Tent caterpillar control requires early action

Budding trees are a welcome sight to homeowners who cheer such signs of spring. Unfortunately, the pleasure can turn to dismay if the trees are victims of Eastern tent caterpillars.

These insects are the most widespread early spring insect in the United States, says Dr. Doug Johnson, an Extension entomologist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. They overwinter on trees, hatch and spin webs in limb crotches.

"Most people get really concerned when they see the large number of caterpillars," said Johnson who is headquartered at UK's Research and Education Center near Princeton.

Whilst the insects usually don't kill a tree, they do make it unsightly by defoliating it. Johnson said a tree can be defoliated as many as three times before damage is severe. However, a tree that is stressed in other ways, such as one whose roots have been trimmed for water lines, is more susceptible to damage, according to the entomologist.

As the caterpillars increase in size, the web is expanded until it may reach the size of a football.

Dr. R.A. Scheibner, another UK entomologist, points out that tent caterpillar problems usually begin on wild cherry trees and often do not cause problems. However, if a tree is stripped bare before the caterpillars are fully grown, they migrate in a group to neighboring trees to continue feeding.

"When caterpillars have become fully grown, they also wander down out of the trees and scatter in all directions seeking a niche to change to pupae and then to moths," explains Scheibner.

Once the caterpillars have migrated, it is too late to apply effective controls, according to the specialists. They recommend control steps when webs are small. Webs may be torn from trees when the caterpillars are congregated in them, such as at night or on rainy or overcast days. The contents should be crushed and discarded.

If the webs are too high to reach, they may be sprayed with insecticides, such as Methoxychlor, Sevin, Diazinon or Malathion, according to directions for use.

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Heading to Nationals

Sally Ray, Frankfort senior, is one of the 15 members of Morehead State University's individual events speech team who have qualified for the National Forensic Association national championship tournament in April. MSU placed fifth in the nationals last year. — Photo submitted.

Crop insurance: do you need it?

Farmers already pinching pennies might not be interested in spending additional money for crop insurance. However, a farm management Extension specialist with the University of Kentucky urges consideration of this risk management opportunity.

"Loss of a single crop can mean the inability to fully cover high fixed costs," says Dr. Don Shurley, a UK ag economist headquartered at the Research and Education Center near Princeton.

Shurley says in deciding whether to purchase crop insurance, a farmer must consider his ability to absorb financial loss. "Many farmers have argued that crop insurance would not benefit them," he said. "This argument is not without some merit. After all, if the chances of yield falling below insurance levels is small, money spent on crop insurance premiums might be spent better elsewhere."

Shurley suggests that farmers assess their own operations, including yield histories, field locations, soil conditions and present financial position when considering crop insurance.

Changes in crop insurance

Several recent changes in the Federal Crop Insurance program might make insurance more attractive to producers, according to Shurley. These include:

— Liberalization of the Individual Yield Coverage Plan which provides protection based on a producer's individual yield history. This, says the specialist, will enable top producers to qualify for higher protection without increasing their per-acre insurance cost.

— Elimination of coverage penalties for not harvesting (on corn and soybeans) and a replant payment provision to cover the cost of replanting.

— A late planting option to provide coverage if producers are not able to plant by the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. final planting date. A maximum of up to 30 days delay is permitted. Premiums remain the same, but yield coverage is reduced by 10 percent for each five days past the established planting date.

"The Individual Certified Yield Program is perhaps the most beneficial change," said Shurley. Under the new procedure, a producer with at least the three most recent years' records out of the past 10 years can qualify for Individual Yield Coverage.

Natural disasters

Shurley said another reason to consider the crop insurance program is the shift in government policy dealing with crop losses due to natural disasters.

"Current policy calls for gradual replacement of the disaster payments program with the federal crop insurance program, according to the specialist.

Under the insurance program, crops are insured against quantity and quality losses due to essentially all unavoidable hazards, such as drought, flood, freeze, hail, wind, insects and disease. Farmers may choose from one to three different yield guarantees (50, 65 or 75 percent of normal yield) and one of three different levels of price paid for covered loss.

Each farm is classified by the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. to establish normal yields.

Shurley illustrates production and price coverage with the following example:

Assume a farmer plants 100 acres of corn. His farm has a Class 3 classification and a Federal Crop Insurance Corp. normal yield of 82 bushels per acre. The farmer chooses to insure the crop at 65 percent of normal yield and selects the $2.75 per bushel price option. His production guarantee is 53 bushels per acre (65 percent of 82 bushels — the area yield).

