

Bradford Countians gather for annual Extension meeting

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent

WYALUSING — Nearly 75 people braved a winter snow storm Wednesday evening, Dec. 5, to attend the annual Bradford County Cooperative Extension meeting at the Friedenshutzen Restaurant near Wyalusing. Gary Staines, president of the Extension Executive Committee, chaired the meeting.

The climax of the program was presentation of the Outstanding Extension Cooperator Award to veteran 4-H leaders, Mrs. Grace Pickering of Herrickville, and Mr. Levi Roof, Leraysville. They were surprised and delighted to receive the award.

Mrs. Pickering's daughter, Mrs. Leona Decker, presented the trophy plaque to her mother. Mrs. Decker explained that she had been in her mother's 4-H clubs 21 years ago. Her mother had led in many different kinds of projects, both indoor and outdoor, including sewing, photography, rocketry, and many more. She had also participated in numerous local, county, and state 4-H activities, and many members of her clubs had received 4-H awards for excellence.

Introduced by his daughter, Mrs. Russell, Levi Roof was reported to have been a 4-H leader for 22 years. The size of his clubs grew from 20 youngsters to as many as 58 in the last year. He, too, willingly participated in local, county and state activities, and many of his members also had been on to claim awards as outstanding 4-H members. Another daughter, Levetta Comstock, is Bradford County's 4-H Agent. The topic of rabies was ad-

ressed by the speaker of the evening, Dr. Thomas Drake, Instructor, and Extension Specialist of Veterinary Science from Penn State University.

Rabies has survived since Biblical times, he began, because of its variable incubation period. Warm-blooded mammals may carry it around a long time before the virus is spread from the salivary glands by a bite or by another animal feeding on a rabid dead animal.

Symptoms of rabies may vary from the dumb state in which a dog, for example, will not be excited, or to the opposite form when a dog or other infected animal may turn violent.

The symptoms of rabies in cattle may be a non-specific change in temperament or unusual bawling, or may be accompanied by straining. They may also experience paralysis of the throat resulting in excessive salivation or inability to eat or drink. Farmers should not put their hands into the cow's mouth because the saliva of the infected animal contains the virus, cautioned Drake. Rabies is reportedly coming slowly northward from southern Pennsylvania, where the raccoon seems to be the carrier.

If a person has been bitten by a suspicious animal, the animal is quarantined for 10 days. If it does not show any symptoms of the disease, the person will not be treated. Treatment consists of 5 vaccinations with a vaccine that is

not harmful or too uncomfortable. A human vaccination is good for two years, and then a booster shot is required. The vaccine for dogs, cats, and sheep is effective about three years, explained Drake.

Prevention is obtained by vaccination of dogs and cats, and by not keeping wild animals for pets. If an animal acts strangely, it should be avoided, Dr. Drake concluded.

Carl Gore and Mrs. Robert (Anita) Whipple were elected to six-year terms on the executive committee. The meeting was adjourned quickly so that people could travel home before the storm worsened.



Mrs. Grace Pickering and Mr. Levi Roof were pleased to receive the Outstanding Extension Cooperator Awards at the annual meeting of the Bradford County Cooperative Extension.

Yule trees inspected for gypsy moths

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Buyers and sellers of Christmas trees are being asked to join Maryland's anti-gypsy moth war by assisting plant protection officials of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) in preventing accidental importation of gypsy moth egg masses.

Charles Staines, Entomologist for the Department, says inspectors from MDA are out looking as Christmas trees begin to move into the state and onto sales lots.

They are checking the origin of the trees to determine if they are coming from known areas of gypsy moth infestation. Should that be the case, the trees are carefully

inspected for egg masses on their trunks and larger branches.

Random inspections of all trees offered for sale may be made as an additional insurance against spread of the pest.

If egg masses are found, steps will be ordered to destroy the egg masses or possibly entire trees.

Buyers of Christmas trees can protect themselves by asking their suppliers questions about gypsy moth infestations in the growing fields. They can also ask that suppliers provide documentation to the effect that the trees have been inspected in their state of

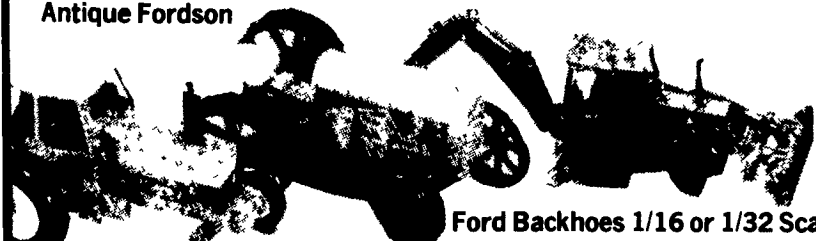
origin and have been certified free of gypsy moth egg masses by regulatory officials.

In 1983, MDA inspectors did find gypsy moth egg masses on Christmas trees imported into Maryland. Virginia authorities are taking a very hard line in 1984, requiring that trees originating from states infested with gypsy moth be inspected prior to shipment.

However, Staines says "The most effective work we can do in this area will come about through cooperation and common sense on the part of the Christmas tree trade."

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