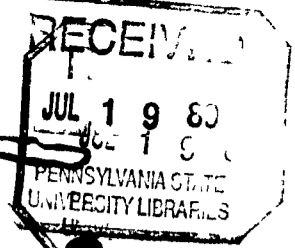


Lancaster Farming



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The Berry family and co-workers gather mid-morning in the alfalfa field anxious to get the baler and hay wagons on the move while the hot sun shines on their 100-acre farm in southern Lebanon County. Pictured are

Dave Schenck, Brian Nornhold, Pam and Jim Berry with sons Phillip and Jamie and co-worker George Steiner. Photo by Pat Purcell.

Rain Favors Outbreaks Of Slugs

BY J.F. STIMMEL
AND A.G. WHEELER, JR.
Pennsylvania Department
Of Agriculture

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Farmers are facing difficulties brought about by above-average rainfall. In addition to not being able to plant corn and problems in haying due to wet conditions, they are plagued by an unexpected pest -- slugs.

Conditions this year are ideal for slugs. The relatively mild winter caused low mortality in overwintering eggs. An early, dry spring retarded hatching; then the wet conditions needed for egg hatch set in.

The resulting "slug" of slugs, along with the extended wet weather, produced localized high populations that can be destructive.

Fields most susceptible are those with accumulations of duff, such as no-till systems. This debris provides ideal overwintering sites for slugs. Fields with much lodged grain are favorable for these pests, because moisture levels are high beneath the mats of plants.

Effective June 23, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has declared that a crisis situation exists with slugs in field corn. Under the provisions of Section 18 FIFRA, the pesticide LARVIN 3.2 Thiodicarb will be used as the control agent.

LARVIN is formulated as a bait for use in field situations. For specific information on the use of this pesticide, contact your county extension office.

Home gardeners are familiar with slugs and their damage, but farmers are seldom bothered. The most common field-infesting slug appears to be the gray garden slug, *Derocerus reticulata*, according to Dr. Robert Byers, an entomologist with the USDA Regional Pasture Lab at State College.

This pest feeds by stripping a layer of tissue from host leaves.

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Newspaper Bedding Makes Dollars For Farmers; Sense For Environment

BY PAT PURCELL

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Straw prices hit \$100 per ton nearly a year ago, and instead of peeling off dollar bills, Jim Berry began thumbing through his newspapers. He wasn't looking for cheaper bedding prices. He was looking at cheaper bedding.

This dairy farmer from the southern Lebanon area has turned to shredded newspaper as alternative bedding material. And like many other dairyman who use newspaper, Berry finds that besides being cheaper than straw the newsprint absorbs moisture and odor better than straw.

At this same time Berry installed a 12' by 46' manure storage system. He wondered how well the liquid manure system and spreader would handle the newspaper scraps.

"I was afraid there would be newspaper scraps blowing around the fields, but an hour after the newspaper is put into the system the paper turns to mush. It's great," said Berry.

Berry finds the newspaper dissolves rapidly in the manure storage and spreads well on the field.

Using newspaper for bedding is not a 1980's idea. In the 1960s Penn State University researchers ran trials on recycling newspaper for bedding. Their findings showed that as long as newspapers were properly prepared they served as a good bedding material for dairy cattle in both stall barns and on bedded packs in loose housing.

Recent research has confirmed those findings. According to Low-

ell Ayres, recycling coordinator for Potter County, shredded newspaper is better than straw for bedding dairy cattle. Ayres headed a pilot project in Potter County involving several dairy farmers who used the newsprint bedding.

The newsprint was dropped into bedding shredders and blown directly into the stalls. The used bedding then went into manure holding pits where it dissolved and

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Beef And Veal Ambassadors On Road

BY
EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.)—Beef is back and veal is here. That's the message the State Beef Industry Representative Program (BIR) tells consumers across Pennsylvania.

Last week, Thursday through Saturday, representatives from the Pennsylvania Beef Council, using check-off dollars, were cooking up delicious samples in Willow Valley Square. And patrons stopped

by the attractive display to get pointers on how to prepare beef and veal and ask questions about the industry.

"People aren't aware of the changes the industry has made in the last five or 10 years," said Barry Sands, BIR spokesman. "We need to educate the public about the lower fat and cholesterol content of beef and veal."

Kelly Lynn Mankamyer, Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Associa-

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