If the actual harvested yield is 35 bushels per acre, the covered loss is 18 bushels per acre or 1,800 bushels. The insurance payment received would be $2.70 per covered bushel or $4,860.

Shurley notes there is nothing inherently right or wrong in choosing crop insurance or rejecting it. "Successful crop and livestock production depends on a favorable combination of many factors, including climate," notes the specialist.

He offers this checklist for helping determine the desirability of federal crop insurance:

— Can you obtain Individual Yield Coverage or is expected yield close to the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. established yield?

— Is a large portion of crop land susceptible to drought and flood based on its soil type or location?

— Would a crop loss, regardless of its likelihood, cripple you financially?

— Is your risk attitude such that you find the premium cost small relative to the cost of not having insurance?

More specific information on federal crop insurance is available from county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices.

Fire runs reported

Several fire runs have been reported by County Fire Chief Woody Wilson since the first of the month.

The most serious of these was a fire at the Dr. Cameron farm 15 miles northwest of Carlisle on the Johnson Road. A tenant, Sol Brock, had just moved in the house. Attic wiring apparently caught on fire. Extensive damage was reported to the upper portion of the house. The fire happened on Wednesday, April 6.

County firemen were called to Emery Clark's Used Cars on Tuesday, April 5, at about 10:30 a.m. A mechanic was removing a gas tank from a car when wires apparently got crossed and ignited the gas. There was water and smoke damage and the wiring on the vehicle burned.

On April 2 at about 4:10 p.m., firemen were called to U.S. 68 about seven miles north of Carlisle where a woman was reportedly pinned in a car after a wreck. She had been removed by the time firemen arrived, according to Chief Woody Wilson.

HORSE SHOW TO BE AT MOREHEAD

Morehead State University is hosting the 18th annual Agricultural Club Horse Show on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16, at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex on Ky. 377.

This is the first show of the season in the Central Kentucky Horse Show Association circuit.

Competition in 29 classes will result in the awarding of more than $5,500 in prize money.

The event is scheduled in Richardson Arena at 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday.

Admission is $2 for adults and free to children under five years of age.

Additional information is available from Dr. Joe Bendixen, MSU professor of agriculture, at 606-783-2662.

FmHA to remove funds from Ky., says Huddleston

Senator Walter (Dee) Huddleston, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, has accused the administration of breaking its compacts with both the Congress and Kentucky's farmers and said he will press for immediate consideration of his emergency farm credit legislation.

Huddleston's announcement came in response to the disclosure that the Farmers Home Administration has shut down its operating loan program in 17 states due to a shortage of funds.

Even though FmHA currently has adequate operating loan funds in Kentucky, that could change, Huddleston pointed out, because the Administration is planning to withdraw part of Kentucky's allocation to cover loans that have already been approved in other states.

"Just last week, the administration sent a letter to Congress stating its 'strenuous objections' to emergency credit legislation and stating that legislation was not needed," Huddleston said.

"I have since learned that the Administration knew in early March that the Farmers Home Administration would run out of funds.

"The Administration has broken its promise that no farmers would be refused operating credit because of a lack of funds," Huddleston said.

"The facts are that thousands of farmers are being turned away by the Farmers Home Administration and that over $100 million of loans have been approved in states that do not have the funds to issue the checks."

The Emergency Agricultural Credit Act, introduced by Huddleston and Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi, provides additional operating loan funds and deferrals on loan repayments for qualified Farmers Home Administration borrowers. The legislation has already been favorably reported by the Senate Agricultural Committee.

"Despite the administration's arguments to the contrary, this practical emergency credit legislation is absolutely necessary to help farmers facing financial difficulties through no fault of their own," Huddleston said.

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Carry Over Tobacco Grading Date Changes

Due to the heavy flow of excess tobacco we have rescheduled the grading dates for the Maysville markets.

Grading will begin April 6, 7 and 8 in the KY. KING, Independent and Home warehouses. On April 11, 12 and 15 grading will begin in KY KING, Home, Independent and Star. Those scheduled for grading on April 15 will now be graded on April 8 and those scheduled on April 20 will now be graded April 11. Grading begins at 8:30 a.m.

