

Rains Continue To Delay Farm Work In County

A second week of heavy rains put soil moisture at surplus levels over most of the Commonwealth, the State Crop Reporting Service said today in its weekly crop and weather roundup.

The eastern and southwestern localities were the only areas to report soil moisture as adequate. In most other parts of the State field work was slowed to a snail's pace and farmers kept busy with indoor chores.

Sweet corn was planted on light soils in most areas.

Early potatoes are up in all areas and a few dry days are needed for cultivation. Growth has been slow because of cool weather and lack of sunshine.

Tobacco seedlings are in good condition with only a few thin beds reported. A few scattered fields have been planted.

Hay growth has not made as much progress as usual for this time of the year. However, pasture is growing

nicely. Spittlebugs and alfalfa weevils are serious in some fields where spraying was not done this year.

Excess moisture throughout most vegetable producing areas brought planting activity to a virtual halt. Plantings made prior to the heavy rains are not making good progress and rotting of seeds in the ground continues in some areas. Growth of early planted peas, asparagus, rhubarb and radishes has been very good where field conditions permit.

Tomato plants are about a week to 10 days behind the normal planting schedule. Later plantings of sweet corn, snap beans and cabbage are being delayed by the unfavorable weather.

Grains look good in general but there have been reports of yellowing of oats, corn and wheat in low wet spots. Corn is about one-third planted and coming up quite well considering the cool wet weather. Barley is headed in all areas.



IVAN HORNING, EPHRATA R 2, one of the few farmers in the county fortunate enough to outguess the weather this spring is shown driving the tractors while Mrs. Horning, left, and her sister Edna Martin drop tobacco plants. Posing on the back of the planter is Carolyn Jane Horning, almost three, and anxious to help her parents finish the two acre field before it rains again. Horning, who intends to plant six acres of tobacco this year set the first plants in the field on May 16, but wet weather had kept him out of the field until Wednesday and Thursday of this week. —L. F. PHOTO



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KILL QUACKGRASS

Don't wait until a field turns green with quackgrass before going over it again with a field cultivator, warns George Berggren, Penn State agronomist. Cultivate the field often enough so the roots can't get re-established.

Temperatures averaged near to slightly above normal with the maximum in the low 80's and the minimum in the 50's. Severe rain storms coupled with high temperatures caused some damage to grain crops and vegetables in the county, particularly in the Millersville area during the week. County farm work is running a week to two weeks late, estimates indicate.

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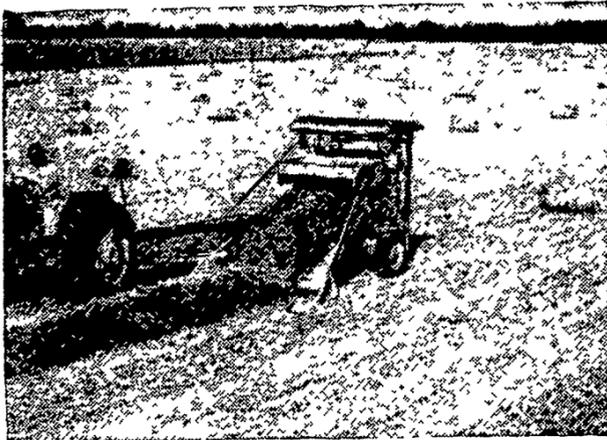
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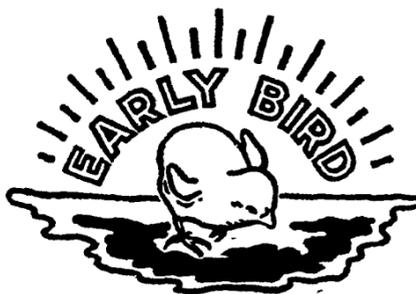
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