

**REPORT OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND CONSUMER SERVICES ON**

**Implementing Recommendations  
of House Document 2A, 1990  
(Increasing Public Knowledge  
of the Gypsy Moth)**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



**HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 8**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND  
1991**

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 2A  
Increasing Public Knowledge of The Gypsy Moth

Item 130-B in the 1990-92 Appropriations Act directed the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to report on the recommendations contained in House Document No. 2A, Increasing the Public Knowledge of the Gypsy Moth. House Document 2A and attending recommendations were divided into two phases, A and B. Progress on implementing these recommendations follow.

Phase II-A There were two recommendations under this section of the report:

1. Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services should continue to monitor current research in methods development for predicting gypsy moth population trends.
2. The Commonwealth should continue to use established egg mass survey methods to plan and develop gypsy moth suppression projects.

Progress on implementing recommendations:

- a. Personnel responsible for the gypsy moth suppression program in the Office of Plant Protection within the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are continually monitoring and reviewing research relating to predictive models and will continue to be active participants in local and national gypsy moth reviews where such research is discussed.
- b. Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Plant Protection personnel used established egg mass survey methods to plan for the 1990 suppression program. The same methods will be employed in planning for the 1991 suppression program unless a more reliable method is identified prior to program initiation.

Phase II-B There were seven recommendations under this section of the report:

Recommendation No. 1:

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI & SU) Cooperative Extension Service should conduct training of all Cooperative Extension personnel on the gypsy moth including life cycle, damage and its impact, control strategies and government control programs.

Progress on implementing recommendation No. 1:

- a. Extension personnel are currently being trained in all facets of the gypsy moth. This training will continue.
- b. A proposed budget addendum for VPI & SU to carry out educational recommendations was not approved. Consequently, increased training is unlikely.

Recommendation No. 2:

VPI & SU Cooperative Extension Service should advertise the availability of gypsy moth educational materials to local governments at no charge to them.

Progress on implementing recommendation No. 2:

- a. Educational materials are currently being sent to extension personnel in localities impacted by the gypsy moth. As new localities become infested, educational materials will be made available.
- b. Increased advertising will be difficult given current budgetary constraints.

Recommendation No. 3:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services should hold a meeting of all local government officials once each year in localities where needed to explain the gypsy moth and its impact.

Progress on implementing recommendation No. 3

- a. Meetings were held in 1989 and 1990 with local gypsy moth coordinators to discuss all facets of the gypsy moth, including the expected impact on specific areas. Office of Plant Protection personnel meet with local gypsy moth coordinators and their gypsy moth committees to provide all necessary information. Scoping sessions are also attended.
- b. Office of Plant Protection personnel will continue to meet with local gypsy moth coordinators in areas impacted by the gypsy moth.

Recommendation No. 4:

Localities, in cooperation with VPI & SU Cooperative Extension Service, through cost sharing should develop several mobile displays explaining the gypsy moth and control strategies. The display could then be made available for use at county fairs, schools, and other public functions.

Progress on implementing recommendation No. 4:

- a. Localities will be informed that Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will approve funds for gypsy moth displays as part of their cost-share agreements with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to the extent that suppression funds are available. Such funds will be considered as part of the overall program for a locality. Since this is a local option, local governments must implement this recommendation. To date, no local governments have requested funding as part of their cost share agreement.
- b. It is expected that most localities involved with actual control programs will opt to use their allotted funds for treatment activities instead of displays as the demand for funds increase with a concurrent increase in treatment cost. The 1990-1991 funding level for gypsy moth suppression was reduced from \$320,000.00 to \$179,000.00. As a result, localities will have less money available for activities other than control strategies.

Recommendation No. 5:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and VPI & SU Cooperative Extension Service should jointly develop a video tape on the gypsy moth and Virginia's Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Program for use by schools, local government personnel and Cooperative Extension personnel.

Progress on implementing recommendation No. 5:

- a. Given current budget priorities, additional funds will need to be appropriated for this recommendation to be implemented. A proposed budget addendum for VPI & SU for educational activities involving the gypsy moth was not funded.
- b. Office of Plant Protection personnel met with representatives from the U. S. Forest Service and other states during the week of July 23, 1990 in Maryland. One topic discussed was the possibility of producing a video for use by several states in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service. As of this date, a definitive answer has not been obtained. It is anticipated that a video will be available for field use by the spring of 1991.

Recommendation No. 6:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Communication Office should work with the television media including cable, educational and public service, to develop a series on the gypsy moth.

Progress on implementing recommendation No. 6:

- a. Discussions have taken place with the Communications Office about various aspects of providing information on the gypsy moth. Budgetary reductions seem to preclude any major initiatives in this area. Office of Plant Protection personnel are identifying what types of activities can be accomplished under current budget constraints.

Recommendation No. 7:

VPI & SU Cooperative Extension Service should work with the Department of Education to specifically include the study of the gypsy moth in their Standards of Learning.

Progress on implementing recommendation No. 7

- a. This is a complicated process that involves negotiations between the Department of Education and the Extension Service. Since a budget addendum for new educational initiatives was not approved, implementation of this recommendation will probably not be possible for several years. Local extension personnel will still be available to provide assistance to local school systems on a request basis. A copy of the "Gypsy Moth in the Classroom" teacher's guide and workbook was sent to the Director of Science and Elementary Education, State Department of Education, with explanatory information to facilitate inclusion of gypsy moth study in local science curriculum. In addition, several local gypsy moth coordinators have provided this workbook to their local elementary school science coordinators.