

Further letters received. For easier viewing, our comments are written in block Times New Roman, while letters are in Arial.

We print all letters from all sides of all arguments regardless as to whether we agree with the contents or not, that way we create debate. Please write in and have your say on any of the topics.

From: Jim.Poulos@ARS.USDA.GOV>
To: h.pagan.pla@aol.co.uk
Sent: Fri, 23 May 2014 20:03
Subject: ARS news

Research of ARS, the research arm of the USDA

Well, if this isn't a kick in the pants: Farmers in the Pacific Northwest put out some 3 million pounds of slug bait per year to fight grey field slugs that like to feast on high-value crops—and worms slither out of their holes and EAT the bait...that is, if they don't drag it back into their burrows to share with "friends and family"! What's that saying: "One man's meat is another man's poison"? This is definitely one of our more unusual stories, which you can check out below; enjoy!

"ARS in the News" gives you a weekly look at the places where ARS research findings have popped up in the nation's media outlets, typically as a result of ARS News Service items. The ARS News Service is produced by the ARS Information Staff.

From bad to worse: Scientists confirm worms are eating slug bait. Food Consumer, Physorg.com, Agrprofessional.com, Ag Weekly, and e!Science News on May 19 picked up that day's ARS News Service story about studies showing that worms are eating bait meant to control slugs in agricultural fields in the Pacific Northwest. Physorg.com posts scientific discussions on physics, applied physics, and a wide range of other scientific topics. Its readership has grown steadily to include 1.5 million scientists, researchers, and engineers every month. Ag Weekly is an online division of The Times-News, which has a weekly circulation of 12,400. [Link](#)

Pig breed serves as ideal model for human obesity research. Food Consumer, Science Blog, e!Science News, and Medical Xpress on May 22 picked up that day's ARS News Service story about studies showing that a certain breed of pig serves as an ideal model for human obesity research. Food Consumer is operated by a number of professionals in food, health and environmental sciences and has an average of 20,000 page views every month. Science Blog is published by a team of science editors, writers and enthusiasts. It includes research news releases, original stories and interviews, and blogs covering everything from computers and electronics to biology and medicine. e! Science News is a science news site that uses a computer program to automatically update its content. Medical Xpress is a web-based medical and health news service that is part of the PhysOrg.com network. [Link](#)

Can organic farming counteract carbon emissions? The Wall Street Journal on May 22 published a feature about organic farming and included an interview with ARS scientist

Michel Cavigelli at Beltsville, Maryland, about his work on soil carbon in agricultural production systems. The Wall Street Journal is published six days a week and has a circulation of around 2.1 million. [Link](#)

How to farm a better fish. National Geographic in its June 2014 issue published a story about fish farming and quoted ARS scientist Rick Barrow at Aberdeen, Idaho, about how diets are changing for farm-raised fish. National Geographic, which is published monthly, is read by more than 40 million people in English and 30 local-language editions in every country in the world.

Primitive, bizarre, beautiful: New mite species reveal a lost world awaiting discovery. Smithsonian Science on May 22 featured research at the ARS Electron and Confocal Microscopy Unit at Beltsville, Maryland, and included interviews with researchers Ron Ochoa and Gary Bauchan. Smithsonian Science is a website that features current research at the Smithsonian.

Water mission boosts food security. Technology.org on May 22 published a feature about ESA's Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity satellite and its use in predicting drought and improving crop yield in regions prone to famine. The story notes that ARS scientists are collaborating on this research, and quotes ARS researcher Wade Crow at Beltsville, Maryland. Technology.org is a website that publishes information about various science and technology topics ranging from pure technical disciplines to natural and social sciences.

Mother Jones on May 20 published a story on bee health and quoted ARS scientist Jeff Pettis at Beltsville, Maryland, about how a new study contributes to the understanding of colony collapse disorder and how it affects bees. Mother Jones, a nonprofit news organization that specializes in investigative, political, and social justice reporting, has a circulation of 240,000.

U.S. bees die a bit less, but still need feeding up. New Scientist on May 20 published a feature story about the most recent bee loss survey results and quoted ARS scientist Jeff Pettis at Beltsville, Maryland. New Scientist is a British science magazine that has a circulation of over 143,000 and a worldwide readership of over half a million. Also picking up the story on May 19 was The Scientist and Agriview. The Scientist has covered scientific developments involving research, technology and business. It has a monthly circulation of around 53,000. Agriview, Wisconsin's leading agricultural newspaper, is published weekly and has a circulation of 38,000.

