

THE BLACK AND WHITE SALE BARN is partly under roof, Monday, after a fire burned it down in late

April. The new construction is to be completed in time for the Anniversary Sale in July. L. F. Photo

Central Beef Cutting Seen Ready To Zoom

Cryovac Division of W. R. Grace Co. is in an "excellent position" to obtain a substantial share of the shrink film bag business as primal cuts of beef are packaged centrally, according to the annual report of W. R. Grace Co. last month. Central packaging of meat has a profound effect on the pattern of poultry prepackaging, even though the functions may not be combined.

The parent company said that Cryovac had a record sales year in 1967, including the "market-ready beef program" — packaging of beef cuts in Cryovac bags at central locations rather than at stores. Cutters at retail do the final preparation and packaging under this system.

The report quoted the National Ass'n of Food chains as estimating that while only 3% of all beef sold at retail is processed in this manner, the figure will rise to 50% in the next three years.

Water Resources May Be Deficient By This Summer

Although water resources in Pennsylvania are still ample to meet the present needs, a continued below normal spring precipitation might lead to local deficiencies this summer.

This is the opinion of hydrologists from the U.S. Geological Survey, Dept. of the Interior, working in cooperation with the Dept. of Forests & Waters and the Dept. of Internal Affairs, as they watch closely the potential drought situation in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, Sec. of the Dept. of Forests & Waters, said "Geological Survey records show that stream runoff across the state is about 40% of normal. The deficiency also registered in record or near record low-water levels in streams and wells across the state during April. The same conditions have extended through the first two weeks of May and were only slightly improved by last weekend's rain.

"For example, Tunkhannock Creek which reflects the water conditions in the northeast corner of the state was at its lowest flow for April in 55 years, as measured near the town of Tunkhannock," he said.

"Further south," Dr. Goddard noted, "the Schuylkill River as measured at Potstown flowed at slightly over half the April average of 2,800 cfs (cubic feet per second). By Monday, May 13, the flow had increased slightly but was still far below normal."

"Similarly the Juniata River at Newport reflects water conditions in the center part of the state and was at the third lowest level for April in 70 years of record. Friday, May 10, the flow was even lower, some 4,200 cfs below the May average, 5,800."

"The western part of the state is represented by Connoquenessing Creek near Zehlenople where the April flow was the fifth lowest in 49 years of record. Flow was less than half the April normal of 794 cfs."


"Geological Survey observation wells across the state show a decline in the ground water level that is similar to the decline in the streamflow. Of 28 observation wells in the state, 21 have water levels that are lower than those of a year ago. At the end of April, 18 of the wells had below average water levels for this time of year. One well in Armstrong County had declined to a new low for April."

"A third way of looking at the water resources situation is to divide the state into eight hydrologic index areas and assign each a 'Water Availability Index' based on long-term rec-


ords. If a value of one is used for the wettest known conditions and a value of zero for the dri-

est, the state average as a whole would be 0.05 for April. In other words, 95 percent of all known Aprils have been wetter. The April value of 0.05 is the lowest average value registered in the state since the all time low of 0.02 set in July, 1966," he concluded.

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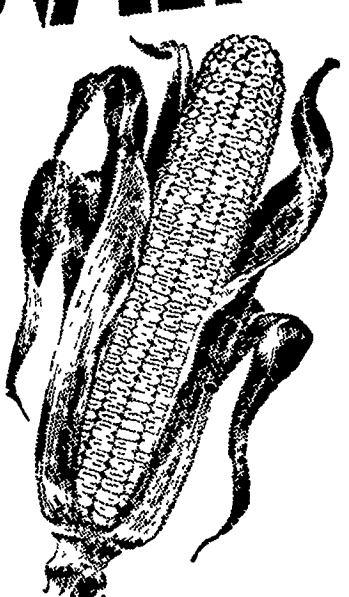
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