



# Ask the VMD

Leon Riegel
Tim Trayer
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If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

**Will Sun Clear Ringworm?**  
A reader asks:  
What Causes Ringworm?  
Why Does Sunlight Seem to Clear It UP?

**Dr. Riegel comments:**  
Ringworm, also called dermatomycosis, is caused by fungi called dermatophytes

Two of the common genus of fungi causing Ringworm are Trichophyton and Microsporum — each with numerous species causing

problems in various animals

The fungi infect the outer layer of skin and hair follicle forming a crust. The organism under the crust dies for lack of air and only those around the edge of the lesion are active, hence the term Ringworm.

The fungi grow well in a warm, dark, humid environment with a slightly alkaline, or basic pH (Children prior to puberty are more susceptible to picking up the disease due to skin secretions creating an alkaline situation)

Ringworm seems to be more prevalent in young calves kept stabled in early Spring. Treatment of the

disease is directed at slowing the growth of the organism and/or increasing the growth of the skin. The lesions themselves are self-limiting, possibly due to local immunity to the organism.

Why does sunlight seem to clear up the infection?

The reasons are:  
Animals in sunlight are outside to a greater degree, lessening the exposure to the causative organisms concentrated in an enclosed environment

—The stall or area where animals are kept has a greater chance to dry out, lessening the ideal environment for the fungi to grow

**EPHRATA** — The Ephrata Adult Farmer program will conduct a pesticide field tour and recertification program on Tuesday morning, August 5, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The two-fold educational program will be held at the Southeastern Penn State Research Farm under the direction of Agronomist John Yocum.

Farmers who hold private applicator restricted use chemical permits must

—Sunlight on infected areas causes faster growth of the skin with a greater chance for animals to shed the infecting organism

update their certification annually.

Certification is necessary to use certain herbicides, insecticides and other pesticides which have been classified "restricted use" by the U.S. Environmental Protection agency.

The Young Farmers plan to meet in the parking lot at the west end of the Ephrata Junior High School at 8:45 a.m. They will travel as a group to Landisville.

The program, according to advisor Charles Ackley, will include update training and will qualify participants for pesticide recertification.

Also on the agenda is a tour of research plots to

discuss the effectiveness of various materials and application rates.

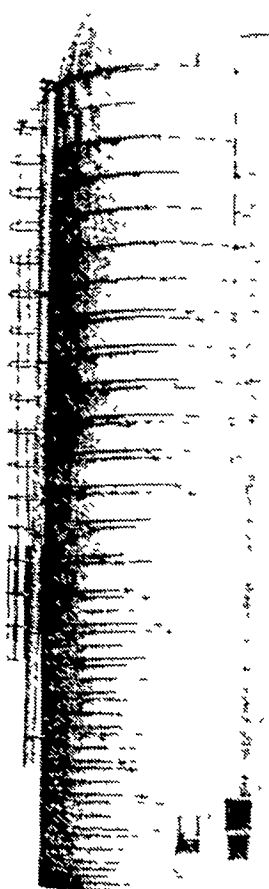
Sites will include extensive weed control in tobacco and soybeans, some weed control in corn, and some insect control in corn, alfalfa, and tobacco.

Farmers who want to have their certification updated should return the post card they received in the mail along with the white copy of the recertification training certificate.

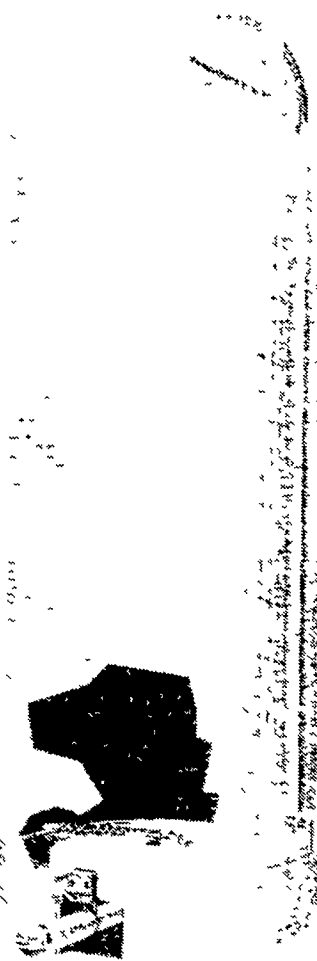
Those who wish to join the field trip and program should notify Ackley by calling him at the high school at 717/733-7961.

# AGWAY

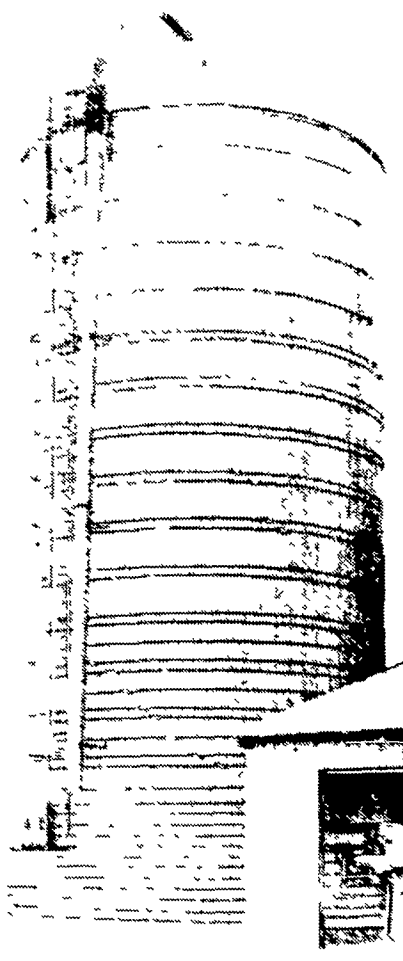
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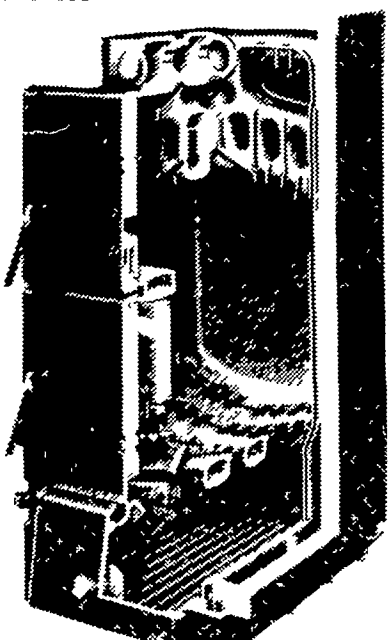
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