

Commissioners:

SCOTT L. METZGER
Chairman

MARC C. SORTMAN
Vice Chairman

MARK MUSSINA
Secretary



MATTHEW A. McDERMOTT
*Director of Administration
and Chief Clerk*

CHRISTOPHER H. KENYON
Solicitor

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COUNTY of LYCOMING
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**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Sortman, Commissioner Mussina, Director Matthew McDermott, and Solicitor Christopher H. Kenyon.

1.0 OPERATIONS

- 1.1 Opening Prayer
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Convene Commissioners' Public Meeting
- 1.4 Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 1.5 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only: **None**
- 1.6 Brad Shoemaker – Proclamation- Corrections Employees Week - Comments attached

Mr. Metzger expressed his gratitude for the crucial role the Department of Corrections plays in our society; the goal is to guide and assist individuals to make great decisions so that one day they become our neighbors and as productive as we are. Mr. Metzger added that due to staffing issues there were staff working up to four double shifts per week and didn't have lives; the passion of the Department of Corrections is a testament of the county worker.

Mr. Mussina reminded the community of the impact the pandemic had on the Department of Corrections and believes they were the department most affected.

Mr. Sortman expressed how impressed he was with the operations and extreme dedication of the Department of Corrections.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 DCNR Report on the Spongy Moth – Rosa Yoo, DCNR -Presentation attached
Rick Jordan, CNY Drone Services, New York, shared his expertise on treating Spongy Moths effectively using drones and he advised, to ensure the company is licensed prior to contracting with a vendor. For more information visit cnydroneservices.com.

- 2.2 Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify invoices due through 5/15/24 to be paid on 5/08/2024 in the amount of \$890,217.35.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

2.3 Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify a special check run for a letter of credit in the amount of \$146,794.52

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

3.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

Per Mr. McDermott the last two items should be removed from 3.1 as they are listed in personnel actions

3.1 Michael Hagen - MDJ Frey – Amber Winder, Magisterial District Court Administrative Specialist, Full-Time, \$18.4988 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Transfer Date: May 12, 2024

Prothonotary – Sharon Greene, Civil Processing Clerk, Full-Time, \$19.3949 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Transfer Date: May 12, 2024

~~Planning – Salvatore Vitko, Transportation Planner, Full-Time, \$55,299.23 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Retro Date: March 31, 2024~~

~~Planning – Kelsey Green, Hazard Reduction Planner, Full-Time, \$49,822.05 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Retro Date: March 03, 2024~~

Recess Commissioners' Public Meeting for the Salary Board

4.0 SALARY BOARD SALARY BOARD MINUTES CAN BE FOUND ON LYCO.ORG>ELECTED OFFICIALS>CONTROLLER

4.1 Convene Salary Board.

4.2 Vote to approve April 4, 2024, Salary Board minutes.

4.3 Vote to delete Accountant 1 position that was added effective 4/29/2024

4.5 Adjourn Salary Board.

Reconvene Commissioners' Public Meeting

5.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

5.1 Mike Hagen – Approve the following Personnel Actions as conditional offers of employment, subject to the successful completion of a background check and all other employment conditions as outlined in Attachment (A).

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Matthew McDermott for Mya Toon- Vote to approve agreement with Jean Landis for professional services in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 6.2 Tanya Collins - Vote to approve CDBG FFY22 SEDA-COG PSA Amend 1 to add an environmental review fee in the amount of 4,000.00 to the Habitat for Humanity Phase III project.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 6.3 Jenny Picciano – Vote to approve Resolution 2024-09 authorizing the submittal of the Susquehanna River Walk Extension Trail Development Project grant application to the Commonwealth Finance Authority. Grant request is in the amount of \$250,000.00. (2024 Budgeted item9Act 13)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 6.4 Forrest Lehman – Vote to approve the contract with H&P Construction Inc., in the amount of \$203,193.00 for the ADA Polling Place Renovation Project. (2024 Budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Mr. Metzger asked if any the monies budgeted return to Act 88 funds.

