

BEST FOOD BUYS Fresh Vegetable Time Is Here

Area food shoppers will find exceptional values at fresh produce counters and roadside stands says Harold Neigh, consumer-marketing specialist at Penn State. Supplies are much heavier than usual for this early in the season. Many items will be wearing lower price tags than last week.

Peaches from Georgia and South Carolina, Bing cherries and Beauty plums from California, blueberries from New Jersey and locally grown strawberries are starting to arrive in heavier supply. Prices are higher now than they will be in a week or two but excellent quality tempts you to add them to fruit bowls and warm weather desserts. Cantaloupe

and watermelon are already selling at low prices and the peak of the season is still some weeks away.

The Pennsylvania strawberry season is now underway. If dry, sunny weather should prevail the peak of the season will come this weekend in many areas. The 1963 season may be shorter than usual because of late frost damage in May. If you are planning on freezing berries, better get your order in now.

Selected cuts of beef, processed pork and poultry will be competing for your meat dollar. Chuck and rib roasts will be beef items featured in many markets. Some area retailers will be featuring smoked pork picnics and Boston

butts. These are both shoulder cuts. Fryers are also on the list of good values, too. About six per cent more fryers are being readied for market now than a year ago.

Retail sugar prices have dropped slightly but no one knows yet just how long it will take prices to get back to normal. Best sugar buying advice is to buy what you normally use and buy again when you need more. Hoarding sugar is not the answer.

Yearly savings in farm production costs, as based on research, are more than twice the cost of all agricultural research for the last 100 years.

Basic research to learn how growth-regulating compounds and hormones affect plants is the goal of a new pioneering research laboratory at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center Beltsville.

Crop Summary Rains, Winds Cause Some Damage

Torrential rains, high winds and hail caused some crop damage in the county early this week, but damage was slight in most areas. The rains have brought on rapid growth of weeds in unsprayed corn fields, but weed control is generally good in the country. Corn got a head start on weeds because of the dry conditions last month.

Wheat benefited somewhat by the showers, but prospects still indicate a short straw crop. Barley is extremely short in most county fields with estimates of barley grain somewhat less than normal because of early drought conditions.

Showers and high humidity

last week were ideal for hay and pasture growth, but slowed field work, particularly hay making, according to the weekly crop and weather summary issued Tuesday by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Despite unfavorable field curing conditions, hay cutting continued during the week ended June 10. Hay made so far has been of fair quality, but dry weather is needed in many areas for proper curing. Pastures are supplying normal amounts of feed.

Corn planting continued in northern counties. Cultivation and spraying for weed control went ahead in the south. About 90 per cent of the corn planting in the state has been completed, and generally the crop is making good progress. Weeds also have flourished and control is a problem.

Wheat and barley are making good growth. Barley has headed in most sections, and is beginning to yellow. Wheat is heading and looks nearly normal in most areas. Oats are making excellent growth and some fields in the southeast are beginning to head, with a good crop in prospect.

Potatoes have recovered well from late May frosts. Planting continued in the north. Tobacco field planting is in full swing in the Lancaster area.

Prospects for most vegetable crops are good. Asparagus harvesting is past the peak, with strawberry harvest in full swing. Harvesting of green peas for processing has started in the extreme south. Most tomatoes that were hit by frost have been replanted, and most stands look good. Sweet corn is being replanted where frost damage occurred.

Weekly temperatures generally were above normal and were more typical of July and August. Weekly amounts of rainfall ranged from 1 to 1.5 inches. Some areas had up to 2.25 inches.

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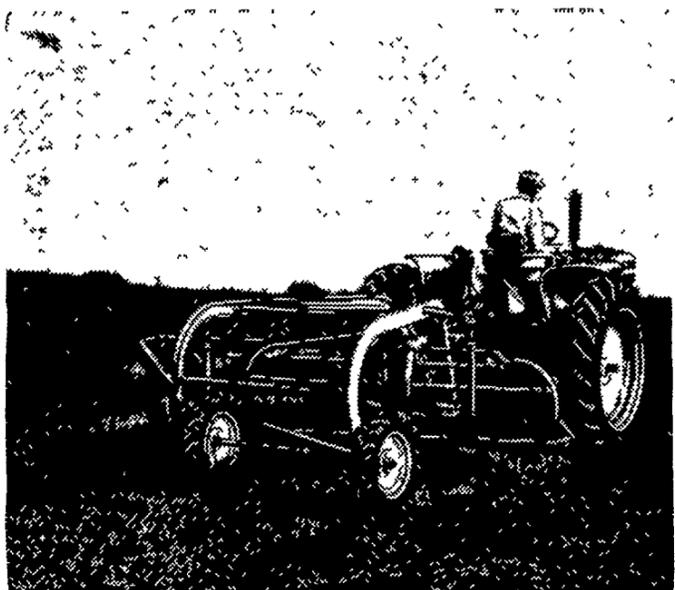
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