

Crop Summary Rains Relieve Dry Conditions

Rains at the middle of the week broke the back of the dry spell that had begun to worry county farmers, but the thunderstorm that dumped about a half inch of rain on the Garden Spot failed to make up the deficit which has been building all through the month of April.

Cool weather and drying winds, combined with inadequate soil moisture conditions in most areas, limited germination and growth of all crops throughout the state last week, according to the weekly crop and weather summary issued Tuesday by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Sub-freezing temperatures prevailed in nearly all sections of the state several mornings during the week and snow flurries were reported in a number of northern counties. Four-week precipitation totals indicate April to be one of the driest of record in the eastern two-thirds of the state.

Farmers, however, continued to make rapid progress with plowing and planting, centering major activity on plowing and fitting ground for corn. Oats planting and hay seeding were nearing completion but germination has been slowed by weather. Fall seeded grains, hay, and pastures still looked good but, again, weather conditions impeded growth. Some rye is being pastured in central and southeastern areas, but lack of growth has limited the grazing of other pastures. Where cows have been put on pasture, it is mainly because of feed shortage, not availability of pasture.

Planting of cobbler potatoes is winding up in the county and getting under way in some of the northern counties. Fall potato planting has started in the southeast. Planting of early cabbage, peas, string beans and lettuce continued with early growth doing well, but warm weather and rain are needed for continued growth. Harvesting of over-wintered spinach in Bucks County is moving slowly and stands are reported spotty from winter freeze damage. Spring planted spinach is up but needs rain.

Fruit trees are blooming in southern counties, including the South Mountain area of Adams and Franklin Counties, and the Berks-Lehigh area. Peak bloom is expected in Erie County in about a week. Peach and cherry crops in most areas, particularly in the northwest, show damage from the extreme cold of last winter and the cold snaps of recent weeks. It is still too early to determine the full extent of the damage. A few growers in the South Mountain area have been using smudge pots to prevent further injury. Prospects for apples still appear good although much depends on favorable weather for pollination and set of fruit. Rainfall last week ranged from one-fourth to one-half inch with the central area receiving the most and the southeast the least. Although insufficient to erase the deficit, it was welcome relief to crops that have been at a standstill because of moisture shortage. Much more rainfall is needed for the continued growth and development of all crops.

Witmer Guernsey Tops DHIA; Aungst Herd Has High Average

Anne, a Registered Guernsey cow in the herd of Raymond and Louise Witmer, Willow St. R1, produced 15,181 pounds of milk and 836 pounds of butterfat in 305 days to top the Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement Association in March. The cow made the record as a seven year old.

Ranking second in completed lactations was a five year old registered Holstein in the herd of Christ K Lapp and Son, Gap R2. "Skylark" made 20,434 pounds of milk and 800 pounds of butterfat in 305 days.

Other cows making over 700 pounds of butterfat in the first 305 days of lactation were in the herds of Samuel A Dum, John J. Herr, Calvin S Kutz, Ray P Bollinger, Amos B Lantz, John H Stauffer, Earl R Martin, and Ray R. Harbold. All these cows were Holsteins. Harry S Mumma had a Guernsey with 697 pounds of butterfat.

High herd average during the month was maintained by the 17 registered Holstein cows in the herd of Hiram S Aungst, Elizabethtown R1. The herd made 2,210 pounds of milk and 87 pounds of butterfat per

MAKE IT EASIER

Labor is one of the major costs in a poultry enterprise, says Carl Dossin Penn State extension poultry specialist. He stresses the adoption of methods that permit poultrymen to take care of more birds, do a better job and do it in less time. Save five steps in a day and you save a mile a year, he claims.

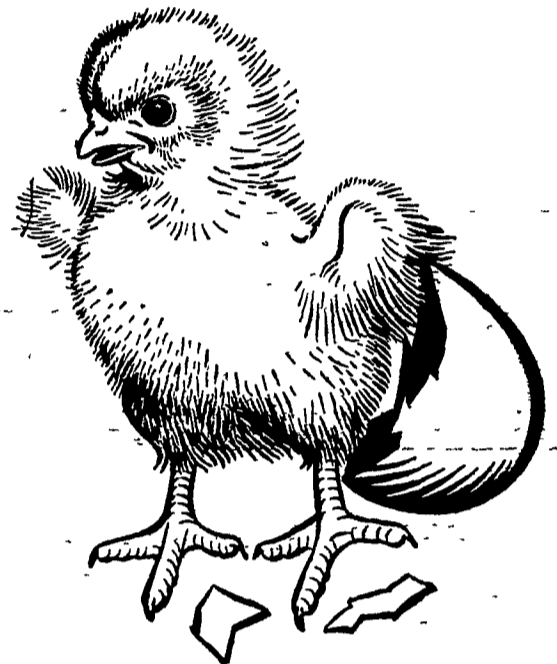
The FFA has 378,081 members affiliated with 8,759 local chapters in 50 States and Puerto Rico.

HATCHING EGG PRODUCERS!

Here are some results from four leghorn breeder flock owners on our EARLY BIRD program which came to our attention.

The data are complete thru February 1963:

Number of Flocks	4
Total Number of Birds	10,507
Average number of months in lay	6
Flock Depletion to date	2.4%
Average Number Cockerels per 100 pullets	8
Feed per dozen eggs to date	4.07 lbs.
% Production to date on hen housed basis	74.9%
Projected eggs per hen housed for 12 month period	246.5
Average % of hatchability to date	92.1



Good Management

and the

EARLY BIRD Breeder Program

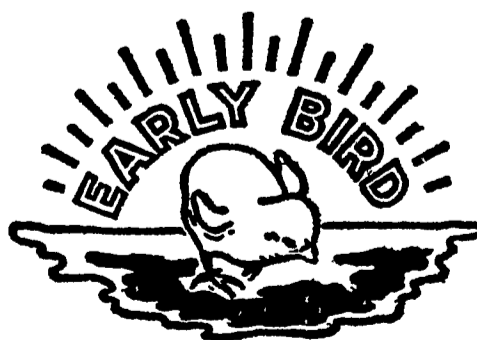
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Weedone Brush Killer "32"

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