## **DER** predicts record gypsy moth infestation

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Wednesday announced that the gypsy moth infestation may reach record-breaking proportions this year, with nearly two million acres of woodlands expected to be severely defoliated.

James O. Nichols, chief of DER's Division of Forest Pest Management, said the department plans to spray 175,000 acres of gypsy moth-infested forested residential and recreational areas this spring in 25 counties, about 10 percent of the total infestations.

He said the spray program,

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when the caterpillars are fully hatched, is designed to alleviate the caterpillar impact on high-use areas. Utilized will be the environmentally safe insecticide Dylox, which is registered and deemed safe for use over populated areas by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Spraying is coordinated with county governments, which initially propose the treatment areas," said Nichols.

"Residents within treatment areas will be notified of spraying times by the county commissioners. Those who do not want their properties treated may have expected to begin about mid-May them excluded but, in such instances, much of the neighboring land also would be excluded to provide for a 500-foot no-spray buffer zone.

"The entire spray program," Nichols added, "should be completed by mid-June."

Thirteen helicopters, from three firms will handle the spraying, usually during the early morning hours when winds are minimal, and personnel from the department's Bureau of Forestry will supervise these treatments.

Nichols added the Department also will be conducting experiments with the biological parasite activity in infested areas. This spray kills only leaf-eating caterpillars, leaving a higher parasite/gypsy moth ratio, but it must be applied twice to infested areas, thus costing more then Dylox.

Counties where spraying will take place and the areas to be treated are:

Blair, 2117; Bucks, 1116; Carbon,

2997; Centre, 13,162; Chester, 2262; Clearfield, 420; Clinton, 105; Columbia, 200; Cumberland, 3,396; Dauphin, 996; Delaware, 1551; Huntington, 558; Juniata, 1050; Lackawanne, 5017; Lancaster. 705: Luzerne, 9267; Mifflin, 2765; Monroe, 65,171; Montgomery, 1539; Northampton, 555; Perry, 2195; Pike, 27,561; Schuylkill, 414; Wayne, 6267; York, 4144.

## PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE



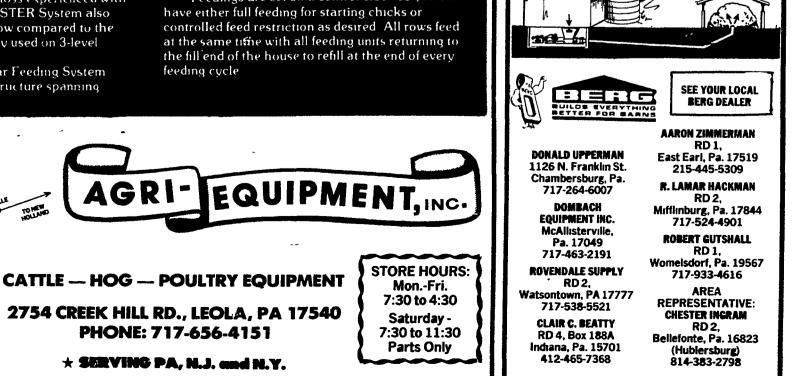
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trough prevents overfilling of the feed trough beyond the desired level. Any surplus feed left in the auger is returned to the hopper

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