



Spearing tobacco will be a common sight in Lancaster County fields for the next few weeks.

Annual Tobacco Harvest Is Underway

Lancaster County tobacco harvest proceeded rapidly this week, although weather conditions were generally unfavorable.

Max Smith, Lancaster County ag agent, estimated about one-third of the crop had been harvested by Thursday of this week.

He said most reports from farmers indicate an over-all good crop with plenty of weight.

He said the harvest is a little late because of cool weather in the early part of the growing season.

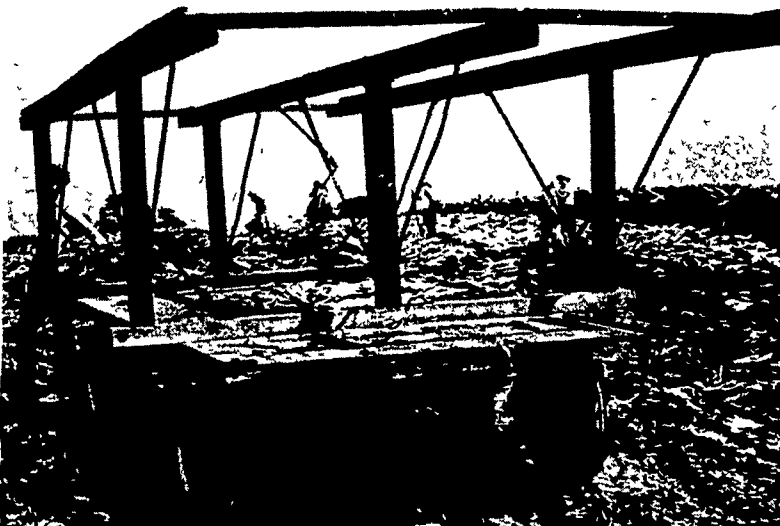
Recent cloudy and cool weather also has hampered harvest. For both cutting and curing, farmers need dry, breezy and sunny weather, he said.



Up, up goes the tobacco this week. Working as a three man chain, Bill Fisher, bottom, hands a lath of tobacco to Dean Eshleman, while Warren Eshleman, top, stacks the previous lath near the roof of his tall tobacco barn. By keeping the tobacco flowing steadily toward the ceiling, the three quickly unloaded a wagon of tobacco and stacked it for curing.



Out in the field, youths load a tobacco wagon.



One of several of Warren Eshleman's tobacco wagons awaits its turn to be loaded with tobacco. A half dozen youths are spearing tobacco on laths in the background. Eshleman is growing 20 acres of tobacco at 825 Beaver Valley Pike this year and he began harvesting Monday.



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