

# Four gypsy moths found in SLV area

Sentinel staff report

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FELTON — State officials confirmed Monday that the insect found Friday in a Fall Creek Park-area trap was a gypsy moth.

That brings to four the number of gypsy moths found in the area last week. Crews from the county Agriculture Commissioner's Office were checking traps Monday afternoon.

Agricultural Commission Dave Moeller said crews from the state would check traps in the area today to give local workers time to tend to other types of pest-detection traps throughout the county.

"We've had to rob Peter to pay Paul," Moeller said about the time devoted to gypsy-moth detection in the Felton area. "We don't want to get too far behind."

Unless more gypsy moths are found this week, said Moeller, weekly trap checks probably would replace the daily scouting that's being done now.

European gypsy moths have been common in the eastern portion of the United States for more than a century, but only occasional "hitchhikers" show up in states west of the Mississippi, Moeller said.

European gypsy moths don't attack evergreen trees, which are common in the Felton area, Moeller said.