

Crop & Livestock Roundup

ANOTHER DRY GROWING SEASON

For the third consecutive year, major portions of Pennsylvania were plagued by dry weather. The pattern was one of increasing dryness from West to East, except in the Northern Border Counties where Tioga was driest receiving only slightly more than 11 inches of rain. Throughout the drier portions of Pennsylvania which included about two-thirds of the total area the per cent of normal rainfall ranged from 80% in the Lower Susquehanna Valley and 75% through the Central Mountains decreasing to 55% of normal in the Philadelphia and Wellsboro areas. Most of the Southwest

as well as all of the Northwest received greater than normal rainfall ranging to 120% in the Franklin area of Venango County. General rainfall from April showers plus late winter snow melt got the growing season off to a good start. Due to a near record dry May, however, ground moisture reserves were depleted at a rapid rate. June rainfall was somewhat more normal and showers and thunderstorm activity in mid-July sustained growth of crops and vegetation. A return to fair weather during the last half of July and much of August kept shower activity to a minimum resulting in increased drying out of top and subsoils. Reservoirs, rivers and

streams in eastern sections dropped to record and near record low levels forcing a number of municipalities to turn to emergency water supplies. A number of counties were also declared drought disaster areas. Substantial relief came to drought stricken areas as September ended in the form of a six day rain totaling up to 3 inches.

FREEZES END GROWTH OF SUMMER CROPS

Cold weather and a succession of killing frosts have ended growth of all but the hardy plants according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. At least one killing frost has hit most areas of the Commonwealth. Snow has fallen in several northern localities. Only in a few sheltered areas, are tender vegetables still to be found.

SMALL GRAINS

Cutting of corn for ensilage is nearly completed. Picking of corn for grain is progressing but not in full operation. Planting of grain and cover crops continues at a rapid rate. Planting of barley is virtually complete while wheat is nearly complete except in the southeast where planting is continuing at a rapid pace. Young barley, wheat and rye plants made excellent growth after the rain of the previous week.

HAY & PASTURE

Most hay fields are being used for grazing of livestock or making green chop. Pasture condition remains poor.

PA. SEEDLEAF HARVEST COMPLETE

Harvest of the 1964 Pennsylvania Seedleaf tobacco crop was virtually completed by October 1 with a total production of 46.8 million pounds. The current forecast is down 3 per cent from last month's estimate, 6 per cent below 1963 production and 14 per cent below the 1958-62 average. Estimated yield dropped from 1,850 pounds for September 1 to 1,800 pounds for October 1. The 1963 yield was 1,850 pounds.

Peak cutting operations of the early planted crop occurred the first week of September — more than a week ahead of last year. The early planted tobacco which also makes up the majority of this

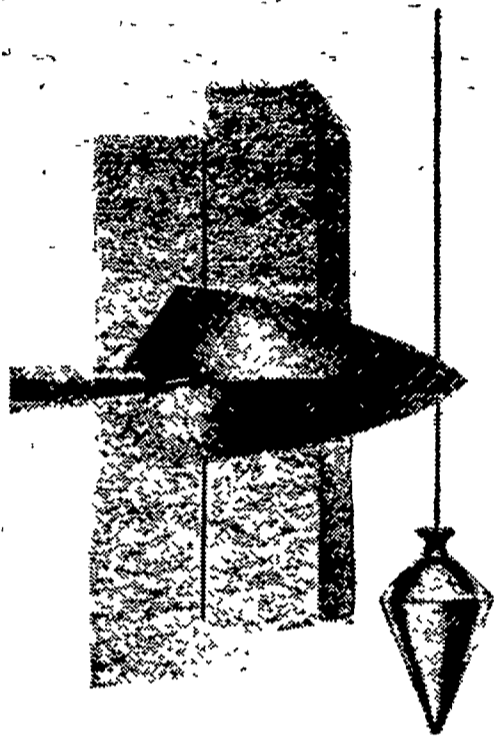
year's crop is of good quality and is curing nicely. The weather has generally been favorable for curing; however, more moisture is needed in some cases as tobacco in sheds is curing too fast. A light frost occurred in parts of Lancaster County on September 14, but most of the crop had been cut by this time.

The later planted tobacco suffered immensely from lack of rainfall which was drastically needed quite early in September if the crop was to have a chance to develop properly. No rain fell in Lancaster County until the 19th of the month — too late to be helpful. For the period from April 1 through September 1, rainfall at Lancaster was about 7 inches below normal. This deficit had grown to 9½ inches by September 28. Most of the small amount of tobacco that was in the fields on October 1 was too small to handle and will not be harvested. Insect and disease damage was very light on this year's crop.

CARRYOVER OF PA. SEEDLEAF DOWN

Carryover of Pennsylvania cigar filler tobacco owned by dealers and manufacturers on October 1 was estimated to be 1,270 million pounds, down about 1 million pounds from a year ago but second highest

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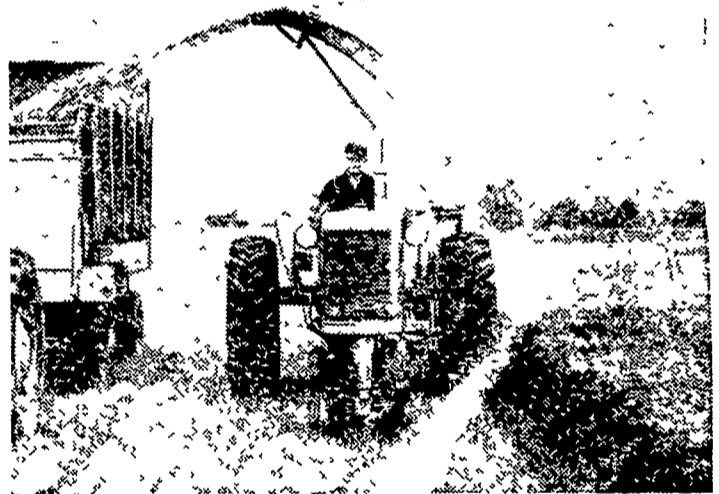
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