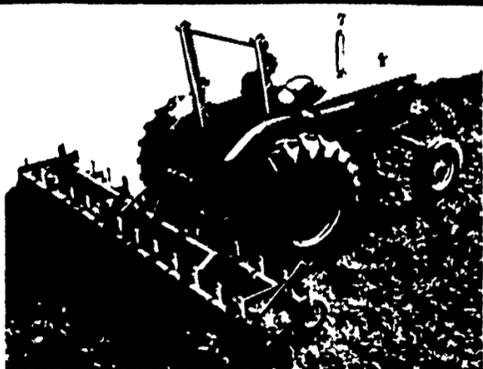


Crop Situation

By Dieter Krieg on the crop situation was made during the past week
The latest localized update



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or so while driving through parts of Lancaster, Chester, and Dauphin Counties. Most of this report is based on observations only, with a few short interviews thrown in for good measure. Taking one crop at a time, here is a summary of what was seen and heard.

CORN

Not all of the silos are filled yet, but the majority opinion seems to be that silage corn was "average" this year. There are some reports of "really tall corn" which comes as no surprise considering how it was growing this summer. The crop has lost most of its rich green color during the past two weeks and the recent rains are leaving stalks looking rather ragged in some areas.

Corn picking has started for a few farmers; in fact one York County was at it in early September. A fellow in the Lititz area pulled his two-row picker through the fields last week. Early yields indicate a good crop, although not as fantastic as what we were led to believe during the growing season.

Pennsylvania's 1975 production of corn for grain is forecast at 88,560,000 bushels based on conditions September 1, according to the Crop Reporting Service. This represents a one percent decrease from 1974. Yield is expected to be 82.0 bushels per acre.

SOYBEANS

The once dark-green fields of soybeans are turning to a rich yellow color and leaves

are beginning to drop off here and there.

Ken Rutt, near Quarryville, has about 110 acres of soybeans out this year and says they look as good as last year. "You can tell by counting the pods on a stalk," he explained. The average is about 80 to 120 pods to a stalk.

Now in his fifth year as a soybean producer, Rutt expects to harvest his beans in about two weeks. Last year, when he had 165 acres planted in soybeans, his yields averaged 40 bushels per acre with some fields going as high as 50 bushels per acre.

Rutt double-crops some of his fields between barley and beans, and uses no commercial fertilizer. "Beans require lime," he explained, "as long as the pH level is okay, fertilizer is okay." Soybean fields are rotated with corn from year to year.

Weeds appear to be more plentiful in soybean fields this year than they have been in the past. Although that shouldn't create much of a problem, and the soybeans themselves look good, growers say the poor weed control is due to too much rain during the time fields were sprayed.

Rutt reported some spray damage in his fields where the patterns overlapped but wasn't too concerned because although the plants were initially burned off - they came back with twice as many pods as what is "average." He thought something in the spray must have stimulated their growth.

Another observation made by Rutt is that soybeans show no ill effect from flooding. He said he had one field under water for three weeks and the crop wasn't hurt. That may help to explain why poor soybean fields are rather scarce in the area.

TOBACCO

Tobacco cutting continues in Lancaster County - that is it did until the rains came along. Most of the crop is in, and what is still out looks a little thin compared to earlier harvested fields. That appears to be especially true for tobacco fields in eastern portions of the County.

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, Sept. 27, 1975-67

HAY

In an earlier issue of this paper, it was reported that good quality hay may be scarce this winter. If that situation has changed - it's changed for the worse. The two main reasons for the bleak outlook continue to be the relatively meager cuttings and the interfering weather. Windrows looked very thin on most fields last week.

TOMATOES

The state crop reporting service is estimating an average yield of 15.5 tons per acre for tomato farmers in the Commonwealth. That is

considerably lower than the 20 or more tons per acre reported by growers in southeastern and south-central sections of the state. Harvesting was still going on strong until the rains came.

Like a Log

Why did the girl put her bed in the fireplace? She wanted to sleep like a log. Of course there were three boys sharing the same bed. It was so crowded one got out and tried to sleep on the floor. After an hour or so one of his friends told him he might as well come back. "There's lots more room now," he said.

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