

Pa. 4-H'ers attend National Poultry, Egg Conference

GETTYSBURG — A team of four 4-H members from Pennsylvania attended the 1985 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. Representing Pennsylvania were: Noel King, York Springs; Pam Hawn, Gettysburg; Any Long, New Oxford; and Dave Smith, York Springs.

Those attending the conference participated in a variety of judging events, chicken and turkey barbecuing contests and egg preparation demonstrations, said Walter Griest, 4-H leader who attended the conference with the local delegates.

Among the highlights of a tour for the youngsters were a visit to Kentucky Fried Chicken headquarters and a tour of the Kentucky Derby Museum at Churchill Downs. The 4-H'ers also had an opportunity to see a few races at the famed race track.

While participating in the national conference, the young people competed in judging categories consisting of live poultry, carcass, interior quality of eggs and exterior quality of eggs.

Those 4-H'ers competing in the egg demonstration contest prepared quiches, flan, English trifles and other dishes calling for the use of eggs.

The barbecue contestants presented a demonstration on turkey or chicken barbecue and were required to cook either turkey breasts or chicken halves.

The team thanks Wenger Feed Mill, Pennfield Corporation, Dekalb Hatchery, the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation and the Adams County Poultry Association for their support of the team.

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A team of Pennsylvania 4-H'ers recently attended the 1985 National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference. Here team members (front from left) Pam Hawn, David Smith and Noel King, and (rear right) Andrew Long, pose with 4-H leader Walter Griest and Ann Griest.

The Box-elder bug: a harmless backyard 'pest'

NEWARK, Del. — Homeowners have been witnessing heavy infestations of an insect known as the box-elder bug. When full-grown, this insect is half an inch long, narrowly oval in shape, and dull black with thin red lines down its back. During cool fall days it sometimes migrates in large numbers to sun-warmed walls of nearby houses and other buildings, looking for a place to hibernate. Though not destructive, bugs that find their way indoors can be a nuisance.

Box-elder bugs, as the name indicates, are closely associated with box-elder trees. Since the best control for these pesky insects is to remove or spray nearby box-elder trees, University of Delaware extension horticulturist Dave Tatnall suggests harassed homeowners learn to recognize the tree on sight.

The box-elder, or ash-leaved maple (*Acer negundo*), is a medium-sized tree (40 to 50 feet) with a short, irregular trunk and broad, open crown. Its leaves consist of three to five irregularly toothed leaflets. The young twigs are stout, olive-green to purplish-often covered with a bluish-white bloom.

The seeds are typical of maples,

hanging in V-shaped, winged pairs in long, drooping clusters. These seeds often remain on the tree well into the winter. The sexes are separate in the box-elder tree, and it is the seed-bearing female trees that the bugs prefer.

They prefer rich, moist soil, but adapt to a variety of growing conditions. Although frequently found along stream bottoms and in moist woodlands, they also occur in many urban and suburban locations.

"If box-elder bugs become a serious nuisance around your house and in your neighborhood," Tatnall suggests, "survey existing trees and note which ones are box-elders. If the bugs are an annual problem, it may be desirable to remove some box-elder trees. Those with shade value—especially female trees—can be sprayed during the summer to reduce the number of bugs likely to migrate toward nearby houses come fall. Diazinon or another approved insecticide can be used."

There are also insecticides (such as Sevin, diazinon and malathion) that can be sprayed now on walls of buildings to reduce the adult box-elder bug population, says University of Delaware extension entomologist Mark Graustein.

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