

Pasture Conditions Improve Little; Barley Harvest Begins; Hay Good

General rains and cooler temperatures during the middle of the week gave county pastures some much-needed help. Pastures are still very short for this time of year and permanent bluegrass stands were extremely hard hit by the high temperatures and dry conditions.

A few early barley fields fell before the combine this week, but reports on yields were sketchy and not specific. Wheat is beginning to yellow. Very little lodging is reported.

Some reports of second crop alfalfa cutting is reported around the county. Crops are

reported slightly lighter than normal, but most of the hay made this year has been of high quality.

Tobacco cultivating was one of the main farm jobs this week with the crop becoming well established in most fields. Just a few small patches were left to plant after the middle of the week.

Corn crops around the county, uneven and spotty during the dry period, are evening up and showing good color and growth. Many fields have seen their last cultivation and most fields appear to be very free of weeds.

Last week's rains improved

conditions on Pennsylvania farmlands and temperatures allowed for near normal field operations, the State Crop Reporting Service said Tuesday in its weekly crop and weather summary.

Adequate to surplus soil moisture in the Northwest slowed field work in that area, while the northeastern and central portions of the Commonwealth were still in need of rain.

Cobbler potatoes were in full blossom in the southern and central areas of the state. Spud growers reported very wet conditions in the northwest while Lehigh-Northampton producers complained of too dry.

Vegetables and fruits are

flourishing after a slow start from the dry spell. Prospects are for a slightly above average peach crop. Sweet cherry picking continued in the South Mountain area and will begin very soon in the Erie region. Sour cherries are coloring well. Apples are sizing nicely and some raspberry patches are starting to change color.

The oats crop appears to be generally short due to the previous dry weather. Wheat stands look good but also are short for this time of year. Barley is yellowing throughout the state. The corn crop got a needed boost from last week's rain. Soybean planting

is nearly completed, and buckwheat sowing has reached the half-way mark.

Clover and timothy cutting is in progress as well as first cuttings of alfalfa.

Egg Promotion Is Pushed By National Group

The Poultry and Egg National Board, responding to the demands of the egg industry in the current distress situation, has urged retail food organizations to merchandise and promote eggs more aggressively in the next several weeks, it has been reported by Lloyd H. Geil, General Manager of the Board.

The retailers were approached directly and through their associations.

"We urged food retailers to cooperate by promoting the sale of eggs more intensively in the weeks ahead. The buying public is likely to respond to special promotions featuring the many benefits of eggs, now that supplies are plentiful and prices are well below last year," Geil said.

The Board stepped-up its promotional activities to spark the nation-wide move to push eggs. He pointed out Merchandising materials prepared by PENB have been made available to the major retailers, poultry associations and related organizations.

A PENB news story and script for radio/TV commentators on 13 ideas for convenient and easy-to-prepare meals and snacks this summer have been sent to consumer media.

In addition to the widespread cooperation from the food and poultry industries, additional strength is being applied to the program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sold For More

An average Pennsylvania farm of 120 acres of land and buildings sold for about \$24,000 last year, reports H. Wayne Kelly, extension farm management specialist at Penn State. This was four per cent more than in 1960. More farm titles were also transferred to new owners.

Lancaster County Dairymen Are Talking

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