

## Douglas Fir Needle Midge Confirmed In Pa.

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LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Rayanne Lehman, entomologist for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), discussed the confirmation of Douglas fir needle midge in the state at the Southeast Christmas Tree Growers meeting Tuesday evening here at the Berks County Agricultural Center.

The Douglas fir needle midge is a small fly that spends its larval stage in the Douglas fir tree needle eating plant material.

According to Lehman, this pest has not had a large impact on growers in the state as of yet. Most infestation is ranked as light.

Douglas fir needle midge was first detected in 2002 and was confirmed again in 2003 in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and York counties.

"This is not going to lead to the decline of Douglas Fir production in the state," said Lehman. She said the greatest concern with the introduction of this pest is misdiagnosis by growers for another disease, such as Rhabdochline needlecast.

Lehman also said that this pest is of an aesthetic problem causing fir tree needle loss and broken needles.

"Needle midge is not going to kill the tree or cause a problem in the home," said Lehman. "It will just make the tree unsalable."

Lehman stressed this is an ideal time of year for Christmas tree growers to check their trees to see if they have an infestation, because the gall (bulge) on the needle is most noticeable, and make plans for handling the problem next spring.

If growers need assistance in confirming a needle midge infestation, Lehman said they can contact Penn State Extension or their local agriculture department plant inspector.

More information on the Douglas Fir Needle Midge and the Southeast Christmas Tree Growers meeting is scheduled for *Lancaster Farming's Turf & Tree* section in the Dec. 6 issue.

## Certified Crop Adviser Seminar A Success



GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Certified crop advisers (CCAs) turned out in force for the Continuing Education Seminar Wednesday and Thursday this week here at the Holiday Inn. Speakers from left included Jere Wingert, extension; George Umholtz, chair, PennAg Agriproducts; Dave Bingaman, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Amy Bradford, PennAg; M.S. Srinivasan, hydrologist, USDA-ARS; Del Voight, Lebanon extension; Mark Goodman, York extension; Peter Kleinman, Penn State/USDA; Joanne Whalen, University of Delaware; and Betty Marose, University of Maryland. Information from the seminar is scheduled in an upcoming issue of *Lancaster Farming*. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

## Holstein Selection Party Kicks Off

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association invites all Holstein breeders to consign to the Annual Convention Sale, in

Greensburg, Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. in the Four Points Sheraton.

PHA and its Southwest District Convention Committee, co-

managers of the 2004 Convention Sale, seek the best Holstein genetics for the sale. She could be your Very Good 2-year-old with potential for Excellent. Maybe she is

the top on your CTPI or PTPI lists. She might possibly be the one that will grace the colored shavings in 2004 and take home All-American honors. Maybe she is backed by multiple generations of Excellent and Very Good cows. Most importantly they must be the best looking Holsteins on the East Coast.

If you have a possible consignment, please contact the PHA at [www.paholsteins.com](http://www.paholsteins.com), [djlentz@paholsteins.com](mailto:djlentz@paholsteins.com), or (814) 234-0364 and (717) 329-9202. Consignment cut-off date is Jan. 1.

A special treat is in store for the Dec. 6 *Lancaster Farming Grower & Marketer*: a full page poster pullout of some of the most popular farm market stands in south-east Pennsylvania. This issue will also have special components, including a maple growing feature and a Christmas tree story for *Lancaster Farming's Turf & Tree*. Also scheduled: a story on worm castings.



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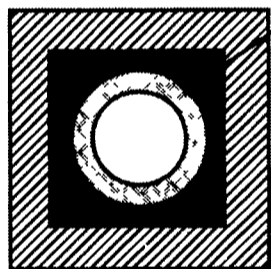
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