



Late corn on the John J. Herr Farm, R.D. 1, Mt. Joy. Field was planted about July 4th and is coming into tassel at about two to three feet high. L. F. Photo

● Drought

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planted. Although it was planted in early June, this tobacco was only about 12 inches high. Mumma thought that if the rain would come on and the frost would hold off, he might get a crop in three to four weeks. It's possible.

At Henry E. Garber's farm, Elizabethtown R1, the early corn looked good. The alfalfa looked better than a lot I saw later in other areas, but it was not what it should have been.

Garber had planted a new field of alfalfa about four weeks ago. At first glance, it looked like a freshly disked field, but closer examination revealed a few struggling plants. Germination was very uneven, and growth appeared at a standstill.

I had been told that the southern end of the County was in better shape crop-wise than the northern and northwestern sections. Time didn't permit investigation of that fact. However, I did get down as far as Jay C Garber's farm at Lancaster R6, below New Danville. His early corn was excellent and he felt the yield would rival that of a good year. It was there that I saw the only really good "late" corn. It had been planted in early June after a rye crop was taken off the field. This was nearly a month earlier than some of the late corn that followed barley on some other farms. Apparently the timing had been just about right because, in spite of an entry in his record book for June 30 that said, "hot . . . dry, last planting of corn about six inches high and shriveled," that corn presently stands about eight to nine feet tall, and will go into the silo next week. It is well-eared and green (a color I didn't see too much of anywhere that day).

Garber has a farm pond that is completely fed by terraced fields which drain down a waterway into a diversion ditch and then into the pond. He used the pond this year to put about two inches of water on his late tomatoes in early August. They looked excellent, and are now being picked.

In addition to his daily crop diary, Garber keeps a record of rainfall at the farm. For May (including a storm on the last of April which gave 3.7 inches) he recorded 3.95 inches of rain. June rainfall amounted to only .8 inches, July including the flash flood on the 21st, dumped 8.5 inches of water on the thirsty fields.

County from April to September 7th (normal figure according to the Crop Reporting Service, 22.18 inches), and many of the county's northwestern farms did not fare nearly as well.

I next swung to the northeast of Lancaster and visited the Miles Fry farm at Ephrata R3. Here again the brown, dry fingers of drought held the land in its firm grip. Fry showed me one field of late sweet corn (Iochief and Golden Cross Bantam) that had seldom failed to yield plenty of good roasting ears right up till frost. This year it is stunted, shriveled, and the Iochief is tasseled-out at about three-foot high, and will yield nothing.

Fry showed me a hilltop corn field that in 1956 had yielded about 126 bushels per acre. The corn in this field was planted about mid-way this year, and the yield will be a long way from that record. The plants showed premature browning, and the height and ear size were well below normal. This early corn was probably the hardest hit that I saw all day. By contrast, his corn field at the bottom of the hill that won him second place in the county in the Dekalb Corn Contest in

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SPECIAL DROUGHT REPORT

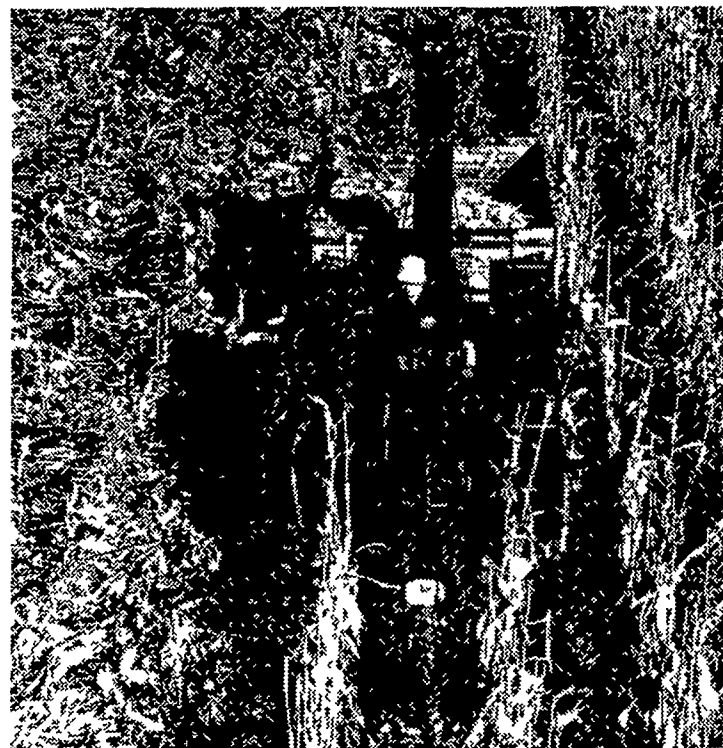


See any alfalfa? Henry E. Garber, R.D. 1, Elizabethtown, put seed in there somewhere about four weeks ago. Too dry to germinate properly. L. F. Photo

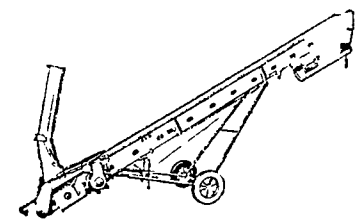
It got dry again in August with .9 inches put down by two storms. To-date in September, he had recorded only one shower, that was on the 11th and totaled .7 inches. Total rainfall at the Garber farm from May to September 16 was 14.85 inches. This was about two-thirds of the normal amount for Lancaster



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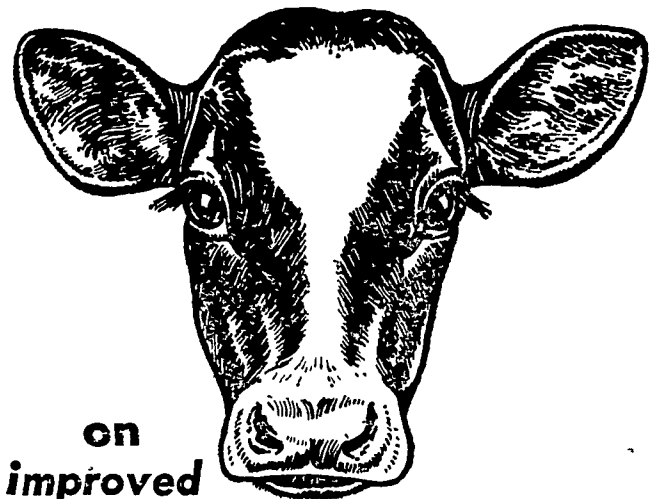
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