

Notes from PFAC Phorid Flies Meeting on October 27, 2017 at New Garden Township

Attendees: D Vymazal, State Senators Office; E Roe, State Representative; J Lawrence, State Representative; R Welliver, PA Dept of Ag; N Jenkins, PSU; T Scheivert, NGT Manager; E Toedter, Mushroom Industry; S DeHoff, PA Dept of Ag Ombudsman; M Zuk, Chester County Conservation; S Shirk, PSU Extension; M Zaun, State Reps Office;

Residents and Township Attendees: B Runkle, D Runkle, J Miscione, B Ferguson, M Woodacre, C Carson from Harrogate: G Emery, P Emery from Lower Oxford Township: L Sheward, W Hoffman from Kennett Township: D Lafferty, A Russell, R Weer, R Scott-Harper, L White, from London Grove Township: M Donovan from Somerset Lake: N Hicks from Upper Oxford Township: K Scherer from Kennett Square Boro:

Press: C Barber

General -Residents from the various Townships in Southern Chester County shared their experiences and personal stories in dealing/ living with the phorid flies in their homes. The Facebook- Phorid Fly Community is being used by people across the region to share ideas and experiences and has helped to highlight how widespread the infestation are across the County. Some photos were shared of serious infestation in Upper Oxford. The Upper Oxford Township has indicated in a letter that 'they have no information or resources to help with the problem'.

The social health issues and quality of life issues were mentioned by a number of speakers with specific importance in 55+ communities.

Penn State University:

- The data gathered in Harrogate has still to be analyzed.
- Funding for 2017/18 will be used to support monitoring of phorid fly populations in mushroom houses at different crop stages and around the exterior of the farm and Harrogate community.
- In November a post-doctoral scholar will begin work to identify a sex pheromone or attractant that could be used to attract and trap adult phorid flies.
- Other novel technology such as 'eaves tubes' will also be investigated for its potential to control adult phorid flies.
- Testing of products already registered for use in other crop systems is continuing with possible label extension for mushroom crops.

Mushroom Industry:

- A larvicide (PFR97) has been approved by EPA and is being used by some growers and some are using PHOR-EX which is approved for emergency use until

December 2017.

- The level of phorid flies varies from farm to farm and even between mushroom houses within a farm.
- The AMI and mushroom growers would not support any moves to reintroduce Diazinon as it is believed that retailers/ consumers would react negatively to this chemical being used.

PA Dept of Agriculture:

- Extension for the use of PHOR-EX will be addressed.

PA State Representatives

- The State has approved a budget increase for Dept of Agriculture R&D of approximately \$2m (hopefully some of this could be used for mushroom/ phorid fly work)
- It is recognized that phorid fly infestation is a quality of life issue in the region that is seriously impacting residents.