

## Gypsy moth threat moves

NEWARK, Del. — Gypsy moths are about to become active again, but this year different parts of the state will be affected, says University of Delaware extension entomologist Mark Graustein.

Thanks to last year's cool, wet spring, a naturally occurring virus, nuclear polyhedrosis, knocked out the populations that have been defoliating northern New Castle County over the past

two years. But the remainder of the state is still vulnerable. It takes two to three years of high gypsy moth populations and the right environmental conditions before the virus can move into an area.

Researchers are working on harnessing this virus or its relatives for use in their arsenal of control mechanisms. A commercial version called Gypchek is being marketed in limited quantities. In the meantime, as gypsy moths spread southward, 25,000 acres of Delaware residential and forest land are threatened with defoliation this year, the Delaware Department of Agriculture has determined.

The highest infestations will occur west of Route 13 in the vicinity of Townsend and Felton. Small pockets of defoliation are also expected in parts of Kent County east of Route 13. The only area north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal that will be severely affected this year is along Route 40 around Glasgow.

The state Legislature has appropriated about \$200,000 to support a gypsy moth control program. The Delaware Department of Agriculture will oversee the aerial spraying of the threatened acreage with the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B t). Only sections of 25 acres or more can be treated, and no private or residential land will be sprayed against the owner's wishes. The agriculture department can provide additional information on what lands are to be sprayed. If egg hatch and larval development occur at about the

same time as last year, spraying should commence about May 10.

Graustein says B t is a very safe and highly specific pathogen that affects only gypsy moths and certain other caterpillars. It does not affect beneficial insects, humans, domestic animals, or wildlife. Caterpillars that eat sprayed foliage cease feeding within a few hours. Though they don't appear sick at first, they die within a week. Birds feeding on infected caterpillars are not harmed.

If applications are timed correctly and the weather cooperates, B t will provide at least 80 percent control of gypsy moth populations. Although conventional chemical insecticides can provide better than 90 percent control, B t should reduce defoliation enough so that trees can survive without having to replace the damaged leaves. This is the primary objective of the Delaware gypsy moth control program.

## New farm bill

(Continued from Page D24)

programs with income supplements, to medium-size and smaller farms. This excludes price supports to larger farmers because: (1) larger farmers are assumed capable of making a profit at market prices, and (2) supplementing incomes of larger farmers by the same formula as for medium and smaller farmers would cause a massive drain on federal funds and enjoy little political support, the economist says.

### Supply Management

Option four - supply management — "This mechanism has existed since 1938 but has been used only at times of extreme surpluses," he explains. "Yet if farm commodities are to have a steady and dependable flow into domestic and world markets without enormous cost to the U.S. treasury, farmers must have the opportunity to vote mandatory acreage allotments and/or marketing quotas on themselves."

To summarize, American agriculture's recurring instability may outweigh concerns over cash flow and encourage development of a 1985 farm program aimed at reducing price variability and improving overall stability.

"With this possibility in mind, farmers may want to encourage a flexible bill that authorizes the widest possible range of options, including supply management, so federal agricultural programs can respond more quickly and effectively than in the past," Vaughn says. "Quick-response capability may be the key to greater stability."

One approach that the specialist considers worth exploring is to place U.S. farm programs under a recently proposed institution — a "National Food and Fiber Federation" — insulated from direct political control, as the Federal Reserve and Farm Credit systems are. Farm, agribusiness and consumer representatives would be appointed to the federation by the president, subject to Senate confirmation, for terms extending across presidential elections.

Agricultural policy, which is now set by congressional committees and the Secretary of Agriculture, would be delegated to the federation by an act of Congress. The objective, says Vaughn, would be to manage farm programs under a longer-term policy, rather than through temporary emergency solutions.

## Bee swarm seldom poses threat

NEWARK, Del. — Don't get excited if you find a swarm of bees hanging on a tree limb in your yard, says University of Delaware extension agricultural agent Derby Walker. Those bees are not looking for someone to sting. If you don't bother them, they won't bother you.

When a colony of bees becomes overcrowded and a new queen is about to hatch, the old queen sets out with half the workers to find a new place to live. The swarming bees are waiting for their scouts to return with word of a suitable hollow tree, trash can, abandoned car, or hollow wall of a building.

