

Quarantine businesses in Lancaster, Mechanicsburg

# USDA confirms another Kaphra beetle infestation in N.J.

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Another infestation of khapra beetles — the world's most destructive pest of stored grains and cereal products — has been confirmed, this time at two military warehouses in Bayonne, N.J., according to an official of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"This infestation, which brings the total to 19 found during recent months, was found during continuing routine inspections at the Military Ocean Terminal warehouses," said Don Woodham, technical coordinator for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The empty warehouses, owned by the Department of the Army, are each about 2.5 million cubic feet. They're used primarily for "stripping" or cleaning military goods returning from countries in the Far East.

During stripping, equipment being shipped is inspected for the presence of any "hitchhiking" pest hazardous to the health of humans, animals or plants, Woodham said.

"The Army is considering fumigating the premises," he said.

Of the 18 confirmed khapra beetle infestations found during the ongoing APHIS khapra beetle program, 15 sites have been treated, one business is in the process of being treated with a high pressure insecticide spray, and two facilities have not yet been

treated until a course of action is decided by the owners, Woodham said.

"The three untreated

businesses, in Lancaster, Mechanicsburg, and Brooklyn, N.Y. all remain under strict quarantine," he said.

The khapra beetle, which is native to India, causes millions of dollars of damage to stored grains and cereal products annually

world-wide. It was first detected recently in a New Jersey spice company in October 1980.

## Wismer joins U. of Penn's vet school board

HARRISBURG — Charles E. Wismer, Jr., Pennsylvania State Grange Master and Montgomery County resident, was recently appointed to the Board of Overseers for University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

The appointment was made by action of the University's Executive Board of Trustees for a three-year term effective April 1.

The Board of Overseers serves as an advisory body to the president, provost, dean and trustees of the veterinary school. As head of an organization representing a largely agricultural sector, Wismer has long been supportive of veterinary research at the University's New Bolton Center outside of Philadelphia.

Wismer has served as Master of the State Grange, an organization of some 44,000 rural persons across Pennsylvania, since 1979. He had previously been active in Pomona (county) and Subordinate (local) Granges for 30 years.

A dairy farmer owning a 175-acre spread in Montgomery

County, Wismer has served as mayor of the borough of Trappe for the past four years, president of the Trappe Historical Society and chairman of the Borough Planning

Commission.

In addition to his work with the Grange, Wismer's endeavors for agriculture have included 11 years

as Community Committeeman for the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service and three years as Agway Community Committeeman.

## Cement kiln dust useful

ALLENTOWN — Valuable potash in some seven million tons of kiln dust going into landfills annually from cement factories could be processed for fertilizer, according to soil chemists at Penn State.

Such cement kiln dust, high in alkali, could provide the neutral soil needed to produce no-till corn and similar reduced tillage crops, says Dale E. Baker, professor of soil chemistry at University Park.

Baker and associates have determined that the potassium in a one-ton-per-acre application of cement kiln dust would meet the initial potash requirements for corn on many soils. The high alkaline level of cement kiln dust would provide the neutral soil needed for utmost efficiency of

herbicides in producing no-till corn, it was pointed out.

Currently, the cement industry pays about \$2 per ton to dispose of kiln dust in landfills.

Carrying out several aspects of the experiments with cement kiln dust at Penn State are Jeffrey A. Russer and Willie T. Doty, research assistants in soil chemistry.

From studies at one cement plant, Risser and Doty concluded that a kiln dust, lime-potash fertilizer could be produced with a guaranteed analysis of 35 percent calcium oxide, six percent magnesium oxide, five percent potash, and four percent sulfur.

Baker noted that cement kiln dust has the required clearance for use on agricultural land. The U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency, in May of 1980, exempted kiln dust and other solid wastes returned to the soil as fertilizers from being classified as hazardous wastes.

Moreover, greenhouse experiments carried out by scientists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture 20 to 30 years ago showed that kiln dust had potential value for liming the soil.

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