

Pest Control On Horizon In Greenhouses

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Biological pest control: What is it? Does it work? Is it a commercially viable alternative to pesticides?

These are some of the questions growers are asking as they contemplate the voluntary withdrawal of some key pesticides from the market by pesticide manufacturers.

Biological pest control takes advantage of the adversarial relationship of natural enemies to control crop pest problems. In other words, the good bugs wipe out the bad bugs!

The Pennsylvania Department

of Agriculture funded a three-year research study of biological pest control in several greenhouses in the state that are producing tomatoes and poinsettias. The study, in its final year, is being carried out by Penn State University Extension personnel and is showing some promising results.

For example, one grower has not applied any pesticides to his tomato crop over seven months, controls pests with beneficial insects, pollinates the crop with honeybees and bumblebees, produces high quality tomatoes, and sells the crop as "pesticide-free" at premium prices to chain stores in

Boston and at farmer's markets in Washington, D.C. The grower's employees enjoy working in a pesticide-free environment and enthusiastically support biocontrol.

Growers participating in the project are very pleased with the level of control they have obtained. Pesticide bills have been reduced or eliminated and been replaced with beneficial insects and scouting.

Biocontrol costs are similar to pesticide application costs. Other advantages include safer working environment with no concern for reentry times and the production

of a high quality product.

What is the future of bio-control in Pennsylvania?

Some interest has been expressed in establishing a greenhouse-oriented Crop Management Association (CMA) to aid growers in

establishing a biocontrol based pest control system. If you are interested in this concept, contact Jan Pruss, director of the Pennsylvania Crop Management Association in State College, at (814) 863-1020.

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4-H, FFA Lamb, Goat Show Held

NEWPORT (Perry Co.) — Tony Trout, Newport, captured the FFA grand champion market lamb honors with his 110-pound Suffolk lamb as it bested 33 other lambs in competition.

Trout and the other 4-H and FFA market lamb exhibitors showed their project animals in front of a large crowd gathered around the ring to watch the show.

Dick Kezumchek, shepherd of the Penn State University sheep flock, judged the show. Kezumchek selected another project lamb, a Hampshire cross belonging to Amy Byers of Liverpool, for reserve FFA champion.

Melissa Dobbs of Newport, a first year member in the 4-H Livestock Club, won top 4-H market lamb honors with her market lamb, while another young 4-H member from Newport, Becky Sue Horting, took reserve 4-H champion market lamb honors.

Two 4-H members from Millerstown swept the 4-H sheep showmanship contest. Heather Benner captured the champion showmanship honors, while Krista Byers took reserve showmanship honors. Krista also received reserve showmanship honors in the FFA showmanship competition, while Amy Byers, Liverpool, received top FFA sheep showmanship honors.

The breeding sheep show saw

Heather Benner take 4-H champion ewe, FFA champion ewe, and FFA reserve champion ewe. Becky Sue Horting Newport, won reserve 4-H champion ewe.

During the market goat show, Daniel Eicher, Duncannon, captured top 4-H showmanship honors and Laura Turnbaugh, Newport took reserve champion 4-H market goat showman. Jim Kitner, Shermansdale and Christina Wright, Newport took champion and reserve champion FFA showman, respectively.


Holly Jo McLaren, Shermansdale, won the grand champion 4-H market goat competition for her 76-pound Nubian market goat. Judge Robert Allen, Newville, placed the classes.

Reserve champion 4-H market goat honors went to Jamie Stoltzfus, Loysville, with his 72-pound Nubian.

Christina Wright and Jim Kitner took champion and reserve champion FFA market goats honors, respectively.



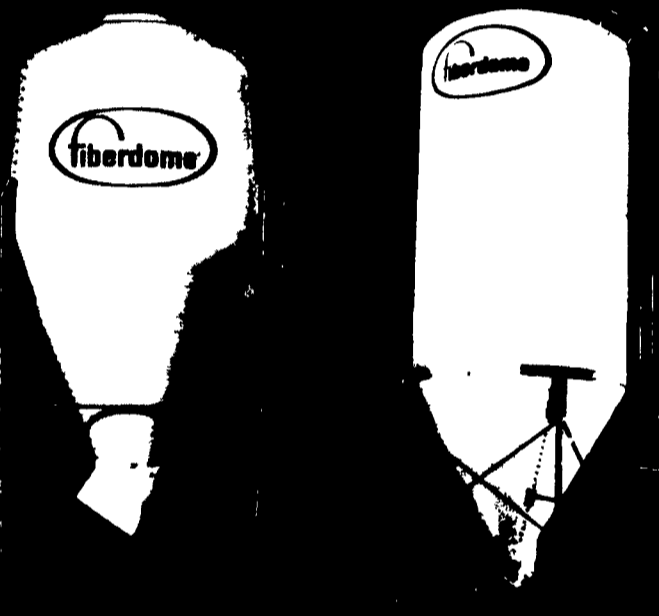
From left, Sue Montgomery, New Bloomfield, a 4-H Livestock Club sheep leader, presents Becky Sue Horting, Newport with the reserve grand champion 4-H Ewe ribbon.



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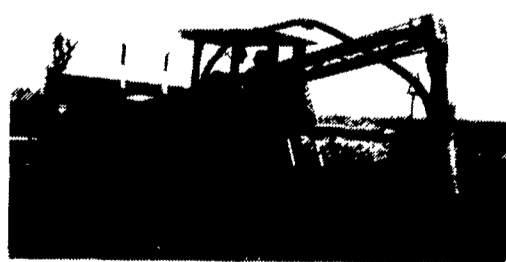
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