

## SPONGY MOTH CATERPILLARS

Certain selected areas in Blendon Township are scheduled to receive aerial application of the insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (B.t.k.) for the suppression of spongy (gypsy) moth larvae. Maps of these areas are attached with this letter. The applicator for the program is Hamilton Helicopters, Inc; PO Box 264, Hamilton, MI 49419, (616) 291-5808. The B.t.k. brand will be Foray 76B or equivalent. The spraying will be done by aircraft when the weather conditions are suitable. The exact dates cannot be predetermined as application is weather dependent. Spraying is tentatively planned for May 2025.

The insecticide B.t.k. is derived from a naturally occurring bacteria and is known only to affect caterpillars by destroying their stomachs after they eat the material. It does not affect honeybees or other non-leaf eating insects, birds, fish, or mammals. The B.t.k. is applied at a quart per acre in a very fine mist that targets the tree leaves. The carrier liquid is water and drying usually takes place within a few minutes.