

Rains Bring Harvest To A Halt

HARRISBURG— Pennsylvania farmers had the best conditions for field work since mid-June, the State Crop Reporting Service said today in its crop and weather roundup.

Farmers kept busy throughout the week cutting clover, timothy hay and alfalfa, cultivating early corn and combining barley, wheat rye and winter oats. Most areas dried sufficiently to permit using machinery in fields. Wheat harvesting was progressing rapidly in Lancaster County. Rains and damp weather brought harvest operations to a halt during the week with about 2/3 of the crop harvester.

With higher temperatures now in prospect, tomatoes and sweet corn will be in good supply within a few weeks. Snap beans, early cabbage and broccoli are moving in good volume. Harvest of asparagus and straw berries is complete in all areas.

Peaches are sizing well and early varieties are starting to ripen in southern counties. Peak harvest of sour cherries in the South Mountain area is well along and picking in Erie County started late last week. Apples are also putting on size and are relatively clean considering the wet weather. Picking of early varieties such as Transparent and Lodi started this past week.

The corn crop looks vigorous and has good color considering the cool weather. Barley and wheat yields are generally good. Barley yellow dwarf virus and leaf

rust are serious on spring oats in some localities. Winter oats in the county promises to produce well but yields of spring oats will be quite variable. Rye harvest has begun in the south.

Pasture growth, while not as lush as in June, is still providing good feed. Recent rains will help pastures to continue growth. Alfalfa spraying is continuing where weevil control was not adequate earlier. First crop of hay not yet cut is well beyond maturity and losing quality rapidly. Farmers had a good week for drying hay except in the northeast where wet ground slowed drying.

Eastern National Has New Classes

The addition of a Quality Beef Carcass Contest to the list of classes at the Eastern National Livestock Show should help make the 1960 exposition the largest in history, Charles A. Morrow, manager of the show, said recently.

The Eastern National, often referred to as the "livestock show window of the East," will attract entries from at least twenty states and Canada to the Maryland State Fair Grounds at Timonium, Maryland, November 12-17.

Mr. Morrow said that exhibitors are being invited to participate in a Quality Beef Carcass Contest in which steers will first be judged in the show ring and then after slaughter. The cattle will be shown on-the-hoof on Sunday, November 13, and will be taken the following day to a Baltimore slaughter house where they will be prepared for the rack and judged. The grand champion and reserve champion carcasses will be brought back to the fairgrounds on

Research Report Explains

What Happens To Nitrogen

Many tons of nitrogen fertilizer will be left in our soils next fall after harvest. Can we cut down on winter nitrogen loss? Can we estimate what's left next spring when making fertilizer recommendations?

These are questions USDA and State scientists are trying to answer. The answers are important because we spend over a third of a bil-

lion dollars a year for nitrogen fertilizer in humid regions of the country — and only half of that amount is taken up by crops.

Tuesday for exhibition.

Another class for junior calves born after December 31, 1959, has been added to the 4-H Club and FFA Breeding Heifer Show, Mr. Morrow added, and exhibitors in this show may enter two heifers. Last year, when the heifer show started, they were restricted to one entry.

The addition of these two classes, he said, is expected to develop greater interest in the Eastern National. More than \$52,000 in cash premiums will be offered.

Closing dates for entries are October 1 for the open (adult) classes and September 24 for the 4-H and FFA Junior Show. The junior exhibitors must submit their entry applications to their county agents office.

So far, little consideration has been given to carried-over nitrogen when making fertilizer recommendations. And no extensive effort has been made to follow practices that will help save these millions of dollars worth of nitrogen. With more and more nitrogen being used, losses are proving extremely costly. However, few dependable answers have been found. This is what we have learned:

There are important annual carryovers of nitrogen fertilizer.

The residual effect varies from year to year, but does not appear to be related to total rainfall.

Fall-applied nitrogen is only about 57 percent as effective as spring-applied nitro-

gen for corn in humid areas. These facts are part of the results of 5 years' cooperative research by ARS at the Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations. Related studies are also being conducted by other states and nations as the extent of nitrogen loss is discovered.

From these many sources is accumulating evidence that scientists have not been correct in believing that the bulk of nitrogen loss occurs only through leaching. Evidence now shows that nitrogen, regardless of its form, is also lost to the atmosphere — through volatilization. Molecular and nitrous oxide in appreciable quantities. There is no agreement yet to how important volatilization losses are in the field, how farmers can prevent them.

Factors Govern the Amount of Nitrogen Recovered

These new facts combined with what is already known indicate that fertilized crops recover a variable fraction of the applied nitrogen—depending on rate used, rate of plant growth, rainfall distribution and amount, competition by other plants and microflora, ammonium fixation and probably other factors. (Turn to page 14)



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