The genetic basis of evolved resistance to GMO cotton in India. Science 2.0, Meridian Institute, Redorbit.com, Agprofessional.com, and Agrimarketing on May 19 reported on research led by ARS scientist Jeffrey Fabrick at Maricopa, Arizona, on the molecular basis of insect resistance to genetically modified cotton plants. Science2.0 is a news website that has over 1 million visitors per month. The Meridian Institute helps people solve complex and controversial problems, make informed decisions, and implement solutions that improve lives, the economy, and the environment. Redorbit.com is a website that features news about science, space, and technology and receives over 5 million visitors every month. Agprofessional.com is the website for a monthly magazine that is read by 28,500 retailers, independent crop consultants, and professional farm

managers. Agrimarketing is published nine times a year and covers the unique interests of corporate agribusiness executives, their marketing communications agencies, the agricultural media, ag trade associations and other ag-related professionals. It has around 8,000 subscribers.

Scientists scrutinize role of “supershedder” cattle in E. coli O157:H7 contamination. Quality Assurance & Food Safety, Lancaster Farming, The Cattle Site, Dairy Herd Management, and Business Farmer on May 16 picked up the May 12 ARS News Service report about studies showing that certain “supershedder” cattle are responsible for shedding high levels of pathogenic organisms in their manure. Quality Assurance & Food Safety is the website for QA magazine, which is published for sanitarians, quality assurance and food safety professionals, pest management service personnel and food safety plant managers working in the rapidly expanding food processing industry. The monthly magazine is read by 19,000 industry professionals. Lancaster Farming is a weekly newspaper that provides news, market and commodity reports and agribusiness information to a readership of over 51,000. The Cattle Site is a website that provides free technical information to a steadily growing on-line worldwide audience of around 85,000 visitors every month. Dairy Herd Management is the website for a monthly business magazine that is read by around 70,000 dairy professionals. Business Farmer is a weekly newspaper published in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, with a circulation of 1,500.

In social media activity this week, @USDA_ARC on Twitter now has 5,608 followers. Notable new followers include: @AgNews, Illinois AgriNews, Indiana AgriNews and CountryNews <http://www.agrinews-pubs.com/> (27,300 followers); @PlattsAg, Platts & Kingsman provide a range of sugar & biofuels reports <http://www.platts.com/> (665 followers);

@milksources, dairy industry news portal <http://theglobaldairy.com/> (3,002 followers); and @PollenTech, Pollen-Tech is an innovative start-up company applying technology to improve crop pollination and increase crop production and food, Scottsdale, AZ <http://www.pollen-tech.com/> (70 followers).

This week’s top tweets: “From Bad to Worse: @USDA_ARC Scientists Confirm Worms Are Eating Slug Bait. <http://tiny.cc/2433fx>” (May 19, 48 clicks); and “@USDA Blog: Watching Our Water w/ @USDA_ARC <http://go.usa.gov/8BMF> (May 20, 30 clicks).

[Click here](#) to see a complete listing of this week's news stories.

We hope you enjoy receiving "ARS in the News." If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sandy Miller Hays, Director of the ARS Information Staff, at Sandy.MillerHays@ars.usda.gov or telephone 301-504-1636.

Best Regards

Jim

James A. Poulos, Technology Transfer Coordinator, Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
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From: ferguson@maspin-house.co.uk
To: h.pagan.pla@aol.co.uk
Sent: Thu, 22 May 2014 19:34
Subject: FW: Wind farms and wind turbines being refused as Local concerns taken into account

7 May - 87 metre turbine at Lumby and 77 metre turbine at Riccall refused by Selby District Council

15 May - Wistow Lordship wind turbine refused at appeal after intervention by Eric Pickles

22 May - Thornholme Fields Wind farm appeal refused by Eric Pickles after Inspector Griffiths (AKA Blight) recommends approval. Difference of opinion over - landscape impact, heritage impact, cumulative impact, impact on local residents and whether 25 year is a long or short time.

