

# Emergency medfly regs established by USDA

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established emergency regulations to restrict interstate movement of 84 kinds of produce and plants from the Miami area to prevent the spread of Mediterranean fruit flies.

According to Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the regulated products could contain eggs or larvae of the fruit fly and could possibly spread the pest beyond the regulated area.

The regulated area consists of about 90 square miles in Dade County, north of Miami.

"This federal quarantine action is substantially the same as the one Florida has imposed on the same area," Hawkins said. "It is designed to contain the pest while we work with the state to eradicate it."

Regulated items include tomatoes, peppers, apples, apricots, avocados, oranges, lemons, cherries, grapes, grapefruit, mangoes, peaches, pears and many other kinds of

fruits, nuts, berries, vegetables and ornamental plants.

All fruits and vegetables displayed for sale outdoors in the regulated area must be packaged or covered with plastic or netting so there is no chance for medflies

to deposit eggs in them.

"Fortunately, there are no commercial fruit growers in the area and very little commercial activity of regulated produce and plants," Hawkins said. "Right now we are concerned about people

bringing tomatoes into the area from farms to the west. The tomatoes could become infested with Medfly eggs or larvae and then be carried out of the area."

The regulations were effective upon publication in the May 8

Federal Register. Written comments may be submitted, until July 8, to Thomas O. Gessel, Director, Regulatory Coordination Staff, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

## USDA news, market reports available in computer link

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will inaugurate on July 1 a new computerized system that electronically transmits news and reports from a single point.

Assistant Secretary John J. Franke said the electronic service will make available for further dissemination such perishable information as USDA market reports, crop and livestock statistical reports, economic outlook and situation reports, foreign agricultural trade leads, export sales reports, world agricultural roundups and USDA news releases.

"With the advances in

technology which brought cost-effective computer-based systems and communications within reach, we can no longer rely only on traditional means to disseminate USDA information," Franke said. "The demand for immediate access to current and accurate agricultural data is increasing."

"The new service is designed to respond to the agricultural com-

munity's need for immediate access to current USDA information that will help in competing for domestic and world markets," Franke said.

The service will complement, rather than replace, USDA's traditional methods of printing and distributing information. The primary objective is to offer data to those who want and can handle

large volumes of information at medium or high computer transmission speeds.

Those who use the service will pay for the direct cost of accessing the information from the computer-based system provided under contract by Martin Marietta Data Systems, Orlando, Fla., which won the contract through competitive bidding procedures.

## Grain research emphasized in Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, MD — The University of Maryland's Agricultural Experiment Station (UMAES) and Cooperative Extension Service (UMCES) will conduct tours of small-grains research on May 22 and May 30.

On May 22, the university will host tours of research at its Wye Research and Education Center, near Queenstown. Tours will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include small grains variety trials, integrated pest management for

small grains diseases, use of herbicides and herbicide management in double-cropped soybeans, and high-yield-management studies that are underway at the university's center.

Just prior to the Wye tour, participants are invited to the George Towers/Jack Ripley farm on Baker Rd. near Denton, to see firsthand high yield management of small grains at work.

On May 30, the university will

host tours of research at 6:30 p.m. at its Poplar Hill research farm, near Salisbury.

There, visitors may tour studies of fungicides on small grains, row spacing, management fertility trials, and high yield management for wheat and barley.

For more information about the tours, call your local county Extension agent. Or, call agent Robert Rouse in Caroline County (479-4619) or agent Wayne Shaff in Wicomico County (749-6141).

## State unveils ag hotline

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture today announced the installation of a toll-free 800 number for use by the public in seeking help with agriculture-related problems and concerns.

The hotline number is 1-800-AG-PENNA (247-3662).

