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Crop Report

For the week ending June 23, reports from across the commonwealth indicate that the continued wet weather has caused the making of hay to be slower than last year, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The first cutting of alfalfa is 57 percent done and clover-timothy hay is 39 percent complete. These compare to 64 percent on alfalfa and nearly 50 percent on clover-timothy hay last year. Quality is rated mostly fair, lower than at this time in the past three years.

The Commonwealth's corn is 12 inches high. This is about three inches or five days ahead of the 1974 crop. Height is reported nine inches in the north, 12 inches in central and 14 inches in southern counties.

Barley and wheat development are catching up to last year. Barley is 51 percent turning yellow and about seven percent ripe - nearly on par with last year.

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Milk: There is no other single food like it. United States Department of Agriculture data show that in 1973, dairy foods (excluding butter) provided only 12 percent of the food energy (calories) available for civilian consumption in the United States; yet they provided 76 percent of the calcium, 42 percent of the riboflavin, 37 percent of the phosphorus, 23 percent of the protein, 22 percent of the magnesium, 21 percent of Vitamin B6, and 9 percent of thiamin (Vitamin B1).

Wheat is 24 percent turning yellow, about two days behind last year. Harvest of a small amount of barley was reported.

Oats continue to develop on schedule with last year. The crop is 35 percent headed. Heading is even in central and southern counties but considerably slower in the north.

Tobacco is reportedly 68 percent transplanted. Last year transplanting was basically completed by this time. The dry weather of the last few days may help in completing transplanting.

The soybean crop is virtually all planted. This is five days ahead of 1974. Only the southern counties show a small amount yet to plant.

Strawberry harvest is in progress. Peaches are being thinned and sweet cherry harvest has begun.

An average amount of feed is reported coming from pastures.

As on June 15, across the United States, the small grain harvest has been gaining momentum. In Ohio, winter wheat is 15 percent turning, 35 percent in Indiana, and 85 percent in Illinois with 10 percent ripe. This development in all three states is much behind 1974.

The peach harvest is 39 percent complete in Georgia and 12 percent in South Carolina.

Subnormal temperatures over much of the major corn growing area limited growth, however, development continues ahead of 1974 and average in most major states.

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, June 28, 1975—63

Charolais Steers Show High Production

Half-brother steers to a set of Charolais-sired steers that captured performance honors in the 1973 Great Western Beef Expo at Sterling made a repeat performance in this year's competition, winning the feedlot performance category of the prestigious feedlot - carcass comparisons.

Sired by the purebred Charolais bull Bamark, the pen of five steers from the Lloyd DeBruycker Ranch at Dutton, MT., averaged 3.62 pounds per day daily gains and closed the 168-day feeding trial with a weight per day of age of 2.86 pounds. The performance was best for sire groups in both daily gains and weight per day of age.

The gain and weight figures were even better than the record of Bamark's sons in the 1973 competition, when that pen averaged 3.24 pounds per day gains and a

weight per day of age of 2.76 pounds.

Averaging 451 days of age, the steers went on test weighing 685 pounds and closed the study at 1,293 pounds. The range in gains for the pen was from 3.26 pounds to 3.93 pounds per day.

After slaughter, the steers produced average carcass weights of 866 pounds with an average cutability of 51.1 percent. The steers had an average carcass value per day of age of \$1.53, which was 15 percent better than all carcasses in the study. The steers produced .968 pounds lean per day of age, which, on a ratio basis, was 18 per cent higher than other steers on the test.

The group of carcasses also had an average loin eye measurement of 14.8 square inches, ranging from a low of 12.5 square inches on one steer to 16.7 square inches on another.

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