

# Penn State **EXTENSION**

AGRICULTURE | COMMUNITY & FAMILY | ENVIRONMENT

## *Extension Update*

Bucks County Cooperative Extension, 1282 Almshouse Rd., Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown, PA 18901 215-345-3283  
<http://bucks.extension.psu.edu>

# Bucks County

### *Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut Trees Hits Bucks County*

In late July a deadly disease of Black Walnut trees was detected in Bucks County. Penn State's Plant Disease Clinic made the original diagnosis of *Thousand Cankers Disease*. Since black walnut is a valuable natural resource, The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) imposed a quarantine on Bucks County to slow the spread of the disease. Walnut wood may not be transported out of Bucks County. Since it is impractical to segregate walnut wood from other hardwood species, all firewood is subject to the quarantine. In addition, wood chips are quarantined because the disease is vectored by a tiny beetle, called the Walnut Twig beetle, which can survive the chipping process. All walnut species in the eastern U.S. are affected and the disease ultimately leads to tree death.



**Walnut Twig Beetle**  
(Courtesy Colorado State Univ.)

Penn State Extension responded by organizing a meeting with PDA entomologists and plant pathologists to discuss the implications of the disease. Firewood sellers, saw mills, and mulch manufacturers joined concerned land owners to learn specific aspects of this new disease and the implications of the quarantine.

Currently, regulators are exploring compliance agreements with those affected by the quarantine in an effort to allow them to operate their businesses while protecting walnut outside the quarantine area. For more information about Thousand Cankers Disease go to <http://buckshort.blogspot.com/2011/08/thousand-cankers-disease-threatens.html> or call us at 215-345-3283 for a fact sheet.

*Scott Guiser, Horticulture*

### *Farm Safety Day Camp*

There are many dangers on a farm. To help 4-H horse club members recognize potential hazards and keep people, animals, and facilities safe, a *Farm Safety* program was held at a local farm. The 4-Hers learned about tractor safety, preventing tractor rollovers, and catch and pull points on equipment. They were taught to inspect livestock trailers before hitching and loading animals, and how to train a horse to load safely. A hay specialist discussed the dangers of wet hay and the possibility of spontaneous combustion burning down a barn. The highlight of the day was a clinic from the local fire department. Hay was set on fire and the 4-H members practiced using fire extinguishers!

*Bob Brown, 4-H*



PENNSTATE



an **OUTREACH**  
Program of  
the College of  
**Agricultural  
Sciences**

Fall 2011

# Penn State **EXTENSION**

AGRICULTURE | COMMUNITY & FAMILY | ENVIRONMENT

## *4-H Summer Pet Care Has Record Enrollment*

This past summer saw a record breaking 288 children ages 8-12 enrolled in the **4-H Summer Pet Care Club**, hosted by the Bensalem, Doylestown, Feasterville, Langhorne, Levittown, Perkasie, Quakertown, Southampton and Yardley libraries. The 4-Hers learned about



animal care from the S.P.C.A., Eyes of the Wild Zoo, a herpetologist, a horse expert, a veterinarian, a tropical fish hobbyist, dog trainers and members and

leaders from our own 4-H Alpaca and Llama, Goat and Rabbit and Cavy Clubs. The program also taught some valuable life skills such as information gathering, decision making, public speaking and community service. For our last meeting, pet shows were held at Attleboro Assisted Living, Heritage Towers, Life Quest, Rockhill Mennonite Home, Southampton Estates, Statesman's Woods, Twining Village, Wood River Village, and Yardley Manor Care. Residents from each facility helped judge six categories: largest pet, smallest pet, waggiest tail, most unusual name, best trick and best dressed.

*Loretta Rush, 4-H*

### *Sheep Shearing School*

For more than forty consecutive years, *Penn State Extension* and the *Bucks/Montgomery Wool Cooperative* have sponsored an annual sheep shearing school to train sheep producers to harvest their wool. *Delaware Valley College* hosted the 2011 class. Over 500 aspiring shearers have taken the class since it's inception in the 1960's.

## *Middletown Grange Fair Happenings*

The Middletown Grange Fair serves as the zenith for our 4-H program each summer. Here are some of the highlights:

- A record number of livestock were exhibited, 573 head, an 8% increase over last year! We had 138 dairy calves, heifers and cows; 25 beef cattle; 64 poultry, 46 pigs, 111 sheep, 138 rabbits and cavy, 40 goats, and new this year – 11 alpacas and llamas.
- Dozens of volunteers helped judge the 4-H "table-top" projects such as sewing and wood working.
- Twenty-five dog club members presented a training demonstration with their pet dogs.
- Fifteen 4-H clubs displayed outstanding exhibits of their clubs activities.
- Teen Council members raised over \$2000 in a silent auction to fund future 4-H events.
- Over 350 pounds of "Back to School" foods were collected and distributed to local food pantries.



*Nancy Stephenson, 4-H*



This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Fall 2011

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.