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Worm Devastates Corn Roots

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Farmers could lose a lot of their corn crops to western corn root worm this year. And if precautions are not taken next spring by applying pesticides before or after seeding, according to several corn specialists, farms could lose even more.

Facts about infestation of the western corn root worm, including the silk-consuming adult beetle and the root-eating larva, were presented at the 1990 Weed and Insect Control Field Day at the Penn State Southeastern Field Research Laboratory in Landisville. About 85 chemical dealers, county

agents, consultants, seed salesmen, and farmers attended the meeting on Monday, which included an overview of infestations of crops, including corn, potatoes, soybeans, and tobacco.

"We want to warn these people — particularly the extension agents, consultants, and others — that there's a problem out there with western corn root worm," said John Yocum, head of the station.

Initially, the station wasn't aware the problem existed until several scouts identified the bug. "We didn't know that the corn root worm problem was here," said Yocum. "All of the work they did last year in this particular field

didn't turn up any big numbers of adult insects. We had no idea that they were here."

Larva stage

The root worm's larva stage devastates the corn roots. The adult beetles eat the silks of the stalk and lay eggs. The following year, the eggs hatch and the larva burrows its way through the base-roots, eating the roots.

A telltale sign of corn root worm feeding is a "goosenecking" of the stalk, which may resemble wind damage or tramping. The roots should be inspected for the white larva, measuring about ¼ to ½ inch long with a black head.

If there is sufficient rain throughout the growing season, the plant has a chance of surviving until harvest. If the dry patterns persist — as they have been in several counties, including Lancaster — the plant may die.

The infestation could result in huge losses for many corn growers in the area.

Spoke about problem

Greg W. Roth, Penn State corn specialist, spoke about the root worm problem discovered at the Landisville station.

"Normally we haven't had a problem with corn root worm on

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Don Robinson, instructor with the Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program, shows "goosenecking" cornstalks caused by corn root worm infestation.

Hearing On Egg Refrigeration Bill Exposes Flaws, Strengths

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Concerned with the shadow cast on the egg industry from recent outbreaks of salmonellosis, many egg processors are pushing for legislation for mandatory egg refrigeration.

However, smaller egg producers could be financially harmed by the legislation because it would

require them to purchase refrigeration equipment.

While refrigeration does not kill *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE), an organism that causes severe food poisoning when ingested, it does reduce the chances of spreading the salmonella since the bacteria cannot grow in refrigerated temperatures.

Diverse testimony was heard

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Pork Producers Question Littering Campaign That Includes Swine

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — At least one member of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council wants to trash a PennDOT anti-littering campaign because the campaign includes a picture of a pig.

On Monday, the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) unveiled its \$400,000 campaign to eliminate roadside littering. It is the very first paid advertising campaign undertaken by PennDOT.

However, on Thursday, the secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council (PPPC) announced his objections

to the campaign because the theme of the anti-littering effort centers on comparisons between hogs and men who litter.

The campaign features a slogan for billboards and bumper stickers, brochures, television and radio commercials, and print media advertisement.

Print advertisements depict a

man dropping some litter while standing next to a hog. Beneath the two is printed: "What's the difference between the animal on the left (the hog) and the one on the right (the littering man)?"

In smaller type below it: "The animal on the left doesn't litter."

The bumper sticker and billboard slogan has the line: "Oink if you litter."

One of the television advertisements reportedly shows a man talking about littering while gradually turning into a hog and then walking away.

According to a PennDOT official, the campaign started Monday with a television commercial that will run for a month. Other por-

tions are to continue with brochures and bumper stickers to be dispersed on a county level and in schools.

According to Herbert Schuck, secretary-treasurer PPPC, the campaign is damaging to the image of the hog and ultimately the pork production industry.

"We (the pork industry) spend millions of dollars promoting pork, trying to make a good image and here PennDOT spends \$400,000 tearing it down and I doubt if the highways are going to be any cleaner," Schuck said.

He said that the connection between hogs and roadside garbage could lead people to look

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Lancaster County Holstein Show: Quality Runs Deep

At the Lancaster County Holstein show, Thursday, John and Susan Howard (left) won the premier exhibitor award and Paul and Matthew Welk (Welk-Crest Holsteins) won the premier breeder award. See story Page A-24

Dairy Farm Youth To Sing National Anthem

HANCOCK, Md. — The 16-year-old daughter of a Washington County, Maryland dairy farmer will be singing the National Anthem a capella at Memorial Stadium as part of the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Association's July 22 promotion with the Baltimore Orioles.

Just before the umpire's call to "Play Ball," Shannon McKee of Hancock will be stepping up to the microphone before a crowd that could measure well over 40,000 people.

Although she has never performed to a crowd of this size before, she is no newcomer to the stage. At the ripe old age of 12, Shannon began singing professionally. She performs regularly at the Appalachian Jubilee in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. She also sings at local fairs, weddings, and at Hancock Middle/Senior High where she will be a junior this fall.

Shannon is also no newcomer when it comes to singing the National Anthem at baseball

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