The table is turning against wind farms and wind turbines in unsuitable locations. The voices of local people are being heard and the impact on landscape is being given much greater consideration. The turbine at Wistow was refused because of the impact on the landscape and Thornholme Fields was refused after the Secretary of State disagreed with the Inspector about the visual impact of a wind farm in a relatively flat open landscape. Griffiths said the 360 foot high turbines were OK and only there for 25 years Pickles said you would be able to see the turbines for miles and 25 years was a long time. And in this case Pickles made the final decision.

The main argument at the Spaldington River Valley appeal was also about landscape impact. The developers claims turbines are elegant, sculptural structures that enhance the attractiveness of the countryside (where somebody else lives). The people living in Spaldington said they didn't want another 6 turbines built near the village.

The policies haven't changed , but what has changed is the relative weight being given to the benefits of the renewable energy versus the harm that wind farms do to the landscape.

You can read the Ministerial Statement by Eric Pickles about the reasons for his departments intervention in "Called in" wind farm decisions <<http://goo.gl/DGYkLQ>> here.

The stopwoodlanewindfarm web site has full reports on - the <<http://www.stopwoodlanewindfarm.co.uk/news%2086%20wistow%20lordship%20turbine.html>> Wistow Lordship decision - Selby refusal of the <<http://www.stopwoodlanewindfarm.co.uk/news85%20lumby%20and%20riccall%20turbines%20decision.html>> Riccall and Lumby turbines - the <<http://www.stopwoodlanewindfarm.co.uk/news84%20spaldington%20public%20inquiry.html>> Spaldington Inquiry with a video of David Davis MP -.

Click on any you are interested in.

The tables are definitely beginning to turn - your can by taking part in the latest campaign by <http://www.togetheragainstwind.com/stop-the-wind-farm-fully/>

Parishioners have hailed the decision to throw out plans for a wind turbine in the village as it would have had an “overbearing” and “detrimental” effect. Temporis Wind Limited applied for permission to build a 77metre-high turbine in Potash Lane, Wyverstone, near Stowmarket. The firm claimed it would provide electricity to supply nearly 290 homes - almost 85% of homes in the village and nearby Westhorpe and Great Ashfield parishes. Some 675 tonnes of carbon dioxide would be prevented from . . .

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/wyverstone-refusal-of-wind-turbine-plan-is-backed-by-parish-council/>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/wyverstone-refusal-of-wind-turbine-plan-is-backed-by-parish-council/email>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/wyverstone-refusal-of-wind-turbine-plan-is-backed-by-parish-council/print/>

England

20 May 2014

Chapmanslade residents reject turbine proposal again

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/chapmanslade-residents-reject-turbine-proposal-again/>

At a meeting called by Chapmanslade Parish Council and attended by over 70 people last Thursday 15th May, local residents were vociferous in their objections to the proposal for a 285' (87m) turbine on farmland in front of Cley Hill, Longleat Woods and their officially recognised areas of outstanding natural beauty. When discussions were opened to the floor, 15 people spoke against the proposal and only two supported it. Parish Council Chairman Philip Jefferson said that the council members wanted . . .

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/chapmanslade-residents-reject-turbine-proposal-again/>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/chapmanslade-residents-reject-turbine-proposal-again/email/>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/chapmanslade-residents-reject-turbine-proposal-again/print/>

Opinions, Rhode Island

20 May 2014

Wind turbines vs your home

<<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/wind-turbines-vs-your-home/>>

The state of Rhode Island wants to promote the development of commercial wind energy in the state, with the goal of meeting 15% of the state's electrical consumption with wind energy. Today land based wind turbines stand 440 feet tall, with a diameter spanning

540 feet. Another way to put it is it's the size of a Boeing 747 standing on its tail in your back yard. Commercial wind turbine progress towards the renewable energy goal has been very slow. . . .

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/wind-turbines-vs-your-home/>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/wind-turbines-vs-your-home/email>

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/20/wind-turbines-vs-your-home/print>

<https://twitter.com/?status=https://wind-watch.org/news/?p=64026+Wind+turbi>

From: Rogers, Helen (NE) (NE) <Helen.Rogers@naturalengland.org.uk>
To: cates.1980 <cates.1980@aol.co.uk>
Sent: Tue, 3 Jun 2014 15:32
Subject: RE: 'Robin and Beaver Cull.'

