

State Veterinarian Issues A Warning On Screwworms

Warm Weather Presents Ideal Condition for Spread

Warm weather will be bringing ideal conditions for the spread of screwworms, and the state veterinarian with the N. C. Department of Agriculture urges livestock producers and handlers to watch out for infestations of this destructive pest in livestock, reporting cases promptly.

Although none have been reported in North Carolina since 1957, Dr. Hal J. Rollins reminds cattlemen that all but this state, South Carolina and Florida in the southeast reported some area infestations in 1961. He said that state and federal veterinarians should stay on the alert, and urged that they and local veterinarians along with livestock owners report any suspected cases immediately. Specimens should be sent to the state veterinarian for positive identification.

States in the southeast screw-worm eradication area are South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana east of the Mississippi River.

Dr. Rollins said that starting on May 1, 1962, all livestock, including dogs, moving into or through the above states are required by federal regulations to be accompanied by a screwworm inspection certificate in addition

to a health certificate, and must have been inspected within 36 hours prior to movement.

Livestock from North Carolina consigned directly to a federal-state approved abattoir for immediate slaughter may be moved into or through the eradication area on inspection and declaration by the owner that they are free from screwworm. The declaration must show the number, breed and sex of livestock, point of origin, name and address of owner and shipper as well as that of the approved abattoir, and also state that they are being moved for immediate slaughter purposes only.

The screwworm is a highly destructive pest and can kill an animal in ten days if allowed to go untreated. Dr. Rollins says animals should be examined regularly and if eggs or maggots are found they should be placed in rubbing alcohol and forwarded to the state veterinarian.

Wounds suspected of infestation should be treated with EQ 335, smear 62, Korlan or other recommended substances. Animals, if suspected as hosts, can be sprayed with Co-Ral or Korlan or other suitable pesticides. Livestock sprayed with these products should not be slaughtered or used for human food without observing the waiting period specified in the directions on the spray material. The usual waiting period is approximately 30 days, Dr. Rollins said.

In the southwest sexually-sterile male screwworm flies are being air-dropped in infested areas. When sterile males mate with native female flies, eggs deposited by the females do not hatch.

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Agronomists Say Poor Liming Threatens N. C. Farm Profits

If North Carolina farmers are going to reach their farm income goal of \$1.6 billion by the end of 1966, they will have to do a better job of liming.

This is the opinion of soil experts from North Carolina State College and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture who have studied recent liming trends in the state.

In fact, a newly completed survey shows that North Carolina farmers are using less than 60 per cent of the lime they need for maximum yields and profits.

The percentage of adequately limed soil varies widely across North Carolina, however, according to N. C. Department of Agriculture agronomist C. D. Welch, who conducted the survey.

Coastal Plain farmers, for example, are applying only one-third of their annual lime needs. Piedmont and Western North Carolina farmers, on the other hand, are applying four-fifths of their lime needs.

Welch attributes much of this difference to the present Agricultural Conservation Program. Under the program, farmers are eligible for government assistance in liming land-conserving crops, such as forage. Traditional row crops of the Coastal Plain are not eligible for this assistance.

Welch reports that more and

more Coastal Plain farmers are purchasing lime without the government assistance.

In 1960, for example, Coastal Plain farmers used 155,000 tons of lime, only 65,000 tons of which were bought with ACP help. During the same year, Piedmont farmers received government help on 295,000 tons of the 325,000 tons they applied. Mountain farmers received help on 85,000 of the 95,000 tons they used.

Welch estimates that a total of 575,000 tons of lime were applied in North Carolina in 1960. He figures that Tar Heel farmers could have profitably used 1,000,000 tons, however.

In the Coastal Plain, the annual lime need has been placed at 480,000 tons. Some 155,000

tons were used in 1960. Piedmont farmland needs 400,000 tons annually, of which 325,000 tons were applied in 1960. Mountain farmers used about 95,000 tons of their estimated 1960 needs of 120,000 tons.

Dr. Gene Younts of the State College Soils Department says the value of lime has been recognized for centuries.

Younts points out that most soils in North Carolina are acid unless they have been limed. In addition to native acidity,

soils tend to become acid due to the loss of bases by leaching and plant removal.

By acid soils, Dr. Younts means that they contain large amounts of hydrogen and aluminum.

- (1) Reduces harmful levels of aluminum.
- (2) Supplies the plant with calcium, and magnesium, too, if dolomitic lime is used.
- (3) Increases the growth of soil microorganisms.
- (4) Increases the availability

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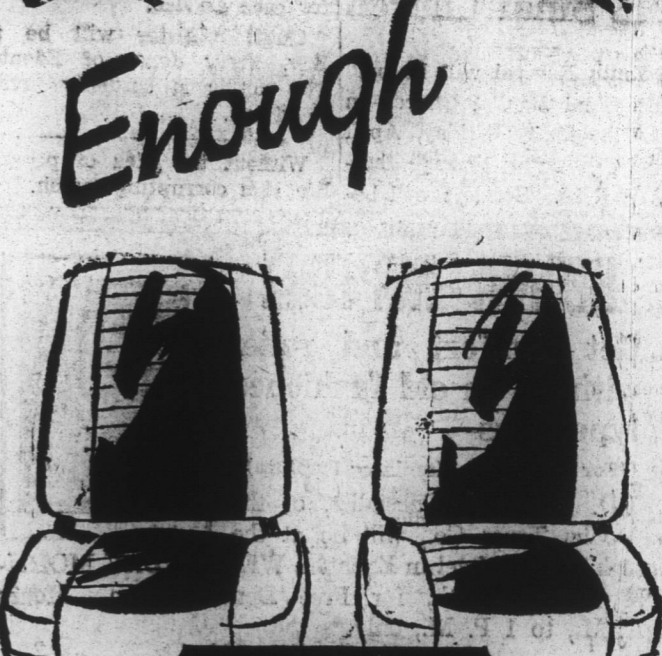
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