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State's Crop Plantings Lag Behind Intentions

Commonwealth farmers failed to plant all the intended acreage this spring because of wet weather, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Farmers indicated during an earlier survey they expected to devote 1,968,000 acres to corn, oats and soybeans this spring and summer. However, the almost daily occurrence of showers

throughout May upset scheduled fieldwork and actual plantings are estimated at 1,953,000 acres of 15,000 short. Conditions forced farmers to either alter planting intentions or leave some fields idle until fall.

Oats were affected the most by the disappointing spring, with only an estimated 405,000 acres planted out of an intended 430,000 acres and compares with the 400,000 acres for last year. Considerable acreage was seeded late and may be used for forage rather than grain. Some of the intended oats was planted to corn, soybeans or other late planted crops.

The commonwealth's corn acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 1,490,000 acres, three percent above last year; this includes 1,060,000 acres intended for grain, up 18 percent. Last year a greater than usual acreage was needed to fill silos. Soybean plantings are estimated at 58,000 acres, up 13,000 from one year ago.

Acreage harvested for hay is expected to return to normal following last year's extremely poor harvesting season. All hay acres are expected to total 2,050,000, up 95,000 from last year. Alfalfa acreage at 812,000 is practically unchanged, but other hays are expected to increase 93,000 acres to 1,238,000.

Pennsylvania seedleaf tobacco acreage for harvest is estimated at 14,000 acres, 1,000 more than harvested last year. Lancaster County accounts for over 90 percent of the state's tobacco acreage.

Nationally, corn acreage for grain is estimated at 62.5 million acres, up nine percent from last year. Based on average yields harvested during the past three years, production would be 5.9 billion bushels, six percent above last year. The U. S. soybean acreage is estimated at 55.7 million acres, 22 percent above last year; all oats 14.6 million, up seven percent, and all hays, 61.6 million, up three percent.

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4-H Calendar

Saturday, July 21
9:00 a.m. — Lancaster County 4-H Horse Show, Lancaster County Riding Club Show Grounds

Monday, July 23
Merrimaids Club Round Up

Tuesday, July 24
4-H Dairy Round Up — Guernsey Sales Pavilion.
1:00 p.m. — 4-H Tractor Driving Contest, Roger Thome farm, RD1, Elizabethtown.

Wednesday, July 25
Lancaster County 4-H Exchange Trip to Michigan. July 25-Aug. 4.

Saturday, July 28
9:00 a.m. — New Holland 4-H Baby Beef Club tour; meet at John Groff farm, Leacock.
12:30 p.m. — Ephrata Young Farmer picnic, Ephrata Community Park.
6:15 p.m. — Garden Spot Young Farmer Summer picnic, Blue Ball Elementary School.

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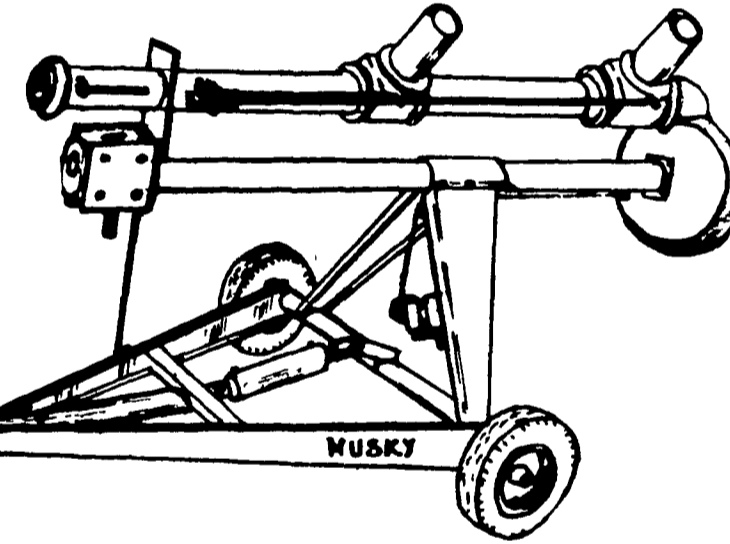
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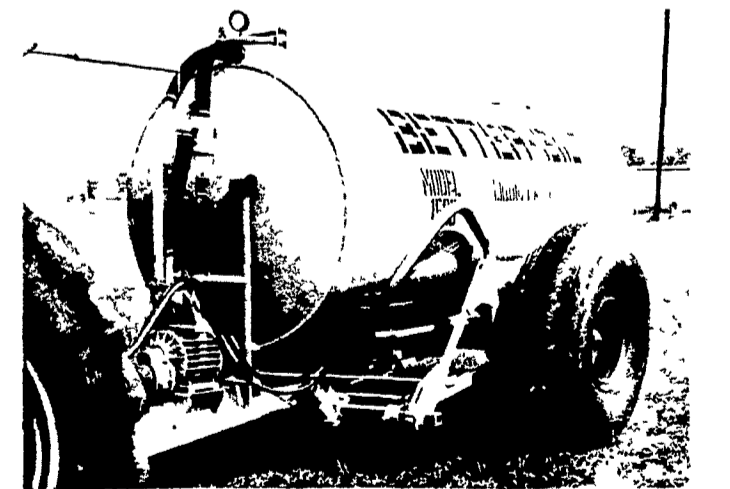


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