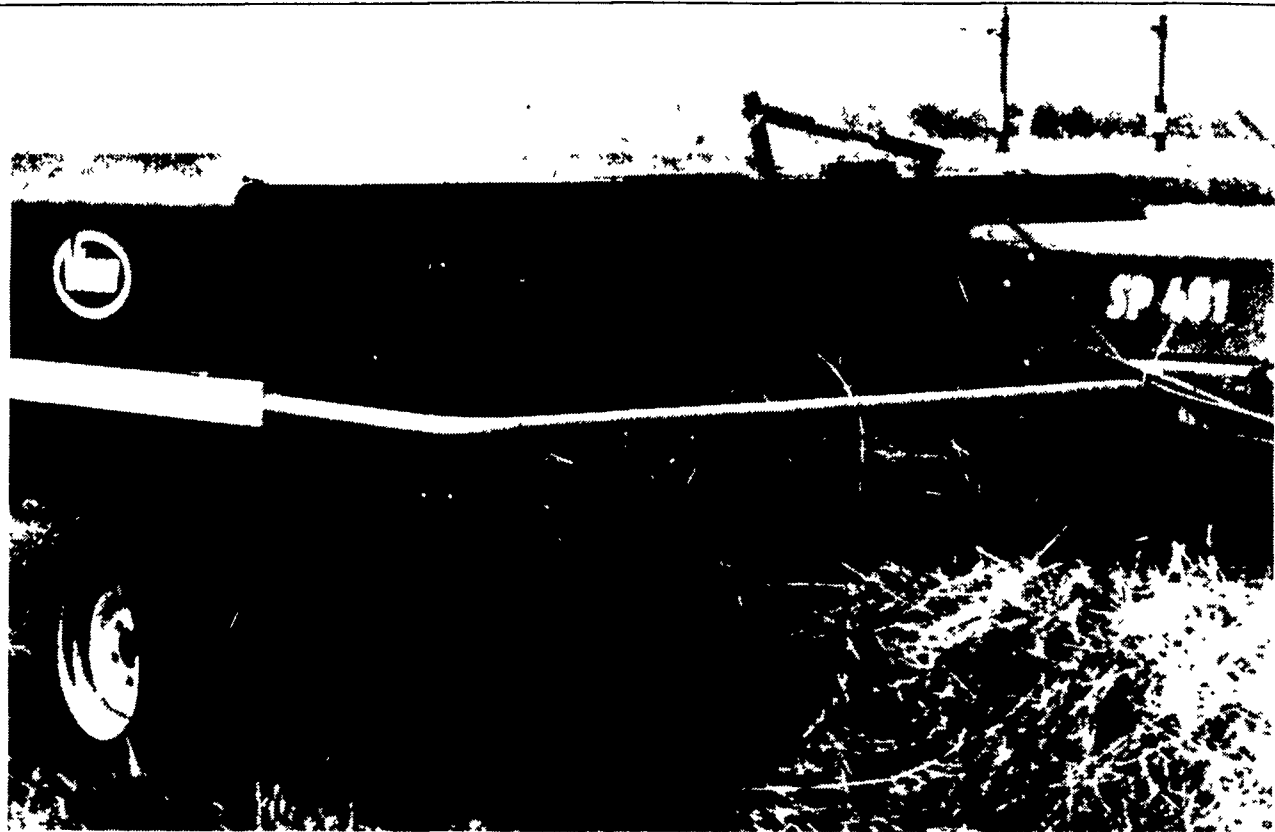
Acting Secretary of Agriculture George F. Grode noted that the Department has a great variety of responsibilities relating to agriculture, food and consumer protection and that 800-AG-PENNA can be used to get help with problems as diverse as amusement rides, animal health, dog laws, export sales, family farm development program, farmland preservation, farm marketing problems, food problems, lawn seed problems, pesticide use, plant diseases, plant pests, rabies, questions on weights and measures, and the wide range of services provided by the Department.

Responses to inquiries will be made as quickly as possible. The number will be answered by the Department's Press Office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A tape recording will accept calls during non-business hours. The hotline number can be reached from any telephone in Pennsylvania.

Grode stressed that the hotline should be used only by individuals having problems or complaints about agriculture-related issues and services. General agriculture information will be available by calling (717) 787-5085 or any of the Agriculture Department's seven regional offices.

"We are pleased to provide this new Agricultural Hotline Number for use by Pennsylvania farmers

and consumers," Grode said. "We hope that anyone having problems or difficulties relating to the many areas regulated by the Department will make use of this new service."



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