Mr. Lehman explained that although the funds could return to Act 88, it's preferable to use the Act 88 funds for operating expenses and ACT13 funds for the ADA polling project.

- 6.5 Forrest Lehman – Vote to approve to replace CMOS batteries in the County's 90 ClearCast precinct scanners in the amount of \$4,900.00. (2024 Budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Tony Cooper, South Williamsport, asked if the CMOS batteries are similar to those found in a motherboard; concerned the cost would be \$54 per unit.

Mr. Lehman responded that replacing the CMOS batteries ensures the scanner retains the date and time for accurate reporting; the proposal includes materials and labor.

- 6.6 Forrest Lehman – Vote to approve the purchase of replacement Dell PCs in the amount of \$12,500.00. (2024 Budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Mr. McDermott asked Mr. Lehman if item 6.5 and 6.6 are good examples of the ACT 88 Funds being utilized.

Mr. Lehman stated that item 6.5 and 6.6 are examples of ACT 88 funds being used; there are up to 9 Categories of expenditures related to elections permitted by Act 88 Grants which include:

- 1. Voter registration expenses**
- 2. Pre-canvassing mail ballots**
- 3. Maintenance of voter registration records**
- 4. Poll worker compensation**

6.7 Ken George – Vote to approve the purchase of Passage sets from Lezzer Commercial Door in the amount of \$14,823.96. (2024 Budgeted Item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Mr. Sortman thanked Ken George for the great work on the progress of the court house wall cleaning project.

6.8 Jason Yorks- Vote to approve the Amendment to the Agreement with Meiser & Earl, Inc. for 2024 price updates.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

6.9 Jason Yorks – Vote to approve the purchase of three new 2024 Recycling Containers from Eagle Truck Equipment in the amount of \$40,452.00. (2024 Budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

6.10 Jason Yorks – Vote to approve the purchase of a 2024 Skid Steer with Bull Hog attachment in the amount of \$152,909.60 from Five Star Equipment. (2024 Budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

10.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Mr. Metzger addressed that residents have left to other counties due to the shortage of homes on the market and this ripple effect affects us all; with the grant program for infrastructure, we now have the possibility of approximately 400 new homes in the market. Mr. Metzger clarified that by increasing our population, we increase the tax base and lower cost over-all.

Mr. Sortman clarified that the grants that apply to the housing initiative, originally organized by the previous Commissioners, is for infrastructure for Market Value Housing, not Low-Income Housing. Mr. Sortman stated that the developer ultimately has the last say on the type of homes; 2 of the projects are for homes to be valued between \$300-\$400k.

Mr. Mussina reminded the community of the “Back Yard Brawl” in Bowman field, this weekend. Mr. Mussina expressed that it’s special to the kids to play in the same park where Major League Players do; one of the many events that makes Lycoming County special.

11.0 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers who wish to address the Board of Commissioners will be limited for no more than three (3) minutes on any particular item. The speaker must state his/her name and address for the record. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the Board Chairman.

John Shireman, Lycoming County, raised concerns regarding the delays in the Lawshee Run Project, causing the taxpayers to absorb that expense.

Mr. Shireman directed his comment to Mr. Sortman and expressed concern for the lack of employment in the area, the number of new restaurants paying lower wages, leaves those new \$300k homes out of reach for seniors and parents working two jobs to support their children.

Mr. Sortman explained the reason the comment was made is due to the negative response regarding affordable and moderate housing; we need our neighbors to not be offended by affordable and low-income housing.

Mr. Mussina shared that the new inventory in housing will allow families that are financially prepared to upgrade to the new homes; in theory this will free up more affordable homes in the market.

Tom Adams, Williamsport, Read Proverbs 22:5, shared history on William Penn's persecution and the Conventicle Act. He asked about the average time of the inmate's sentence in our county prison and if it any way incentivizes' them if they know they won't serve a long sentence. Mr. Adams directed his question to Mr. Lehman regarding the process on how mail ballots and addresses are safeguarded.