Left alone, bees can usually locate a new home within a few hours, and they will leave your yard as soon as housing arrangements have been made.

You also have the option of calling a local beekeeper to pick up the swarm. Beekeepers love to do this because the bees are generally full of honey and therefore gentle and easy to handle. In May, when most swarming occurs, many beekeepers advertise their services in local newspapers. County

extension offices also have lists of beekeepers who will pick up swarms.

Occasionally, scout bees have difficulty locating a new hive, and the swarming bees have to hang on their branch for several days. The longer they hang, the hungrier and angrier they become, so warn the beekeeper to take special precautions.

Most beekeepers refuse to remove a swarm from inside a house because of the difficulty of the task. If you find a swarm inside your home, Walker says it's better to kill the bees and repair the siding to keep out other colonies. Be sure to remove the honey and wax so they don't melt down your walls, creating a mess that would attract other pests.

There's no reason, though, to kill bees that are swarming in your yard. Even though they sting when provoked, bees are beneficial insects. Walker says they're worth millions because of the crop pollination services they provide and the honey and beeswax they produce.

# 700 Bobcat

Heavy Duty, 1300 lb. Operating Capacity

### COMPARE THE FEATURES:

#### PERFORMANCE

1300 lb. capacity with dump reach up to 36". When you work a Bobcat, you'll feel the power at the wheels for maneuverability and stability throughout full load cycles.

#### DURABILITY

Compare operating weight to load capacity, compare drive chain size, axle thickness, steel welding protection for hoses, engines, radiators and the superior BobTach system for attachments. Inside and out Bobcats feature fine-tuned engineering.

