

# Cockroaches are tough, resilient and hard to purge

ITHACA, NY — More prolific than a thousand rabbits; fouler than a filthy fly; able to fast six weeks without a single crumb.

Look, down on the floor — it's an ant, a mouse. No, it's the notorious cockroach, a nasty pest that infests even the cleanest kitchens and bathrooms.

They've been creeping around for 300 million years and they're bound to be crawling for millions more, long after the human species has perished.

Today, roaches are the number one indoor pest problem, says Edgar Raffensperger, an entomologist for Cornell Cooperative Extension.

"The enigma of cockroaches is that they specialize in generalizing. Tough and resilient, roaches eat everything that humans and animals eat, as well as beads of grease, paper, soap, toothpaste, stamp glue, and even all kinds of human and animal wastes," says Raffensperger.

A professor of entomology in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell, Raffensperger teaches a course on insects and man. He says that cockroach populations are practically impossible to conquer and divide.

"Cut off a cockroach's head and it will survive for several days. Cut off its leg and it may grow another. Deprive a female of a mate and she will produce a family anyway, giving rise to new generations. Spray them with a potent insecticide, and cockroaches will learn to avoid the area or they will just develop a resistance to the spray."

Cockroaches are a thousand times less sensitive to DDT, for

example, then they were 30 years ago, Raffensperger estimates.

Although they have not been specifically blamed for epidemics, cockroaches can carry viruses or bacteria, including the pathogens that cause bubonic plague, typhoid fever, dysentery, and gastroenteritis.

They contaminate food not only by carrying microorganisms from sewers and garbage, but also by dropping their own wastes along the way.

Roaches tend to reside where it is moist, warm, and dark — under the refrigerator or kitchen sink, in bathroom nooks and crannies, or in a pile of rich dust under kitchen cabinets.

Taking precautions such as hanging up wet towels, keeping floors, drawers, and cabinets clean of crumbs, repairing leaky pipes, and filling holes or cracks in walls, cabinets, and window and door frames are some ways to discourage cockroaches from making themselves at home.

"It's much more difficult, however, in apartment buildings where cockroaches can reinfest apartments through pipes and walls," Raffensperger says. "And because they travel along sewer and pipelines, any uninfested city building can be invaded."

Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture has reported that a new chemical spray, hydroprone, can stop cockroaches from reproducing, it may be several years before this pesticide is available commercially.

In the meantime, Raffensperger recommends using pesticides specifically marketed to limit invasions of the pest.

"It may take several ap-

plications over a period of two to three months to control these insects," Raffensperger admits. "Although you may get the adults at first, it takes several months for the eggs to hatch."

A home remedy used often is boric acid sprinkled into cracks and crevices, along baseboards, around and under cabinets, near sinks and pipes, around window and door frames, and under the refrigerator. Don't dust it in places where children or pets may play, Raffensperger stresses.

If homeowners are unsuccessful with their own attempts, the Cornell entomologist suggests turning to a professional exterminator.

If cockroaches are found in food, should you throw away the whole dish or container?

"Because they march around in such filthy places and could be carrying any kind of germ, I would throw out an entire salad, for example, if I saw a cockroach enjoying it first," Raffensperger responds.

More information on pest control is available from county offices of Cornell Cooperative Extension, a partnership of county, state, and federal governments helping people put knowledge to work.



Saturday, June 30

Lancaster Society 5 meets for a "Let's Take A Cruise" program.

Thursday, July 5

Lancaster Society 17 meets for quilting with Society 15.

Saturday, July 7

Lancaster Society 6 meets at the home of Miriam Heisey for a program by Mary and Eva Thome.



## Lancaster Society 8

Lancaster Society 8 met at the Mount Joy Mennonite Church on June 16 to entertain Lancaster Society 2 at a luncheon.

Rodnie Hershey presented the special feature, showing slides of his coast-to-coast bike trip.

