



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

3147 Research Drive • State College, Pennsylvania 16801
Telephone: 814-238-4651 • Fax: 814-238-3454

March 4, 2024

Property Owner Address

Re: Aerial Spraying of Spongy Moth (formerly Gypsy Moth) Parcel #

Dear Property Owner:

Ferguson Township is partnering with Patton Township to control Spongy Moth in your area. The decision to move forward with spraying was based on the amount of egg masses in your area and the likelihood of deforestation and potential tree loss from the insect.

The Board of Supervisors approved the 2024 Operating Budget with an allocation of funds for use to treat areas identified as having egg masses with high potential for an elevated population of Spongy Moths. Attached, a map shows the proposed spray block for your location.

The Township will use BtK to treat the Spongy Moths. BtK, short for *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kustaki*) is a bacterium found naturally on leaves and in the soil. These bacteria are tiny little factories that produce protein crystals that kill a specific group of insects. It is the safest and most effective eradication method for spongy moths. Btk only impacts caterpillars and will not harm other beneficial insects. It is not harmful to mammals, birds, or fish.

Residents have the option to opt out of spraying. Our applicator will leave a 500 foot buffer around any parcel that does not wish to participate. If you wish to opt out, please email your name and address to arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us or written correspondence to Township Arborist, specifically to state you wish to opt out by March 22nd.

Please note that adjacent properties that are located in the 500-foot buffer area which will not be sprayed, but wish to be treated, are eligible for reimbursement equal to the cost the Township would have spent for aerial spraying. An application for reimbursement form will need to be completed and a paid receipt must be provided to the Township to be eligible for reimbursement. The Township anticipates a one-time application will occur between late April to mid- May based on weather patterns and caterpillar maturity.

Additional information may be obtained at www.twp.ferguson.pa.us/spongymoth or contact the Township Arborist at 814-238-4651 or email Arborist@twp.ferguson.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Centrice Martin
Township Manager