

## FARM REPORT

Temperatures during the first three weeks of April averaged well above normal, with a reversal occurring during the final week when temperatures dropped to below normal levels, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The only general rainfall of the month occurred during the final week, with total precipitation being below normal. Despite the lack of rainfall received during April, moisture supplies are generally adequate. Weather conditions have been quite good for accomplishing field work, with plowing well along.

### Grains

Winter grains came through the winter in generally good shape but growth has been progressing slowly this spring because of dry topsoils early in April then cold temperatures late in the month. The yield of winter wheat as of May 1 is expected to total 35 bushels per acre, 1 bushel below the 1967 crop yield. If achieved this yield will result in a production of 14,280,000 bushels, 17 percent less than the 1967 production. Planting of oats made rapid progress during April, with most of the crop planted by the end of the month. Much of the oats crop is up and showing good color. Growth has been slow, because of dry topsoil during the early part of the month then the cold temperatures during the final week. The general rain received during the final week of April was very valuable in improving germination of the crop. Corn planting had begun in southern areas of the State on a limited scale by the end of April, although some farmers were delaying until the soil warmed up.

### Hay and Pasture

Growth of hay and pasture progressed at a fairly slow rate during April, being held back by dry topsoil and cold temperatures. Although pastures are still fairly short, they are being utilized to a limited extent throughout the State.

### Fruit

Pennsylvania fruit crops have progressed very rapidly, being about two weeks ahead of normal. Apple pollination during the final week of April was reduced because of cold temperatures, but peaches generally bloomed during ideal pollinating conditions. Considerable winter freeze damage to sour cherries became evident as they came into bloom. Some bud damage to grapes in Erie County is anticipated, as a result of frosts during late April.

### Other Crops

Strawberries suffered some frost damage during the last week in April, with many growers utilizing irrigation facilities in an attempt to limit the damage. Volume picking of asparagus began about mid-month, with the early warm temperatures pushing harvest along rapidly.

### Milk Production

Although milk production in the Keystone State is still well below year ago levels, there was some recovery during April. Production per cow for April was 35 pounds below the 1967 figure, compared with a 50 pound difference for the previous month. The April production per cow, at 790 pounds, was the same as the previous month—an increase in the rate of production since the month was one day shorter. The daily output per cow, at 26.33 pounds, was the highest since last June—following the normal seasonal pattern. Total milk production was 36 million pounds below a year ago, a 6 percent drop. This decrease was caused by a 2 percent de-

cline in cow numbers and a 4 percent drop in production.

Weather conditions for the month were generally favorable for field work, with clear skies and mild temperatures for the first three weeks. These conditions enabled dairymen to plow, plant oats, haul manure and fix fences. Some cattle were turned out on pasture, but in general grass was too short for use. The last week was cool and wet, slowing outside work and crop growth, but definitely aiding the dry conditions which had prevailed in nearly all sections of the State.

The daily rate of feeding grain and concentrates was 13.6 lbs. per cow in April, .1 lb. more than March and .4 lb. more than April 1967. The amount of grain fed to produce 100 lbs of milk decreased 1.3 lbs. from March, but was 3.1 lbs. more than a year earlier.

### Egg Production

Egg production totaled 265,000,000 in Pennsylvania during April. This production on a daily basis was slightly higher than the March 1968 production but 1 percent less than a year earlier.

Poultrymen had almost 2 percent fewer layers on hand during April compared with both a month earlier and a year earlier. This decline is the usual seasonal change from March to

April. This is the lowest number on hand for April since 1941.

The May 1 rate of lay at 63.5 percent was up 3 percent from the April 1 rate and 2 percent more than the May 1, 1967 rate of lay.

The average price received by Penna. farmers for all eggs sold during April was 32 cents per dozen, 2 cents less than the Mar. 1968 and 1 cent less than the April 1967 price. This price is an average of table eggs sold wholesale and retail, and hatching eggs.

Penna. hatcherymen produced 5.9 million egg-type chicks from Jan. through Mar., 21 percent less than the first quarter in 1967. The United States egg-type hatch during the first quarter of 1968 totaled 125.1 million, down 18 percent from the same period in 1967.

Eggs in cold storage on Mar. 31, 1968 totaled 2,156,000 cases. This was 3 percent more than the previous month, 88 percent more than a year earlier, and 94 percent more than the Mar. 31 5-year average.

### Slaveholdings

Slaveholding in the South before the Civil War was confined to a very small segment of the population. Only 384,000 southerners, out of a population of more than eight million, held 3.9 million Negroes in slavery in 1860.

## GRANGE NEWS

Fulton Grange #66 held their regular meeting May 13 at Oakryn with Master, Clifford W. Holloway Jr., conducting the business session. First and Second Degrees were conferred upon six candidates.

The Youth Committee will hold another dance for the community young people May 18 from 8 to 11 p.m. at Fulton Grange Hall, "Living End" orchestra furnishing the music. Six young people from Fulton Grange attended the Youth Conference at Fleetwood, Berks County, April 27.

The Grange is purchasing two tables with plastic coated tops and adjustable legs, suitable for use by the 4-H Sewing Club and for dining hall use.

Lancaster County Pomona Grange chorus will hold rehears-

al May 19, 8 p.m. at Fulton Grange Hall.

May 21, 8 p.m. Fulton officers will fill the chairs at the county visitation meeting at Quarryville Fire Hall when Colerain Grange will be host and Salisbury Grange will present the program.

Degree rehearsal was set for May 22, 8 p.m.

Lancaster County Pomona Grange will be host for the District Pomona meeting May 25, 8 p.m. at the Bart-Colerain Elementary School. Montgomery County will fill officers' chairs and Chester-Delaware and Lower Bucks counties will present the program.

The next regular meeting of Fulton Grange will be held May 27 when Third and Fourth Degrees will be conferred.

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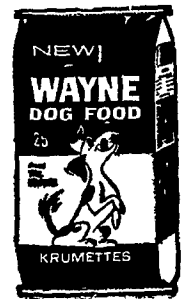
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