Hostesses for the meeting were Vera Frey, Elizabeth Shuman,

Ruth Musser, Agnes Houseal, Florence Musser and Margaret Heisey.

The annual picnic will be held on August 7 at the Lampeter Fair Grounds.

The next meeting will be held on September 15 at 2 p.m. in the Lutheran Church in Maytown.

## Lancaster Society 34

Members of Lancaster Society 34 met on June 18 at the home of Denise Young.

Boni Gochenaur, 1983 dairy princess, provided the program on her year as princess and the benefits of milk.

Members were reminded to bring a childhood picture and two or three white elephant items to the next meeting.

The group will help with bingo at Conestoga View on July 19. The annual family picnic will be on Sunday, July 8 at the home of Sam and Jean Kreider.

The next meeting will be July 16 at the home of Denise Glick with Gayle Hershberger as co-hostess. The program will be a white elephant sale.

## Berks Society 6

Berks Society 6 met recently at the home of Mrs. Carl Herbein for the June meeting.

The group is planning a bus trip to Philadelphia for the July 29th baseball game.

The July 17th meeting will be at the home of Mrs. David Bauer at 8 p.m. Faye Strickler, extension home economist, will speak on kitchen safety.

## Berks Society 9

Berks Society 9 held their June meeting at the home of Jeanne Casner, R2 Douglassville.

The group discussed a yard sale during August. Mr. and Mrs. Barnard showed

slides from Hawaii and everyone wore a lei for the occasion.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Karen Schreier for a Country Store demonstration.

## NY dairy princess seminar at Wells College

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Over 40 dairy princesses from across New York State will participate in this year's dairy princess training seminar at Wells College in Aurora. The seminar will run from July 9 to 11 and is sponsored by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council.

This annual seminar helps prepare the princesses for the challenging responsibilities of their year-long reign. As dairy princesses, they work as representatives of the dairy industry, appearing in schools and supermarkets, and working with the media.

The majority of this year's seminar program will be workshops which will give the girls practical, hands-on experience.

Several different sessions have been planned, focusing on the areas of: news release and speech writing; nutrition information; radio interview techniques; and food store demonstrations.

The seminar also gives the princesses the opportunity to share ideas and get acquainted. They will meet again August 14 to 15 for the New York State Dairy Princess Pageant at the Syracuse Sheraton Inn.

The dairy princess program, now in its 21st year, is an important part of the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council's milk promotion program. ADA/DC conducts advertising and promotion programs under the funding and direction of Federal Order 2 dairy producers.

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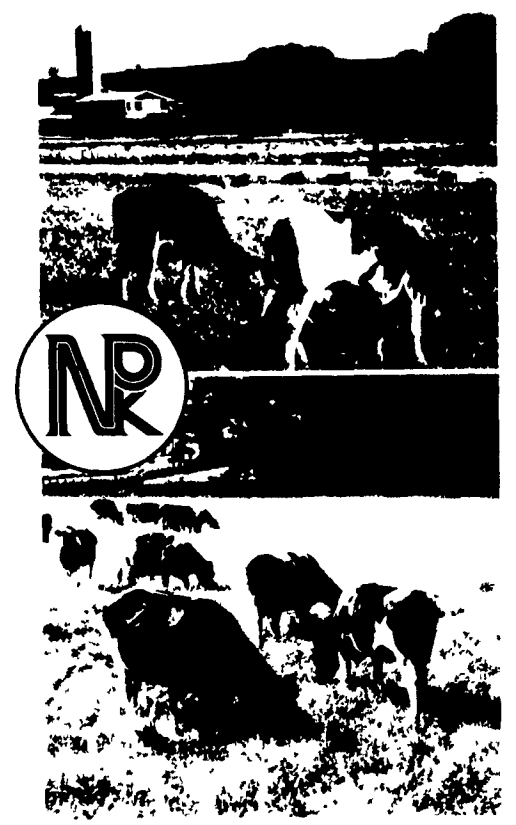
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