Dear Mr Piller

Thank you for the email you recently sent to Natural England about our General and Class Licence Consultation.

The issue of robins, pied wagtails and starlings was included in Question 2 of the consultation. There is also some further information about the issue on our website here: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/mythbusting.aspx>.

All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and cannot be killed or taken, and neither can their nests and eggs be taken, damaged or destroyed. The Act does allow for nests and eggs to be taken, damaged or destroyed under licence where required to preserve public health or safety.

Pied wagtails, robins and starlings sometimes choose nesting locations, such as the inside of food preparation facilities, hospital ventilation shafts and railway signalling equipment, which present a potential hazard to human health and safety, as a result of risk of infection or serious accident. The consultation sought views on whether the removal of pied wagtail, robin and starling nests where the location of those nests represents a potential health and safety hazard ONLY should be included in the General Licence. If the licence was changed, this would allow essential action to be taken more quickly, as it would no longer require application for an individual licence before nest removal.

There is no proposal to change the existing law protecting birds' nests and eggs and any destruction of a nest outside the circumstances outlined would remain illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. There is no process for issuing licences to take or remove eggs, nests and birds for development purposes, such as house building, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and there are no proposals in the consultation to give wider permission to developers, or anyone else, to disturb nests and eggs than already exists.

For further information regarding the consultation, the full document can be found here:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/licences/wildlifelicensingconsultation.aspx>

Regards

Helen

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www.naturalengland.org.uk

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

From: Fareham John (Councillor) <Councillor.Fareham@hullcc.gov.uk>
To: Henry Pagan <h.pagan.pla2@aol.co.uk>
Sent: Tue, 3 Jun 2014 12:18
Subject: RE: 'UK Robin and Beaver Cull.'

Thank you for this but I am not envisaging hordes of shot-gun toting citizens culling such a bird

Almost certainly not the case. It's the matter of principle as far as I'm concerned. Why are they even discussing this in the first place? Starlings are now so rare I should've thought they'd 've been put on the critically endangered list.

I'll now hand you over to the Reverend.

From: Reverend Billy Talen <revbilly@revbilly.com>
To: Henry Pagan <h.pagan.pla@aim.com>
Sent: Fri, 13 Jun 2014 16:22
Subject: Our Next Robobee Exorcism



Citizens of Earthalujahville!

Didn't they levitate the Pentagon and turn it orange, some years ago?

We are planning our return to the Devil's Laboratory, the "RoboBee Lab" at Harvard University. We want to transform the four-story tall RoboBee Lab into a gigantic bee-hive.

We have sung our "ROBOBEE DON'T POLLINATE ME" gospel number in the hallways of the lab, and the scientists stumbled out and we talked. We've been to the lab twice now.

Our little film about the Robobee and coverage in the New Yorker by Elizabeth Kolbert, the Village Voice, and Al Jazeera America have raised this scandal to the light of day. The citizens are beginning to swarm. "You mean, they are building a drone to replace the Honey Bee, even while pesticides kill off the real bees?"

We have two more shows at Joe's Pub in New York on June 15th and June 22nd. Around the corner from our Joe's Pub finale on June 22nd, is a second pub, grandly called Swift's Hibernian Lounge. There, the singers and faithful, the beekeepers and artists - shall gather from 4 to 6 o'clock. We will draw and paint and sculpt and write songs, depicting the bee-hiving of the RoboBee lab. Monsanto and the Pentagon must be opposed with magic surrealism, honey and money. Oh glory beeeee it's a fundraiser tooooo ---

Faithful who won't be with us in New York, do not despair!

-- Watch the HoneyBeeLujah Show livestream at 2:00pm EDT on Sunday June 15th.

-- Send your drawings of bees attacking the Robobee Lab to me at Revbilly@revbilly.com by June 20th. We will put as many of your creations on the walls as we can. Your images can be by hand or photo-shop.

-- PASSING THE PLATE. Help us finance our soul-saving mission back to the RoboBee lab - our Third HoneyBeeLujah RoboBee Exorcism.

HoneyBeeLujah!

Reverend Billy Talen

We'll be helping Rev. Billy's campaign, so keep posted. Please keep your letters coming in on all the topics we've discussed so that we can open some debate (contact details can be withheld by the way, many of you have ask us not disclose and we will always respect this).

Thank you,