious application of

insecticides, based on field surveys.

This often leads to reduced use of chemicals. Besides saving money, the system reduces the likelihood that harmful insects will become resistant to pesticides. It also cuts down on the amount of toxic materials released into the environment.

The pilot pest management program being initiated on apples this summer will be aimed primarily at the control of two kinds of mite that affect this crop. Mites appear to be becoming resistant to a number of miticides—a good reason to look at other controls.

Initially, says Graustein, the program used in Delaware will be based on a system developed by Penn State University. This uses a lady beetle predator called *Stethorus punctum*. This predator occurs naturally in Delaware. It differs from

other naturally occurring mite predators in that it's fairly tolerant of many of the insecticides used on apples.

Management procedures are designed to preserve the predator population by using chemicals least likely to affect it and, where possible, by reducing rates and frequency of their application. If the program works in Delaware, it could mean a welcome reduction in production costs for growers.

The big question right now is whether large enough populations of *Stethorus* can become established for the beetle to be effective in reducing mite populations in orchards.

If the Pennsylvania program doesn't work in Delaware, Graustein has another one up his sleeve—an apple pest management program developed in New Jersey.

This one uses a mite called *Amblyseius fallacis* which feeds on other mites.

"We know this predator also occurs in Delaware," says the specialist. "If it looks as though it might work out better here than *Stethorus* we may switch over to this other system."

Besides focusing on mite control, Graustein says his pest management team will be looking at ways to control other apple pests, including the codling moth, red and oblique banded leafrollers, and the tufted apple bud moth.

Detection and monitoring of these pests will be done with pheromone traps. "We'll be using thresholds developed in New York to determine when to treat for codling moths," he says. A scout to do the monitoring is being hired with federal funds allocated specifically for use in such pilot pest management programs.

The extension service will be working with two cooperating apple growers this first year, while the program is being tested.

A number of other Delaware crops already benefit from some kind of pest management program. Besides apple, these include sweet corn, soybeans, small grain, alfalfa, field corn, and vegetables in general.

## Livestock Judging

(Continued from Page C32)  
Wild; 4. Linda Ebaugh; 5. Gary Guttare.

### Best Reasons

1. Linda Ebaugh; 2. Ken Brubaker; 3. Marc Wagman; 4. Mark Wild; 5. Brian Keister.

### AMATEUR

1. Bernice White, Delaware; 2. Gail Snyder, Lehigh; 3. Mike Adams, Northampton.

Judges for the contest were:

Cattle  
Don Nichols, Tyrone;

Tony Dobrosky, York County; C.H. McCutcheon, New Wilmington; and Don Wilson, Summerhill.

### Swine

Vern Hazlett, State College; Phil Wellhauser, New Castle; and Greg Bard, Lewistown.

### Sheep

Bob Calvert, Mercer County; Sigve Edvar, State College; and Cath Listwak, New Kensington.

Ken Winebark, Rochester Mills, served as chairman for the contest.

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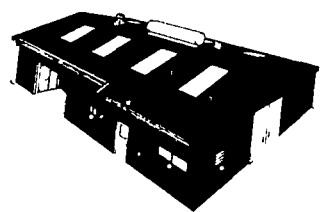
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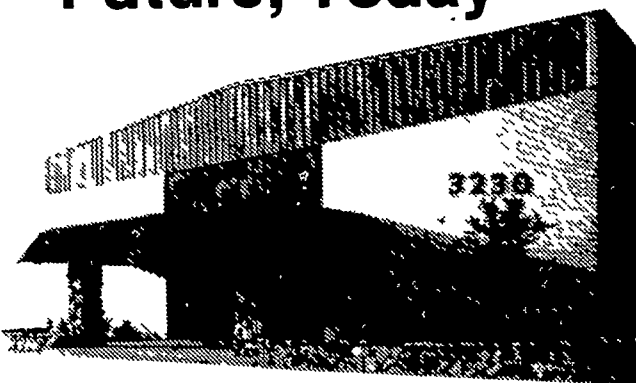
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