

January 9, 2004

TO: Residents located in the Crest Drive area, Eugene, Lane Co.



FROM: Kathleen J.R. Johnson, Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program Supervisor,  
Plant Division

SUBJECT: **Proposed Gypsy Moth Eradication Program Public Information Meeting**

A gypsy moth infestation was found in the Crest Drive area of Eugene in 2003. Sixteen moths, several old and new egg masses as well as additional life stages were found. This indicates a viable reproducing population is present in the area. We are proposing to eradicate this gypsy moth infestation from your area before it has time to spread. Three applications of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* would be applied by helicopter on approximately 183 acres in late April and May, 2004 (see map). Information about the public information meeting, gypsy moth, the eradication program, follow-up monitoring and public comment opportunities are provided in this notice.

A public information meeting, conducted by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, will be held to discuss the gypsy moth eradication program proposed for your area. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations at the public information meeting should contact Kathleen Johnson, as soon as possible at 1-800-525-0137 or by email at [gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us](mailto:gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us)

**When:** 7:00-9:00 pm, Monday, January 26, 2004

**Where:** Crest Drive Elementary School, 1155 Crest Drive, Eugene, OR 97405

**Focus of the meeting:**

- The gypsy moth in Oregon and the gypsy moth detections in your area.
- Alternatives considered for dealing with gypsy moth.
- The eradication and trapping programs proposed for your area.
- Answer questions from the audience about the proposed programs.

#### THE GYPSY MOTH IN OREGON

Gypsy moth is not welcome in Oregon. Accidentally introduced into the U.S. from Europe in 1869, it now infests all or part of 18 states, mostly in the northeastern U.S., where it defoliates about 3 million acres of woodlands per year. Gypsy moth has the potential to impact Oregon's home and property owners, businesses, agricultural commodities, watersheds, forest lands, urban and suburban environments, recreational opportunities, tourism and wildlife. Such impacts occur through direct and indirect effects of the loss of foliage and trees due to expanding gypsy moth populations and restrictive quarantines imposed on our export commodities. Defoliation in watersheds and along streams could adversely impact water quality and salmon and trout populations.

Gypsy moth was first detected in Oregon in 1979. Since then various localized infestations have been discovered throughout the state. These isolated infestations are always caused by artificial, human-aided movement and not by natural means. In order to keep Oregon gypsy moth-free, when an infestation is found

it is eradicated as quickly as possible. All infestations found so far have been successfully eradicated. Early detection and eradication of gypsy moth infestations have been goals of the Oregon Department of Agriculture to prevent such environmental and economic losses from occurring in Oregon.

### **ERADICATION PROPOSAL**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Division, in cooperation with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Plant Protection and Quarantine, is proposing an eradication program using the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk) followed by an intensive gypsy moth trapping program. The treatment program will consist of an eradication area of approximately 183 acres roughly centered on the intersection of Crest Dr. and Courtney Place. (see map). It is likely that a small buffer area surrounding this eradication area will receive some Btk but in quantities much less than inside the eradication area.

Btk is a biological insecticide containing a naturally occurring bacterium which specifically attacks only the caterpillar stage of many moths and butterflies. It can be applied over water without endangering aquatic life. Ingestion of leaves treated with Btk suppresses the caterpillars' appetites and slows movement. Caterpillars generally die within several days. Btk does not affect healthy humans and other mammals, birds, fish, or most non-target insects. This is the same insecticide that has been used in many urban and rural areas in Oregon including: Portland, Gresham, Beaverton, West Linn, Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, Carver, Salem, Aumsville, Corvallis, Philomath, Eugene, Springfield, Veneta, Dorena Lake, Lane County, Douglas County, Cave Junction, Jacksonville, and Ashland. The Btk product we propose to use will be Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B. Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B is an aqueous formulation that has been used in many previous gypsy moth eradication and control programs in both rural and urban areas of Oregon and other states.

### **APPLICATION METHOD**

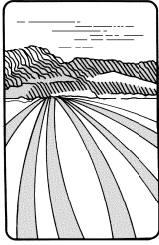
Aerial application of Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B is the only practical and economical means of treating an area of this size with limited accessibility and large numbers of tall trees. Three applications are planned at about 7 to 14 day intervals. Spraying will be done by helicopter, beginning at first light. Only a small amount of Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B (0.5 gallons) will be applied per acre. The first application would take place in late April or early May. This same application procedure has been used in many successful gypsy moth eradication programs in both urban and rural areas of Oregon as well as other states.

### **TRAPPING PROGRAM**

A post-treatment gypsy moth trapping program will begin in May. The trapping program is crucial to evaluate the success of the treatment program and to pinpoint as precisely as possible any residual gypsy moth populations. Trap densities will be 3-9 traps/acre in the core area and 25 to 49 traps/square mile for several square miles surrounding the treatment area. Permission will be sought in person prior to placing traps on any property. Since the success of the eradication program depends on traps being placed at a certain density and by a certain date, if no one is available to grant permission, traps will be placed and a flyer left on your door. Phone numbers to call if traps need to be removed or relocated will be included. We would appreciate your cooperation in allowing traps to be placed on your property next summer.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Significant efforts are made to obtain and address questions, issues and concerns about the proposed eradication program. Your comments are an important part of the decision making process. A draft project Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to assess possible environmental impacts of the proposed program. Copies of the draft project EA will be available on the ODA website at <http://www.oda.state.or.us/Plant/index.html> and the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Plant Division Office in Salem, OR. We also plan to make copies available at the public information meeting announced in this notice. A final project EA that considers public comments on the draft project EA will be completed to fulfill federal requirements for cooperative state-federal gypsy moth eradication programs. The review and comment period will end at close-of-business, March 1, 2004.



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301-2532



**Gypsy Moth Eradication Program  
Public Information Meeting  
Notice**

For more information on gypsy moth, visit <http://www.oda.state.or.us/Plant/index.html>

To request a copy of the draft project Environmental Assessment  
or to submit comments, please call, fax, write or email:

**Kathleen J.R. Johnson**  
**Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Plant Division**  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532  
1-800-525-0137; Fax: (503) 986-4786; [gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us](mailto:gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us)

The final decision on any implementation of the proposed program will be made by the Director of the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture once the public comment period and final project EA are completed. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please contact Barry Bai (503) 986-4645, Alan Mudge (503) 986-4665, or Kathleen Johnson at (503) 986-4662 or toll-free 1-800-525-0137, or TTY (hearing impaired) (503) 986-4762.