Mr. Lehman shared the organized process which involves a series of steps verified against the original voter registration, the barcode along with the details all match the registration when they vote by mail prior to election day.

YOUTUBE COMMENTS

JP Molino: I've sprayed with the 9/10 air lift wing in Youngstown Ohio for 33 years and she is right on point. Our unit gives a conference to the entomologists every year for certif of fixed and rotary wing.



JP Molino: BT was our chem of choice.

Truthseeker: Was the new position created for financial department a budgeted item for 2024? What department do they fall under or answer to in your operations flow diagram?

Truthseeker: To clarify I believe it was a position given to the director of procurement

William Fenderson: How about some incentive to go Solar or wind

Harper Will Try: Anyone concerned with contamination of US elections would do better to worry about the impact of Citizens United than any sort of Stop the Steal tin-foil hat wearing cons.

12.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Board Room, 1st Floor, Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

To View This Meeting Click on the Link Below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxk1O4I08-A>

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONEL ACTIONS:

- Prison – Christopher Shaffer, Correctional Officer, Full-Time Replacement, \$20.00 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: May 27, 2024
- Prison – Robert Geary, Correctional Officer, Full-Time Replacement, \$20.00 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: May 27, 2024
- Conservation District – Seth Dangle - Dirt & Gravel Roads Technician, Full-Time Replacement, \$47,036.91 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: May 20, 2024
- PRC – Tapanga Jolin, Resident Supervisor I, Full-Time, \$18.64 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: May 20, 2024
- Planning – Salvatore Vitko, Transportation Planner, Full-Time, \$55,299.23 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Retro Date: March 31, 2024
- Planning – Kelsey Green, Hazard Reduction Planner, Full-Time, \$49,822.05 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Retro Date: March 03, 2024

Warden Brad Shoemaker's Comments

It is my honor to accept this proclamation on behalf of the correctional employees of Lycoming County. These women and men are dedicated and determined in their efforts to support the mission of the Lycoming County Prison. The staff includes correctional officers and resident supervisors, Prison and PRC supervisors, maintenance and treatment staff, medical and food service staff, bail/release staff, work crew foremen, administrative and clerical staff along with numerous volunteers. All areas of prison operations require a high attention to detail and these professionals perform their duties with honor and commitment. Their efforts to ensure the safety of the Citizens of Lycoming County should be recognized and applauded.

I would like to thank the Lycoming County Prison Board, the Lycoming County Board of Commissioners, the Lycoming County Courts, the Lycoming County Sheriff's Office and all other County Departments along with our outside agency partners for the cooperation and support of the Lycoming County Prison.

In recognition of the staff and to say thank you for their efforts, a special meal was served at the Prison on Tuesday and will be served at the PRC today.

Spongy Moth

Lymantria dispar dispar

Rosa Yoo
Forest Health Manager

Pennsylvania Department of
Conservation & Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry
Division of Forest Health

Lycoming County Commissioners Meeting - May 9, 2024
Virtual

Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) formerly known as Gypsy moth

- Spongy moth is a non-native, invasive forest pest
- It was introduced in 1869 to Massachusetts from Europe
- Feeds on over 300 different tree, shrub, and plant species
- Prefers oak trees
- No natural predators
- First PA detection in 1932
- PA started a suppression program in 1972

www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Spongy Moth Feeding

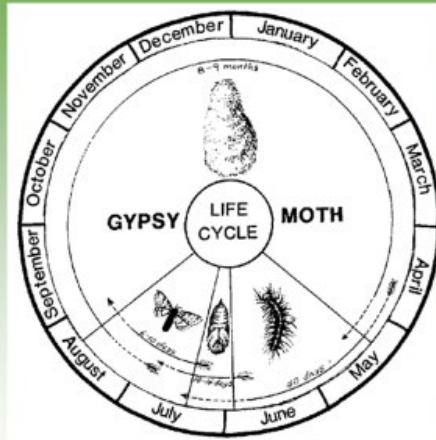


Early feeding in May



Extensive feeding by June (2007) "Winter in June"

