

Carries cattle parasite

USDA searches Central N.J. for foreign fly

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarians and entomologists are searching central New Jersey for a foreign fly which can carry a cattle parasite that destroys the most valuable meat in beef cattle.

Military and state personnel are helping USDA in the survey, according to D. David Wilson of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"The foreign fly — *Musca*

vitripennis — can carry a parasite that is not known to exist in this country," Wilson said. "If the parasite — *Parafilaria bovicola* — were to gain entry, it could be spread by the face fly, which is common in the United States.

"The worm parasite was accidentally introduced into Sweden a few years ago," Wilson said. "There it is causing increasing losses every year in cattle slaughtered for meat.

"The worm can usually be found under the skin of the loin area," Wilson said. "This means that

about 15 pounds of the most valuable meat in an infested carcass must be trimmed, as it is unfit for human consumption."

Wilson said one of the foreign flies that carries the parasitic worm was found at McGuire Air Force Base on July 27 during a routine pest control inspection by a USDA entomologist.

Once the fly had been identified — it looks like a common house fly with hairy eyes — USDA conducted a survey of the air base and nearby cattle farms. Of the 70,000 flies caught, none were the foreign pest. However, USDA inspectors

found a second male fly at the air base a short time later.

"Thus far," Wilson said, "there is no indication that the foreign fly has established itself in the United States or that those found were infected with the parasite. We're planning a second survey for the spring of 1983 to make sure."

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

— The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives urged Agriculture Secretary John Block last week to utilize a 32-year-old Executive Order in administering agricultural marketing orders.

In a letter to Block, NCFC President Gary D. Myers referred to Executive Order No. 10199, 15 F. R. 9217, dated Dec. 21, 1950, in which President Harry S. Truman declared:

"I hereby authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make, without the approval of the President, such regulations with the force and effect of law as may be necessary to carry out the powers vested in him by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended."

Myers added that as far as NCFC could determine, this Executive Order is still in effect. He suggested that Block refer the Office of Management and Budget to it, and said NCFC will do all it can to help Block overcome any effort to alter or ignore its clear directive.

OMB attempted to exercise excessive authority over marketing orders this year, after they were targeted for official attention by the Vice President's Task Force on Regulatory Reform. Later, some 20 members of congress asked Block to resist any Administration moves to redirect marketing order policy without congressional consultation.

Block and Assistant Secretary McMillan discussed the congressional request in a subsequent meeting with the vice president. Bush said he felt USDA had discharged its obligation to the regulatory reform task force by adopting and publishing marketing order guidelines in early 1982.

Thereafter, Block reaffirmed the Administration's support of marketing orders and reasserted USDA's authority over marketing order programs.

Myers said NCFC will continue to watch this area closely for signs of OMB slippage or interference.

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