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Sign-up for 2019 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program to Begin July 1

Charleston, WV - The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is urging landowners to sign up for the Cooperative State-County-Landowner (CSCL) Gypsy Moth Suppression program to help protect West Virginia's forests. The sign-up period will run from July 1st until August 31st.

"West Virginia's forests are one of our state's most valuable resources. From tourism to our timber industry, our forests are a vital economic driver for the Mountain State," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "We hope people will take advantage of this program."

Application forms and brochures are available at the [WVDA's Plant Industries Division website](#). Landowners may also obtain applications and brochures at local WVU Extension offices and WVDA field offices in Charleston (304-558-2212) or New Creek (304-788-1066). A non-refundable \$1.00 per acre survey deposit must be submitted with the application. This deposit will be applied toward payment for treatment if the landowner qualifies.

"The gypsy moth is a non-native, invasive insect that feeds on hundreds of species of trees and shrubs, including West Virginia hardwoods," said WVDA Plant Industries Assistant Director Butch Sayers. "Defoliation by gypsy moth caterpillars can weaken trees, making them more susceptible to other pests and diseases. This treatment program helps safeguard our forests from further damage."

The minimum acreage required to participate in the program is 50 contiguous acres of wooded land. Adjoining landowners may combine their properties to meet the acreage requirement. Those landowners who qualify and wish to participate in the program must sign a contract with the WVDA by December of 2018.

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For more information, contact Quentin “Butch” Sayers at qsayers@wvda.us or Scott Hoffman at ghoffman@wvda.us.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works.

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