Spongy Moth: Life Cycle



Spongy Moth: Life Cycle



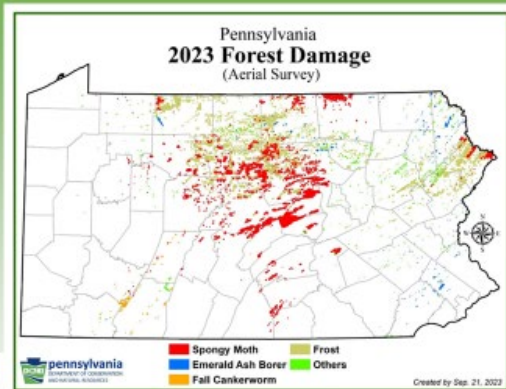
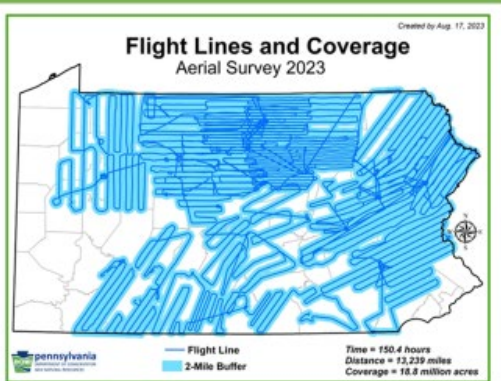
Spongy Moth: Life Cycle



Control/Suppression



Forest Damage Aerial Survey



June / July
Peak Defoliation
www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Forest Pest	Damage Acre	%
Emerald Ash Borer - 15087	17,212	2
Fall Cankerworm - 12014	12,354	1
Frost - 50005	455,160	47
Lymantria dispar (Spongy Moth)	26,827	3
Others	20,822	4
Total	961,372	100

Spongy Moth Egg Mass Surveys

[Guide to Spongy Moth Egg Mass Surveying \(psu.edu\)](https://psu.edu)



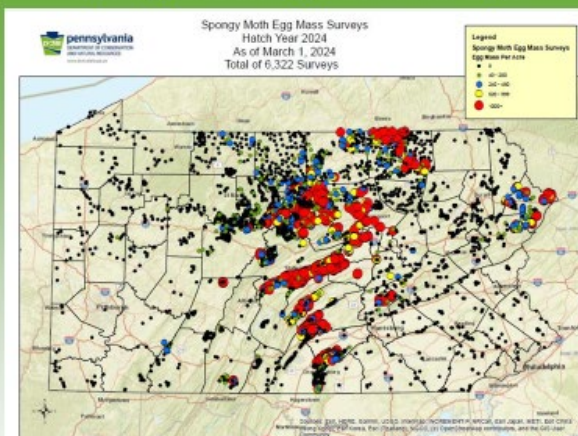
- From the "center" tree you choose, you should search for and count all visible egg masses within a circular plot with a radius of 18.6 feet. This plot size is 1/40 of an acre.
- **12.5 egg masses per 1/40 acre x 40 = 500 egg masses per acre.**



www.dcnr.state.pa.us

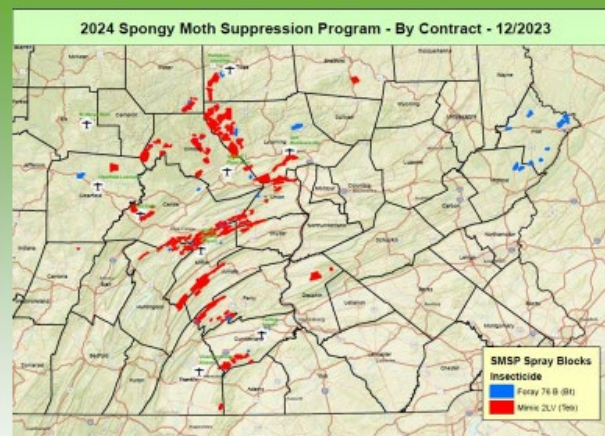


Spongy Moth Egg Mass Surveys



- Egg mass surveys take place August/Sept
- 250-500 egg masses is the minimum threshold for suppression activity
- Current years egg masses are a darker tan color and firm to the touch

