

Sussex County should be hit hard

Big armyworm buildup seen for Delmarva area

DOVER, Del. — High numbers of moths are showing up in black light insect traps in Sussex

County, says Delaware extension pest management specialist Mark Graustein. Moth populations are

moving up from the South, and by early September we'll probably be experiencing a worm outbreak in Delaware.

Insects involved are primarily corn earworm and fall armyworm, and, to a lesser extent, beet armyworm, according to the specialist. The crops that will be hardest hit are soybeans, sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, lima beans and snap beans. Sussex County will bear the brunt of the attack.

The hot, dry weather of July and August has dried up

corn, especially non-irrigated corn. The moths won't lay their eggs in dry corn, so they'll be looking for soybeans and vegetables instead. Soybeans are particularly vulnerable this year because the moths tend to be more willing to enter a crop with an open canopy

Due to the dry weather, many of the soybean fields this year have open canopies. The dry weather has also kept down the populations of beneficial insects and fungus diseases that ordinarily hold

the worm populations in check.

These interlocking factors, all going back to the dry weather, make conditions extremely favorable for worms.

Check soybean fields frequently in the next few weeks, Graustein advises.

Shake the worms onto a three-foot shake cloth and count them. Do this in at least five places in the field — ten would be better.

Treatment is necessary if you find three earworms per three feet of row in field with wide rows or one worm per

three feet of row in fields with narrow rows.

In fields where pod set is poor, treatment is necessary when the average earworm count is 1.5 per three feet of row.

For soybeans, use Lannate or Nudrin at two pints, or Orthene at one pound per acre. If the infestation is severe, add one-quarter pint Parathion to the Orthene.

If the population is earworms only (no fall armyworms or beet armyworms) you can treat with four pints of PennCap-M.

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USDA explains new brucellosis rates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — New indemnity rates for cattle slaughtered because of brucellosis are substantially better than the old rates, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said recently.

The new rates, in effect since June 27, are based on 88.5 percent of average replacement cost less average slaughter value. For example, the current rate for non-registered beef cattle is \$62 — up from \$50. This is 88.5 percent of \$585 (average cost of replacements) less \$456 (average slaughter price).

Paul Becton, director of the national brucellosis eradication program for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said, "these more equitable rates provide an incentive

for cattle owners to cooperate fully with ongoing efforts to eliminate this disease once and for all."

According to Becton, this rate is the same for all states and will be subject to quarterly adjustment depending upon changes in market values.

The new indemnity rates for non-registered dairy cattle, however, vary from state to state in keeping with the differing replacement costs nationally. Indemnity for them now averages about \$460, in contrast to the old flat rate of \$150.

For indemnity purposes, such cattle must be over 20 months of age and in a dairy producing milk for commercial use. The rates for non-registered dairy cattle also will be subject to quarterly adjustment.

The new rates for registered cattle, beef or dairy breeds will be subject to annual adjustment only. Compared with the old rates, however, they are up the sharpest.

The registered beef breeds rate, for instance, is \$727, up from \$250 for any registered cattle. The new rates for registered dairy cattle vary according to breed.

They are: Ayrshire - \$476; Brown Swiss - \$830; Guernsey - \$591; Holstein - \$1,000; Jersey - \$922; Milking Shorthorn - \$627.

Although not mandatory, USDA also may pay indemnity on female calves under six months of age that are nursing reactor dams. The new rates are \$50 for non-registered females and \$250 for registered ones, compared with \$25 for all such calves formerly.

Becton said the old flat rates now become the minimum rates payable. The new indemnity schedule also includes maximum rates that cannot be exceeded.

Brucellosis, also called Bang's disease, is an easily spread bacterial disease that causes abortions, slow breeding and sterility. Lower milk yields often result when dairy cattle are infected.

Becton said the goal of the brucellosis program is to eradicate the disease in the fewer than one-half of 1 percent of U.S. cattle that are still infected, while protecting the more than 99.5 percent that are clean.

This can only be achieved with the active participation and support of cattle producers, he said.



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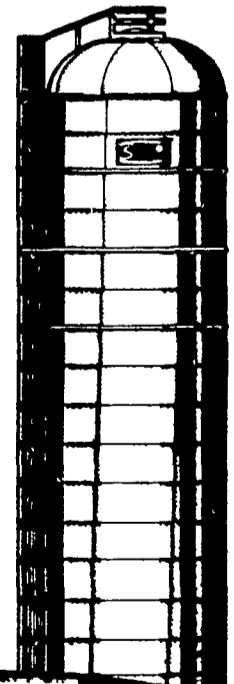
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