

Crop update released; dry but favorable

HARRISBURG - Much needed moisture hampered field activities during the week ending May 3, with five days considered suitable for fieldwork statewide, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Soil moisture was considered short to adequate, but in the northern counties, rains pushed moisture levels to adequate or somewhat surplus. Fieldwork in the north was held to three days.

The moisture slowed plows, but statewide plowing is 82 per cent done, two weeks or 20 per cent ahead of 1975. Southern counties show 91 per cent done, central areas are at 86 per cent, and northern areas are 69 per cent completed.

Oats seeding, at 87 per cent complete is still two weeks ahead of the 1975 rate. The south is furthest along with 93 per cent, while central and northern counties are at 87 and 83 per cent respectively.

The rate of potato planting slowed last week, but the state is still 45 per cent done, a week ahead of last year's 34 per cent. The north shows only 14 per cent done, while central counties are at 48 per cent and southern areas at 78 per cent.

Planting of corn is now 19 per cent completed, about eleven days ahead of last year. The north showed negligible corn planting but central areas are now 18 per cent done and in the south, planting is one-third complete. Some corn in the southern counties has emerged and is one to two inches high.

Barley and wheat are developing a week to ten days ahead of the 1975 crops. Barley is about 18 per cent in the boot state compared with under five per cent last year. Wheat is rated at about nine per cent in boot statewide.

Advancement seems most rapid in the central areas. Some early barley is heading in the southern counties.

Alfalfa and clover hay stands are rated mostly in fair to good condition. The alfalfa weevil has become active and some operators are spraying. The amount of feed being obtained from pastures is average or below. Rain is needed to generate growth.

Development of the state's fruit crops is about two weeks ahead of last year. Peaches are 83 per cent in bloom, cherries 91 per cent and apples 78 per cent in full bloom.

Strawberries are blossoming in some areas with some early varieties beginning to set fruit. Green peas have emerged with some now in bloom. Some asparagus has been pulled but cold weather has retarded growth.

June milk price set

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Market Administrator, Joseph D. Shine, announced Wednesday a Class I milk price for Federal Order No. 4 of \$11.22 per hundredweight for June 1976, a drop of 16 cents from May. The Class I price was \$9.72 last June. Prices are announced for milk testing 3.5 percent butterfat, f.o.b. plants located within 55 miles of Philadelphia, Pa. and also within 75 miles from the nearer of Washington, D.C. or Baltimore, Md. A six-cent per hundredweight direct-delivery differential is applicable for producer milk received at plants located

within 55 miles of Philadelphia.

Shine also announced a Class II milk price of \$8.37 per hundredweight for the month of April 1976 and a producer butterfat differential of 10.3 cents for April.

The Market Administrator stated that the June Class I and April Class II prices are based on a Minnesota-Wisconsin manufacturing milk price of \$8.44 per hundredweight at 3.5 percent butterfat. The butterfat differential is based on the average Grade A (92 Score) bulk wholesale butter price

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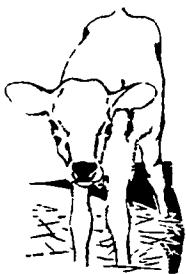
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Brown Swiss leader cited for 25 years of service

Marvin L. Kruse, executive secretary-treasurer of the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association of America, was recently honored by the Association's Board of Directors for 25 years of service to the breed.

Kruse was guest of honor at a dinner attended by the directors, their wives and the Brown Swiss Association office staff. William J. Notter, Jr. of Cobleskill, New York and vice president of the Association, presented Kruse with a framed citation signed by each officer and director and Bernard Monson, president of the

Association, Gowrie, Iowa, presented him with the original water color by Tom Phillips of the Brown Swiss "Checkin' the Herd" pasture scene as a token of appreciation. The handsome citation written and lettered by Mrs. Notter read as follows: "For Twenty-Five Years our Association has had in its service the very real talents of a man who truly believes in his work; the loyalty of a man who loves this breed and whose friendship for it and the individual breeders has spanned the years; and whose imagination during

his years as national secretary has been reflected in our breed's worldwide acceptance and prominence."

Kruse joined the Brown Swiss Association in 1951 in the capacity of western fieldman. After serving the 22 states west of the Mississippi River for 10 years, he was brought to the office in Beloit, Wisconsin with the responsibility of editing the breed's magazine, The Brown Swiss Bulletin, and as fieldman for three nearby states, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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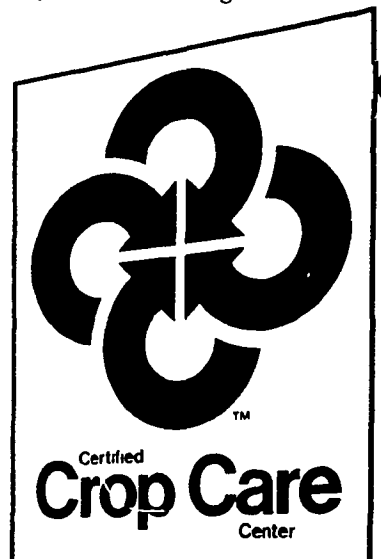
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