For further information contact The Parker® Tobacco Company at (606) 564-6801 or (606) 564-6802.

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DEALING AND THE BIBLE

God has said a lot about drinking in His Word. Please observe a few of the plain words from God:

Deut. 21:20 - Drunkenness associated with stubbornness, rebellion and gluttony.

Prov. 23:21 - Drunkenness leads to proverty.

Prov. 23:29-32 - It brings sorrow, trouble and misery. At the last, it bites like a serpent.

Isa. 5:11-12 - Woe to the drunkards.

Hab. 2:15 - Hear this solemn word from the Bible. God said, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink."

Rom. 13:13 - Christians are commanded to walk honestly, not in rioting and drunkeness.

I Cor. 6:10 - No drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:21 - Drunkenness is a work of the flesh and the drunkard who does not repent is going to hell.

SUNDAY: Bible Study 10 A.M. — Worship 11 A.M. — Worship 6 P.M.

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study 7 P.M.

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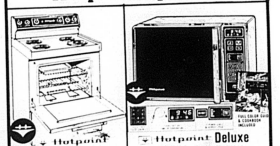

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Microvave demonstration at store Fri., April 22, 10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

If IRS visits you, ask for his ID

If you're a senior citizen, and someone from the Internal Revenue Service pays you a visit, you'd better make sure he or she is a bonafide representative of the Service, the IRS cautions.

Unfortunately, senior citizens are prime targets of tax and tax deduction schemes, where persons impersonating IRS employees show up to "collect" additional taxes. The IRS says all of its employees are required to carry clearly recognizable identification which must be presented when they contact taxpayers. Most people who owe additional tax are contacted by mail, so make sure you don't transact business of any kind if you suspect fraud.

Also, beware of organizations claiming to have tax-exempt status who ask for donations to their cause. While there are many legitimate and praiseworthy organizations with actual tax-exempt status, there are also bogus groups posing as bonafide tax-exempt organizations.

If you have any reason to believe someone is impersonating an IRS employee, or if you suspect someone of representing a bogus tax-exempt organization, call the IRS on the tax information number listed in your local directory and ask for the Office of the Regional Inspector.

Remember, under no circumstances should you give money, checks, bank books, or any other item of value to someone you're not sure of. When it's your money, it pays to be careful.

New restrictions on sulfite in food

Effective immediately, all Kentucky retail food establishments using sulfites on their foods must advise customers of that fact. The state Cabinet for Human Resources is requiring consumer notification because recent medical findings link sulfiting agents to severe illness in people sensitive to the chemicals.

Sulfiting agents, sometimes called "vegetable fresheners" or "potato whiteners," are used primarily to maintain the fresh appearance of raw foods. Human Resources began notifying food service establishments, retail food markets and food vending machine companies this week by memorandum that such chemicals may be used only if consumers are informed by means of a "conspicuous, easily readable label, sign, placard or menu statement." Those who use the chemical without notice to customers will be considered in violation of state regulation, the memo says.

According to Irving Bell, director of the cabinet's Division of Consumer Health Protection, the state's action follows a recommendation recently issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"The FDA has reported that some people sensitive to sulfiting agents, primarily people with asthma, have suffered life-threatening respiratory distress, shock and even coma after eating food treated with sulfites," said Bell. "If people sensitive to sulfites know that foods have been treated with these agents, they can avoid eating them."

Under the new interpretation of state regulations, sulfite-treated foods will be considered safe only if consumers have been informed that such treatments have been used. Bell said local health department inspectors will begin checking immediately, during regular inspections of retail food establishments, to determine compliance with the notification requirement.

Six sulfiting agents are approved by the FDA for food use: sulfur dioxide, sodium sulfite, sodium and potassium bisulfite, and sodium and potassium metabisulfite. Since 1959 all six chemicals have been considered "generally recognized as safe" by the federal agency. An FDA information bulletin states that employees of retail food establishments usually dip or soak food in sulfite solutions to slow the oxidation process that causes discoloration of many raw foods (lettuce or cut apples turning brown, for example). Sulfiting agents also may be sprayed onto foods or added in powder form to dough, guacamole and mashed potatoes. Primary uses of the agents include the following treatments: Markets — fresh fruits, vegetables and seafood for display; bakeries — dough (as a conditioner; restaurants — fresh fruits and vegetables (particularly for salad bars), avocados for guacamole, peeled or cut raw potatoes before cooking; caterers — fresh fruits and vegetables for display.

