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DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GYPSY MOTH SURVEY PROGRAM

The Delaware Gypsy Moth Survey Program is conducted by the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) to help landowners deal with the gypsy moth. The objectives of this program are to detect newly emerging populations of gypsy moths and to assist landowners who wish to make the best management decisions for their privately owned wooded lands. The program is voluntary, whereby landowners request assistance from the Delaware Department of Agriculture.

How to Signup for the 2007 Survey Program

The Gypsy Moth Coordinator/Landowner Survey Program will be conducted as follows:

1. Privately owned woodlots in rural forested areas and wooded residential developments will be considered for the Delaware survey program if the wooded areas meet the minimum survey block criteria. The block criteria are as follows:
 - The wooded area must have at least a 50% canopy
 - There must be at least 50% preferred gypsy moth host species (i.e. oak trees)
 - Rural woodlots must be a minimum of 25 acres in size and residential developments must be at least 10 acres in size
2. Landowners in rural woodlots and residential developments are required to appoint a Coordinator. In the case of a single large lot owner, you will be the designated coordinator. The Gypsy Moth Coordinator for a rural woodlot or residential development will serve as the liaison between landowners and DDA. A residential development is defined as a recognized community with defined borders or having an official civic association. Other areas are considered to be rural woodlots. There **must** be a coordinator for your area to be included in the fall egg mass survey program.
3. The Coordinator for a rural woodlot is required to submit a photocopy (copies will be provided by DDA) of a US Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map, outlining the wooded area they wish to have surveyed by DDA.

A Coordinator for a residential development is required to turn in a map of the development including all boundaries and street names. A **Record Plan Map** (plat map) would be ideal. A topographic map photocopy must also be sent with the development map.

These maps, with the name, address, and phone number of the gypsy moth coordinator, are due in the Plant Industries office of DDA by **September 15, 2007. September 15 is the last day for coordinators to sign up their area for fall egg mass surveys. We will only survey those areas that have a coordinator and have signed up their area. We will not accept any new coordinators/survey requests after September 15. THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE AND THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. Please get your community organized NOW, appoint a coordinator, and have that coordinator contact the Plant Industries Section of DDA.** Plant Industries staff will review submitted maps.

An oak woodlot must have easily definable borders with open fields, roads, railroad tracks, open bodies of water, solid pine forests, etc. used as geographical features to delimit the woodlot edges you wish to have surveyed. **Do not send in a topographic map with just your property outlined. The entire woodlot must be included.** We will not survey a 25-acre parcel of woods in the middle of an additional 100 acres of trees. It is much more practical to survey the entire wooded area.

All mapped areas submitted by coordinators, as well as state forestlands, wildlife and State Park areas, and other designated state lands will be surveyed in the fall by Plant Industries staff. Survey crews will determine egg mass densities, canopy cover, forest type, and size of wooded area.

4. After all surveys are completed in late fall, Gypsy Moth Coordinators will be notified of the results. If a woodlot contains gypsy moth egg masses, the coordinator may wish to make a decision to do nothing (i.e. take a wait and see what develops position) or request "Best Management Practices" assistance from DDA. DDA will assist you by offering choices which suit your woodlot needs. The following assistance choices are available:
 - Provide a list of aerial applicators, licensed to apply pesticides over forested areas, to landowners wishing to conduct their own spray program
 - Assist landowners select pesticides that best suit the area they wish to treat
 - Assist landowners prepare spray block maps consisting of easily definable boundaries
 - Assist landowners with woodlot acreage assessments
 - Provide suggestions for notifying other property owners or neighbors, within the block or surrounding proximity of the defined woodlot, understand what is taking place
 - Provide technical information and literature
5. Coordinators are responsible for notifying all landowners within their woodlot or residential development about fall egg mass surveys and for distributing information and literature. Coordinators must identify landowners objecting to the survey program. Each objector's property must be located on topographic or residential development maps. If too many objectors occur within a proposed survey woodlot, the entire woodlot will be dropped from the program.
6. Coordinators from 2006 can sign up again by requesting a 2007 survey sign up package. Coordinators must submit a signed application form and a map copy. You must sign up again each year; it is not automatically done for you. If you want to make changes to the area you are coordinating, you must submit another map or come to the Dover office. Change requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If you have questions regarding the survey program, please call the Plant Industries section of the Delaware Department of Agriculture at 1(800) 282-8685 (Delaware only) or (302) 698-4500, and ask to speak to a Gypsy Moth staff person.