Spongy Moth Spray Blocks



- Spray blocks are initially drawn in October and finalized in December
- All blocks go through an environmental review process
- Funding secure and bid for a contractor is selected by October

Spongy Moth Suppression



PA DCNR uses both Fixed-wing and Rotary aircrafts
Start date depends on caterpillar and leaf development, usually in May – this year started on 4/29/24

Spongy Moth Suppression Aerial Application - Biological Insecticides

PA DCNR uses 2 primary products:

Foray 76B – *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*

Mimic 2LV – Tebufenozide

Also available:

Foray 48B Organically Certified – *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*



Are treatments effective??



**Tebufenozide (MIMIC)
Spray Block - 2023**

www.dcnr.state.pa.us



BT (FORAY) Spray Block - 2007



Spongy Moth Suppression

For smaller acreage/individual trees

- Drones
- Individual Tree Treatments – contact a local, licensed arborist/tree care professional (ie, ISA Certified)

Aerial Application Licenses for Sprays in PA		Aerial Application Licenses for Sprays in PA	
2023/2024		2023/2024	
Agilent Services 2000 County Road 92 Warrington, PA 19151-0796 717-821-4182 www.agilent.com M-10000	Agilent Support 1200 N. Wolfe Rd Folsom, CA 95630 916-251-1000 www.agilent.com M-10000	Agilent Support 1200 N. Wolfe Rd Folsom, CA 95630 916-251-1000 www.agilent.com M-10000	Agilent Support 1200 N. Wolfe Rd Folsom, CA 95630 916-251-1000 www.agilent.com M-10000
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www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Burlap Bands



Scrape/Crush Egg Masses



Biological Controls

Fungus - *Entomophaga maimaiga*
Needs cool, wet springs



Virus - NPV nucleopolyhedrosis virus
Needs high populations to spread



Pennsylvania Forests

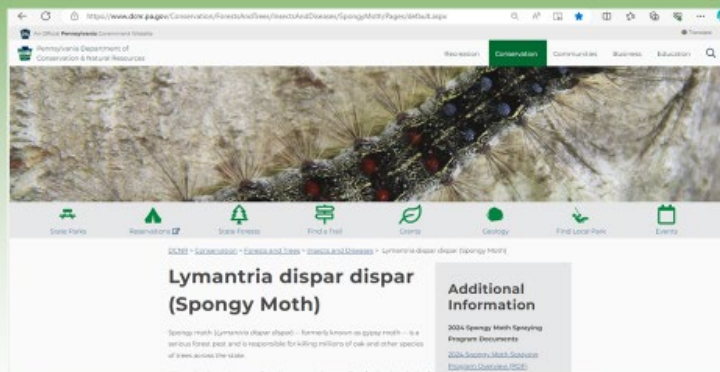
- 16,917,000 acres of forest land in PA
- Nearly 11 million acres contain oak and other spongy moth preferred hosts
- 2.2 million acres – DCNR State Forests
- 200,000 acres – DCNR State Parks
- 1.1 million acres – State Game Commission
- 11.5 million acres – Non-industrial Private Forest Lands
- 517,000 acres – Allegheny National Forest
- 1.4 million acres – Other Federal/State/County/Municipal/Private Lands
- PA DCNR Spray Program Logistical Capacity is approx. 250,000 acres/year

www.dcnr.state.pa.us



PA DCNR's Website for Spongy Moth

- <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/InsectsAndDiseases/SpongyMoth/Pages/default.aspx>



www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Guide to Conducting a Spray Program

Purpose/Objective:

- The spongy moth has been a destructive forest and tree pest in Pennsylvania since 1932. Infestations are cyclic and regional, so different portions of the state may be affected during each cycle. Counties, municipalities and landowner/homeowner associations have the option of organizing suppression programs aimed at protecting their trees and minimizing nuisance.

