

Md. Grange meeting opens Thursday

THURMONT, Md. — The 110th annual session of the Maryland State Grange will be held Thursday, Oct. 18 - Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Firemen's Activity Building in Thurmont.

Delegates from seven counties (Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Prince George's and Washington) will meet to debate resolutions to determine grange

policy. The delegates will be discussing agriculture, conservation, legislation, health, education, roads and safety issues.

Policies developed at the state session will be forwarded to the National Grange for further consideration. The 1984 National Grange Session will be held in Portland, Me. in November.

Delegates from Maryland will be Master Alan Brauer Sr. and his wife, Ethel.

Representing the National Grange at Maryland's session will be Mr. and Mrs. James Oliver from North Carolina. Mr. Oliver began his grange work at the age of 13 in the Marietta-Oakdale Grange in North Carolina. He

served as overseer of the NC State Grange from 1974 to April 1, 1982 when he assumed the Master's position. Oliver was elected Gatekeeper of the National Grange in 1983.

The session will open at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, with the reports of the officers. State Master Alan Brauer Sr. will give his annual address.

The Women's Activities Luncheon will be held at 1 p.m. at the Mountain Gate Family Restaurant. Lorraine Seenan, Maryland Secretary of State, will be the featured speaker. Many awards and contests will be highlighted at the event. For tickets contact Louise Hott, Director of Women's Activities, at 692-2438.

Thursday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. the Fourth and Fifth Degrees will be obligated and the Sixth Degree Conferred at the Firemen's Activity Building.

The Maryland Junior Grange Luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 19, at the Firemen's Building. Featured entertainment will be the winners of the Junior Grange Talent Contest. Tickets may be purchased from Alleene Hoppengardner at (717)-294-3758.

The Agricultural Banquet will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday evening at Cozy Restaurant. The toastmaster will be Lynn Ausherman, well-known local farmer. Guest speaker will be Dr. Donald Hedgewood, Dean of Agriculture at the University of Maryland. Highlights of the banquet will be the presentation of the Community Service Awards, Service to Maryland Agriculture and Granger of the Year Awards. The recipients of the Past Master's Agriculture Scholarships and Deaf Scholarships will be recognized.

For banquet tickets contact C. Rodman Myers at 271-2104.

The final day of the session, Saturday, Oct. 20, will be opened with a Youth Breakfast at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant at 8 a.m. Youth Directors, Pam Martin and Peggy Royer, will present youth awards. Guest speaker will be Earl F. Miller, principal of Catoclin High School. Tickets are available at 241-3996.

The final day activities will include the installation of two members of the State Grange Executive Committee. The Maryland FFA State Winners in the Parliamentary Procedure Contests will give a demonstration to the delegates.

NSF to fund Cornell bee study

ITHACA, NY — The same transportation system that shrinks our world is threatening agriculture by distributing diseases and insect infestations around planet Earth at an alarming rate, says a Cornell University scientist.

"One example is bee mite infestations which are spreading around the globe at such a terrific rate that they are expected to infest all countries that have honey bees within a decade or two," says Cornell's Roger Morse, a bee expert.

The Asian bee mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) is an example of how a mite can spread around the world. First discovered in 1904 in Indonesia, it was found in six nations, including Russia, Japan, and China in 1960. By 1970, 15 nations were infested, and by 1978, 32 nations, including countries in Europe, South America, and Africa, reported the pest.

Since then, the mite also has been found in Argentina, Bolivia, and 20 states in Brazil; the northern limits of its spread in South America are unknown. Fortunately, says Morse, none have been reported in North America.

To probe further into the nature of mites, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded

\$85,000 to Cornell to study the biology and control of the Asian mite.

The acarine bee mite, another bee pest, is an example of how quickly a mite can spread. Detected in northern Mexico this past summer, it now has been found in five states — Texas, Louisiana, South Dakota, Florida, and New York — and Morse suspects it is probably elsewhere. He predicts it could affect up to about 5 percent of honey production.

The Asian bee mites, however, pose the greatest threat. They cripple hives by feeding on bee pupae, sucking blood from between adult bee segments, and by attacking drone bees that fertilizer

queen bees.

By far, bees are the most important pollinator for plant crops. At least 50 crops in the U.S., occupying about 6 million acres, depend on insect pollination.

"In fact, almost one-third of our diet can be attributed to insect-pollinated plants," Morse points out. Animal and dairy products, for example, are derived from insect-pollinated legumes such as alfalfa and clover, and many fats and oils are from oilseeds that are dependent upon or benefit from insect pollination.

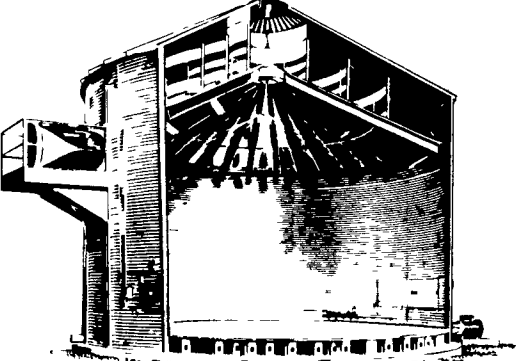
Morse predicts that the Asian bee mites probably will infest the U.S. within the next decade. "It's essential, therefore, that we learn how to live with these pests."

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