



LEBANON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2120 Cornwall Road * Suite 5 * Lebanon, PA 17042-9788
(717) 272-3908 ext. 4 FAX (717) 272-5314

January 31, 2009

2009

Dear Landowner:

The Lebanon County Commissioners are cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, and the USDA Forest Service in a joint effort to suppress the gypsy moth this spring by aerial spraying of certain populated and high public-use areas. Treatment areas were selected on the basis of resident requests. Gypsy moth population density levels indicate a serious defoliation problem will occur unless spraying is conducted.

All or a portion of your land or residential property is located within one of the areas which qualifies and is proposed for treatment. No reply is necessary if you want your property sprayed. **HOWEVER, IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR RESIDENCE OR PROPERTY INCLUDED IN THE SPRAY PROGRAM, CONTACT LEIGH BEAMESDERFER, COUNTY GYPSY MOTH COORDINATOR, IN WRITING WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE EXACT LOCATION OF YOUR PROPERTY.** We will then take steps to have your property excluded from the program.

If your property is occupied by a tenant, please provide him/her with a copy of this letter. If you own a large tract(s) of land, all of your property may not be included in the spray program. Program standards provide for the treatment of a forested buffer extending no farther than 500 feet from the residence(s) being protected. Open fields, open areas containing only a few scattered trees, and narrow fence rows will not be treated. A detailed map which outlines the proposed spray boundaries is available for examination in the Conservation District office or on our website at www.lccd.org.

The spraying is scheduled to occur sometime from late April to mid May, depending upon insect and leaf development in your area. Local news media will carry information on more specific dates. Spraying will be done by aircraft **starting daily at daybreak** and continuing as long as wind and other conditions are acceptable. Evening, weekend, and holiday spraying will also be conducted when conditions permit. Normally, only one treatment will be applied to any particular property.

A biological spray material, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), will be used on your property. It is completely nonchemical and affects only leaf-eating caterpillars, including fall webworms and tent caterpillars. **However, Bt may not kill all of the gypsy moth caterpillars.** In severe infestations, the percentage of surviving caterpillars may still be sufficient to cause some defoliation and also be a nuisance to the homeowner. DCNR will use the highest recommended concentration of Bt and try our best to apply it at the proper time, but we **cannot guarantee the results.**

Bt has not been shown to be harmful to humans, pets, livestock, or gardens. However, we recommend that you observe precautions and remain under cover during spraying. If exposed, wash with soap and water.

The Bureau of Forestry occasionally establishes evaluation plots in treated spray blocks. These are marked with a stake, identification tag, and possibly a piece of colored ribbon. **DO NOT DISTURB** these markers - - they will be removed at the end of the evaluation period which may extend into November.

Any questions regarding the gypsy moth, the insecticide, or this program, can be directed either to the Lebanon County Conservation District, 272-3908, ext. 4, or to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' District Forester, Mark Deibler 570-385-7800.

Sincerely

Leigh Beamesderfer
Forester/Naturalist
County Gypsy Moth Coordinator