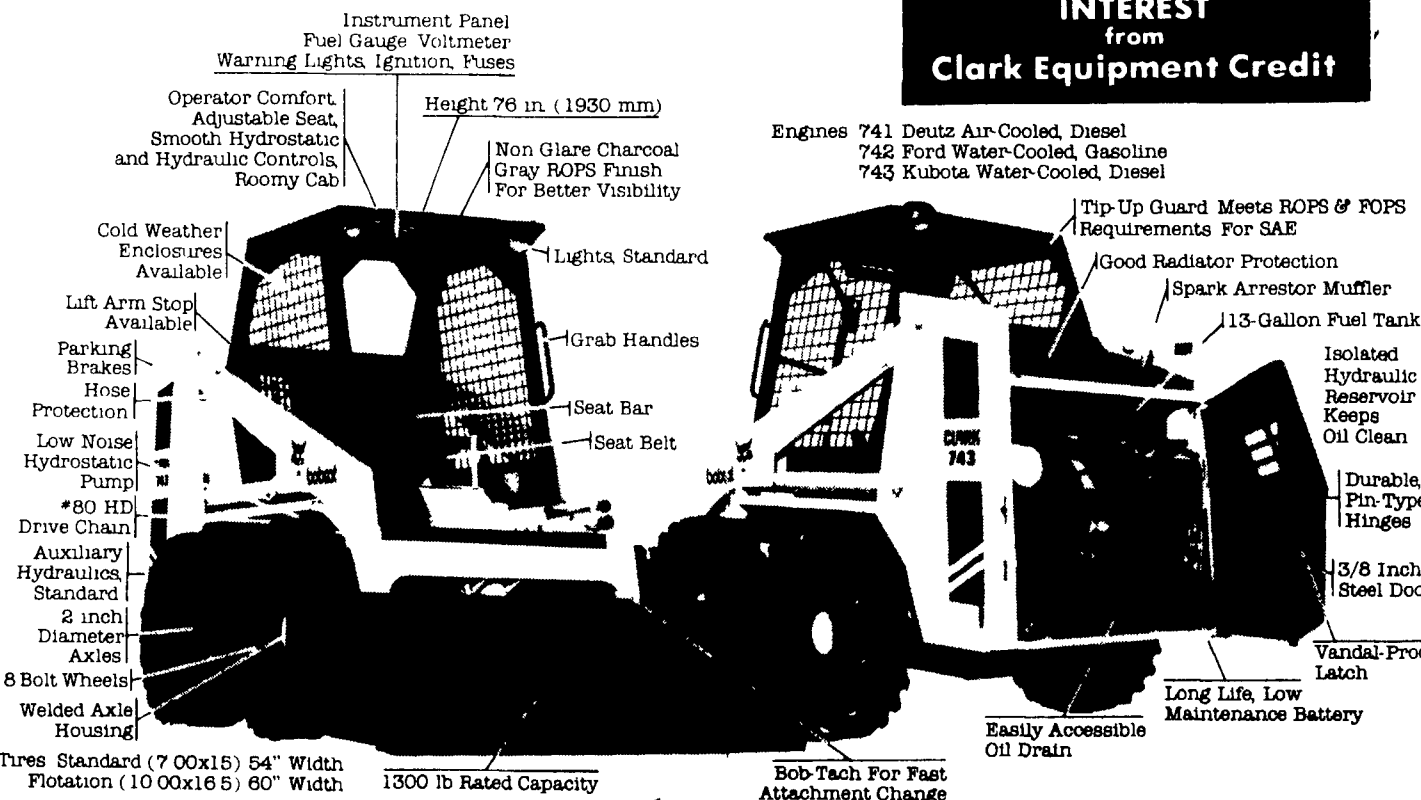
#### SERVICABILITY

Tip-up rollover protection structure for easier accessibility to hydrostatic components & steering linkage. 3/8" steel rear door on pin hinges makes routine maintenance a snap. Bigger batteries and starters, dual element air cleaners.

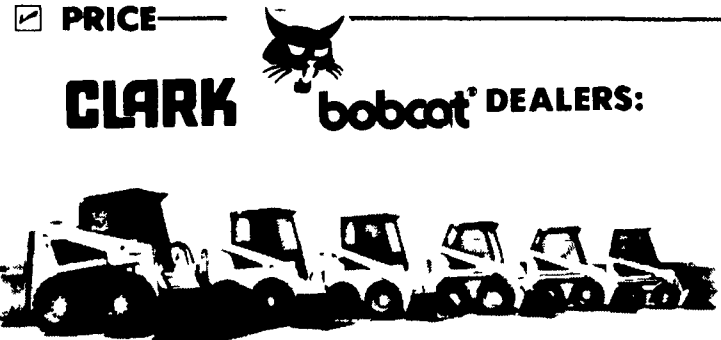
#### SAFETY

Seat bar for additional operator safety, convenience and comfort. Rugged rollover protective structure construction, pedal locks, dual headlights, rear road and work lights, spark arrestor muffler.

#### PRICE



**10.75% INTEREST**  
from  
**Clark Equipment Credit**



**BOBCAT...#1**  
13 Models Up To 3700 Pound Capacity

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Carlisle, PA<br/><b>PETERMAN FARM EQUIPMENT</b><br/>717-249-5338</p> <p>Chambersburg, PA<br/><b>CLUGSTON IMPLEMENT INC.</b><br/>717-263-4103</p> <p>Harrisburg, PA<br/><b>HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT &amp; SUPPLY CO.</b><br/>717-564-3031</p> | <p>Hatfield, PA<br/><b>LCL CONSTRUCTION EQUIP. SALE CO.</b><br/>215-362-2510</p> <p>Honey Grove, PA<br/><b>NORMAN D. CLARK &amp; SON INC.</b><br/>717-734-3682</p> <p>Lititz, PA<br/><b>KELLER BROS. TRACTOR CO.</b><br/>717-626-2121</p> <p>Martinsburg, PA<br/><b>BURCHFIELD'S INC.</b><br/>814-793-2194</p> | <p>Myerstown, PA<br/><b>SWOPE &amp; BASHORE INC.</b><br/>717-933-4138</p> <p>Slatington, PA<br/><b>SCAT ENTERPRISES INC.</b><br/>215-767-1711</p> <p>Mill Hall, PA<br/><b>DUNKLE &amp; GRIEB</b><br/>717-726-3115</p> <p>Rising Sun, Md<br/><b>AG-INDUSTRIAL</b><br/>301-658-5568</p> | <p>Palm, PA<br/><b>WENTZ FARM SUPPLIES INC.</b><br/>215-679-7164</p> <p>Tunkhannock, PA<br/><b>BARTRON FARM SUPPLY</b><br/>717-836-3740</p> <p>Quarryville, PA<br/><b>GRUMELLI'S FARM SERV.</b><br/>717-786-7318</p> |
|--|--|---|--|