



Please include in the October 12thth edition – THANK YOU!!

Agriculture Extension News

Got Moths?

Landowners encouraged to attend an informational meeting in Bland about the Gypsy Moths.

Written & Submitted by Jeannie Layton-Dudding, ANR Agent serving Bland & Giles Counties
10/7/16

Most residents are already aware that Bland County was hit hard by the gypsy moth this year. Numerous phone calls have come in to the Extension office and the to the County Administrator's office. Since the first phone call was received, we have been working with a variety of agencies to research the options for Bland County landowners and develop a plan of attack for 2017. Because of the nature of gypsy moths, once the damage was realized this year, it was unfortunately too late to take action for 2016.

The Slow the Spread program has been active in Bland for several years now which involves aerial spraying of a pheromone that interferes with the gypsy moth mating process. This product does not kill the insect on contact but it prevents the moth from being able to reproduce as efficiently. This is expected to help reduce the population that we see next year.

In information gathered from a variety of agencies, the trees in our area are quite hardy and can generally withstand 1 to 3 years of defoliation. You will see the most damage along riddle lines and the tops of the mountains where trees are already stressed from poor soils and harsher weather conditions. This can still be impactful for people managing their timber and those planning to harvest timber. For more information about the gypsy moth, visit the Gypsy Moth in Virginia website at <http://yt.ento.vt.edu/VAGMWeb/index.html>.

VCE has organized a meeting to be held on October 19th at the Bland Lutheran/Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, this will be the regular monthly meeting of the Bland Farm Management group. The meeting will consist of key players from a variety of agencies that all work with the gypsy moth. We will have representatives from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Forest Service, Virginia Tech, and others present at the meeting.

Registration and the meal will begin at 5:30 with the program to begin at 6pm. We will collect \$5.00 per person to help support the meal. If you could please let us know by Friday, October 14th if you plan to attend and the number of guests you will be bringing with you. Please call the Bland Extension Office at

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276- 688-3542 or email kadunn@vt.edu to register.

If there are any issues that the Extension office can assist you with, please contact our office or the Agriculture agent at 540-921-3455 or by email at jdudding@vt.edu. As a reminder, we are able to provide diagnostic services such as soil sampling, weed identification, insect identification, plant disease identification and can assist with forage sampling. We also provide a variety of educational programming for farmers, landowners and home-owners. To be added to our mailing or email list please contact us today!

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Photo caption:

A female gypsy moth and egg masses.