Following application, sulfites can remain in or on food, despite washing. Cooking, particularly the high heat of frying, reduces sulfite residues but may not eliminate them.

Bell said the use of sulfites in meats has been banned in Kentucky since the 1960s because the chemical camouflages meat spoilage and alters the vitamin B content.

Contraband auction

An auction of contraband and surplus equipment will be held at the Game Farm, Frankfort, Monday, May 2, 1983 at 9:30 a.m.

Among the items to be sold to the highest bidders are rifles, shotguns, handguns, boats, motors, boat trailers, reels, reels, binoculars and miscellaneous equipment of a similar nature.

The sale, under the direction of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, is to dispose of both surplus equipment and items declared contraband and confiscated by the courts from convicted game and fish law violators.

According to Kentucky law, contraband items can only be sold to the Kentucky residents. There is no residency requirement for the purchase of surplus equipment. Most of the firearms, hunting, fishing and trapping equipment are contraband.

All bidders must register before the sale. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Only cash or certified checks will be accepted, no guarantees will be given on any item and all sales will be final.

The Game Farm is located three miles west of Frankfort on U.S. 60.

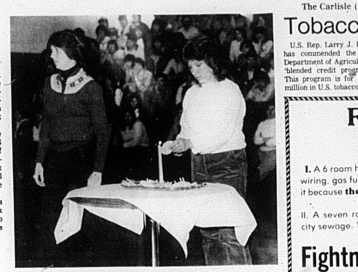
HUDDLESTON DOESN'T LIKE FOREST LAND SALE

Senator Walter (Dee) Huddleston says he is deeply concerned over the Department of Agriculture's plan to look at the possible sale of six million acres of National Forest lands, including more than 34,000 acres of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky.

Huddleston, who is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, through which the legislation must pass, pledged to do whatever is necessary to stop the legislation and protect Kentucky's interests.

"This administration seems bound and determined to plunder our national heritage to achieve ill-defined goals that I am not convinced even they understand," Huddleston said.

"I have no doubt that if Congress were to enact authorizing legislation to 'study' the possible sale, this administration would see it as a mandate to sell.



Honor Society Initiation

The candle of knowledge was symbolically lit for the National Honor Society initiates during March at NCHS. Doing the honors for the honored were Denise Highland and Missy Rawlings. — Photo submitted.

Tractor-trailer strikes rural Roy Berry home

A tractor trailer, operated by Gary Davis of Lexington, North Carolina, left Highway 32 in a curve Thursday, March 31, causing considerable damage to two parked vehicles and a mobile home belonging to the Roy Berry family, according to sheriff's reports.

Reports said the tractor trailer left the road about three miles north of Carlisle and struck a telephone pole. The pole then hit the front porch of the Berry home, causing extensive damage. The tractor trailer then demolished a parked car and a Jeep and overturned, causing severe damage to the tractor, the trailer and its contents.

The driver suffered minor injuries.

Two other wrecks

Two other wrecks were also reported by the sheriff's office during recent days. Vehicles driven by Mark Ratliff of Route 1, Ewing, and Mary Baker of Route 4, Carlisle, collided on a hill about eight miles north of Carlisle on the Mint Ridge Road at about 11:15 a.m. Monday, April 4, according to sheriff's reports. The Baker woman was slightly injured and was treated at Nicholas County Hospital.

A car driven by Delvon Jones of Route 2, Carlisle, ran off U.S. 68 and hit a tree and a fence about seven miles north of Carlisle at about 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. Ms. Jones was trapped in the wreckage for a short time and was then removed by ambulance to Nicholas County Hospital for treatment.

SMOKEY THE BEAR

Smokey Bear, the forest fire preventing bear in the ranger's hat, is credited with saving many lives and avoiding losses of $20 billion.

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Tobacco, corn exported

U.S. Rep. Larry J. Hopkins, R-Ky., has commended the United States Department of Agriculture for its new 'blended credit program' to Egypt. This program is for the sale of $30 million in U.S. tobacco and $20 million in U.S. corn, USDA Secretary John Block made the announcement.

"Secretary Block has opened the door for new tobacco exports," Hopkins said. "This is a bright new spot on the horizon for tobacco farmers."

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