

Dauphin to hold gypsy moth meeting Thursday

HARRISBURG — The Department of Environmental Resources will use a biological insecticide to spray private lands in Dauphin County this spring to reduce the impact of gypsy moth larvae.

Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.) is a bacterium that occurs naturally in the environment. B.t. is the active ingredient in the biological insecticide to be sprayed in Dauphin County and throughout Pennsylvania.

Resource Specialist Duayne Forsberg with the Dauphin County Conservation District and William Slippey from the Bureau of Forestry will conduct a public meeting to explain the 1983 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program in Dauphin County on Thursday at 7:30 P.M. in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Building, Room 218-B, located at 75 South Houcks Road, Harrisburg.

This year's suppression program will move away from the use of chemical insecticides to biological controls. B.t. is a bacterium that produces spores that dissolve toxins in the digestive system when eaten by lepidopterous

caterpillars (larvae). This target specific insecticide kills such lepidopterous larvae as gypsy moth, fall cankerworm, tent caterpillar, etc. It is not toxic to any other form of life including humans, livestock, bees, birds, wildlife, aquatic life and predators and parasites of the gypsy moth.

Since 1981, the Dauphin County Commissioners have requested funding and the assistance of municipalities in Dauphin County that have or can anticipate future gypsy moth infestations.

The deadline for landowners to request spraying for this coming spring was last July 9. All additional requests for spraying in the spring of 1983 will be denied.

The life cycle of the gypsy moth and biological controls will be explained by William Slippey and the spraying program in Dauphin County will be explained by Duayne Forsberg. Between five or six thousand acres will be sprayed in fifty-two treatment areas in these Dauphin County municipalities: Reed, Halifax, Jackson, Jefferson, Elizabethtown, Washington, Wiconisco Twp., Lykens Borough, Rush, Upper

Paxton, Mifflin, Lykens Twp., Londonderry, Conewago, Derry, Susquehanna, Lower Paxton Middle Paxton, West Hanover, East Hanover and the Borough of Dauphin. Maps of the fifty-two treatment areas will be available for public

review at the Thursday meeting. All landowners with property in these treatment areas will receive notification by mail in mid-March.

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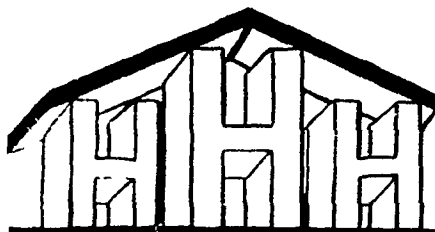
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