

News Release

Oakland County municipalities invited to participate in training sessions for Board, MSU Extension invasive moths surveying

Grant applications to open following in-person training events

November 4, 2021, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – To help suppress and mitigate the spread of [*Lymantria dispar*](#) and their negative impacts on the environment within the county, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners is launching the Moth Suppression Program. Administered by Michigan State University Extension, the program will provide grants to cities, villages and townships to support their efforts in mitigating the impacts of this invasive species. Municipalities who wish to apply for the funds must first be trained in surveying.

“With the destruction that these moths bring, we wanted to ensure our cities, villages and townships have support to combat this invasive species in their communities,” Board Vice Chairwoman **Marcia Gershenson** (D-Bloomfield Township) said. “This county support, combined with the expertise of MSU Extension and educational opportunities for residents, will help reduce the *Lymantria dispar* populations in our region.”

The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved \$250,000 for Oakland County *Lymantria dispar* mitigation during the 2021 fiscal year budgeting process. Municipalities that apply for the program will be required to share costs, and a cap on funding will be determined based on interest level. Funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and municipalities are required to participate in training before applying for the grants.

“I know that plenty of Oakland County communities are ready to take action to mitigate the impact of these moths,” Minority Caucus Chair **Michael Spisz** (R-Oxford) said. “We encourage municipalities to send staff to the training sessions so that they’re eligible for the county funding we’ve made available.”

Trainings for municipal staff on egg mass surveying using Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development protocols and procedures will be hosted:

- Tuesday, November 9, 2021, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. in Rochester Hills at the Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, 1005 Van Hoosen Rd., Rochester Hills, 48306

- Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Oxford Township at the Oxford Township Offices, 300 Dunlap Rd., Oxford, MI 48371
- Wednesday, November 17, 2021, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Oxford Township at the Oxford Township Offices, 300 Dunlap Rd., Oxford, MI 48371

The four-hour training sessions include both classroom and field activities. Two to three staff members from each municipality that wishes to participate must attend a training session. Those staff will then survey their community based on residential interest and known areas of infestation. To register for training, visit <https://bit.ly/OCMothSrvTrng>.

Surveys for egg masses are traditionally completed in late fall. Homeowners who believe they have *Lymantria dispar* egg masses on their property can contact the Oakland MSU Extension office at 248-858-0887 and request to be included in the fall survey.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, please visit www.oakgov.com/boc or call 248-858-0100.

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