Guide to Conducting a Spray Program

- The following guidelines are intended to provide a framework for conducting efficient and effective aerial spray programs, while also minimizing misuse of insecticides.

- To help facilitate a program, a project coordinator should first be designated. The coordinator assists in assessing the need for treatment, implements an application and collection of funds process, and acts as a liaison between property owners and the spray contractor.

Guide to Conducting a Spray Program

Purpose/Objective:

- The spongy moth has been a destructive forest and tree pest in Pennsylvania since 1932. Infestations are cyclic and regional, so different portions of the state may be affected during each cycle. Counties, municipalities and landowner/homeowner associations have the option of organizing suppression programs aimed at protecting their trees and minimizing nuisance.

www.dcnr.state.pa.us



Assessing the Need For Treatment

Does the property contain species favored by spongy moth? The following is a listing of common tree species arranged by spongy moth feeding preference:

Favored / High: Fed upon by all size larvae – alder, apple, aspen, basswood, beech, birches (gray, white, and river), boxelder, hawthorn, larch, oaks (all species), willows, and witch-hazel.

Favored / Moderate: Fed upon by only large larvae – chestnut, eastern hemlock, and all species of pine and spruce.

Favored / Low: Only fed upon by large larvae when preferred foliage is not available – birches (black and yellow), butternut, cherry, cottonwood, elms, black gum, hackberry, hickories, hornbeam, maples, pear, sassafras, sweetgum, and walnut.

Unfavored: Rarely fed upon – ashes (all species), catalpa, dogwood, American holly, honey locust, horsechestnut, juniper, locust, striped maple, mulberry, persimmon, eastern red cedar, sycamore, and tulip poplar.

Assessing the Need For Treatment

Confirm spongy moth identification, do not build tents

Do egg mass levels warrant a treatment program?

It is very important that the estimate of egg mass densities be based upon new, current-year egg masses only.

Experience has shown that 250 healthy spongy moth egg masses per acre is the threshold at which noticeable defoliation begins to appear.

Consideration should be given that larvae blow-in may occur in surrounding areas downwind of heavily infested areas.

Hiring a Licensed Aerial Applicator

An aerial applicator can help you to determine what is best for each situation by: assessing the need for treatment, selecting the right insecticide, timing and project planning, and determining the area to be treated.

Important considerations before hiring a contractor include:

- Their proximity to the area(s) considered for treatment (this can impact cost).
- Availability
- Minimum acreage requirement
- Insecticide options: *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki* (Foray 48B or Foray 76B); and tebufenozide (Mimic 2LV) are most commonly used
- Cost comparisons

A list of Aerial Applicators licensed to work in Pennsylvania is provided on the DCNR website

Make arrangements with an aerial applicator in the early fall – by September 30

Timeline – Things to Do

- Appoint a Project Coordinator for your Community/Town/County
 - Determine area and number of acres to be treated – make a map
 - Conduct an egg mass survey August to September
 - Inform community of survey results and potential need for spraying – determine if you have any objectors
 - Secure funding
 - Contact multiple applicators to get quotes – fixed-wing aircraft (\$), helicopter (\$\$), drone, arborist; Mimic 2LV (\$), Foray 48B (\$\$), or Foray 76B (\$\$\$)
 - Have aerial applicator selected by October 1
 - Keep community informed of approaching spraying
 - Provide aerial applicator times for school buses
 - Spraying is done in May – when caterpillars are first or second instars and oak foliage is at least 25% of full size
-

Additional Resources

- PA DCNR Spongy Moth website: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsAndTrees/InsectsAndDiseases/SpongyMoth/Pages/default.aspx>
 - PA Game Commission Spongy Moth website: <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/HabitatManagement/Pages/Spongy-Moth.aspx>
 - Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/guide-to-gypsy-moth-egg-mass-surveying>
 - Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/preparing-for-high-spongy-moth-densities>
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Rosa Yoo
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www.dcnr.state.pa.us

