

# Plant growth still retarded

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's farmers welcomed the moisture received last week even though it limited them to three days suitable for fieldwork. According to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, soil moisture is rated mostly adequate with some reports of surplus in central counties. Some crops were responding to the moisture already with better color, but the cool weather continues to retard vegetative growth.

Little plowing was done during the week ending May 22 as it was too wet in the north. The state is 95 per cent complete, a week ahead of last year's 86 per cent. Northern counties are 91 per cent completed.

The few oats needing sown in the north were sown last week. This completion date is about eight days ahead of last year. Cereal leaf beetle is active in some fields, and some spraying operations have begun.

Potato planting is even with 1975 levels with nearly 80 per cent done. Only central counties showed progress last week. Some early potato plantings have emerged.

The Commonwealth's corn crop is now 75 per cent planted, five days ahead of last year's 58 per cent. Northern counties are 61 per cent done, central counties at 84 per cent, and southern operators have planted 83 per cent of their intended

acreage. Corn has emerged in numerous areas and looks good.

Barley is 55 per cent headed, four days ahead of the 40 per cent in 1975. Wheat is 27 per cent headed with 49 per cent in boot, about five days ahead of last year. Although the crops have headed on short straw, operators are optimistic about the crops now that they have received some needed moisture.

Last week's rains improved both hay and pastures. Hay is rated in mostly fair to good condition. The first cutting of alfalfa is 12 per cent done with most going to silage. Quality of the alfalfa is rated as fair. Feed from pastures is now mostly average. More stock will be out in pastures when the cool nights grow warmer.

Fruit development continues ahead of last year. Transplanting is continuing for tomatoes and some replanting will be required. Strawberries have begun to ripen. The fruit crops have shown apparent frost damage, but the extent of that damage will not become evident until after the June drop.

# Farmers Sunshine Bill approved

HARRISBURG — Legislation to protect the farmer from mismanagement of their Cooperatives which Rep. Kenneth E. Brandt, R-Lancaster, calls the "Sunshine Bill for Farmers" has been approved by the House Agriculture Committee.

Brandt, a member of the Agriculture Committee said the bill (HB 2392) would help insure that members of cooperatives have the necessary information to make decisions concerning their cooperative.

"The House Agriculture Committee has hundreds of pages of testimony from farmers saying that they know little about the operation and decision-making of their co-ops," Brandt said.

"The Lehigh Valley

Farmers Cooperative is a prime example. In 1975 the board of the co-op placed a \$3.8 million assessment on its 940 members for a debt that most of the Cooperative members knew nothing about."

Brandt said the bill would: - Require that yearly certified audits be taken of the co-op.

- Give co-op members the power to remove the director and board if deemed necessary.

- Give the Department of Agriculture power to oversee actions by the co-ops.

"This bill would in a sense establish a co-op member 'Bill of Rights' or 'Sunshine Bill,'" Brandt added.

"Co-operatives are important to the existence of the American farmer and they were designed to act as

a unit and not by the actions of a few."

Brandt said another one of the important provisions of the bill would be to set up an educational program for cooperative directors. Penn

State University would conduct seminars on the operation of co-ops that directors would be required to attend.

He added that the bill will now go to the floor of the House for action.

## What's New

**Larger Table, New Hay Conditioner Available For Massey-Ferguson Swather**  
A new hay conditioner and a larger 21-foot draper table for the MF 655 swather have been introduced by Massey-Ferguson.

The new hay conditioner provides more clearance between the bottom roll and the ground to minimize stone and trash pickup. Regreaseable, sealed

bearings have been added to the lower conditioner rolls.

The 21-foot draper table is similar to the present 12-, 15- and 18-foot draper tables with addition of a truss rod to the top of the table boom. This rod provides added stiffness for the table boom and keeps the table cutter bar level. New 5-bat metal reel and draper shields are also available for the 21-foot table.

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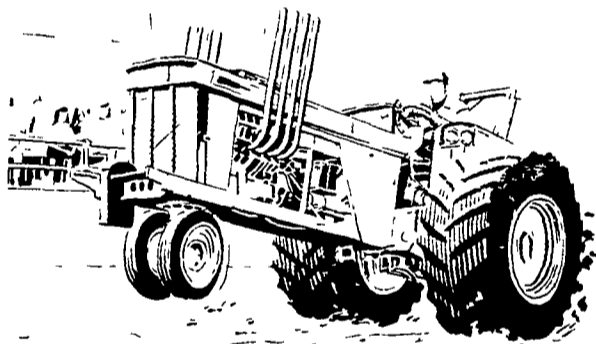
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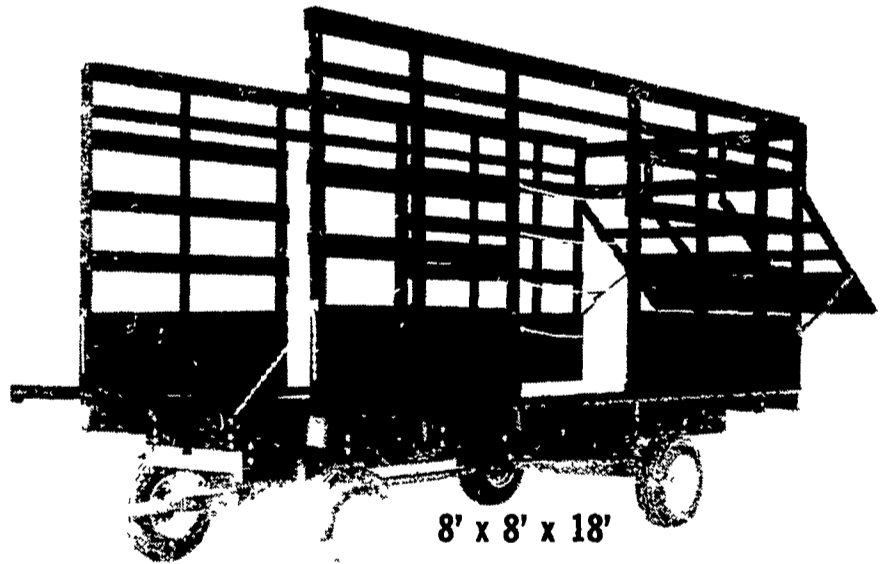
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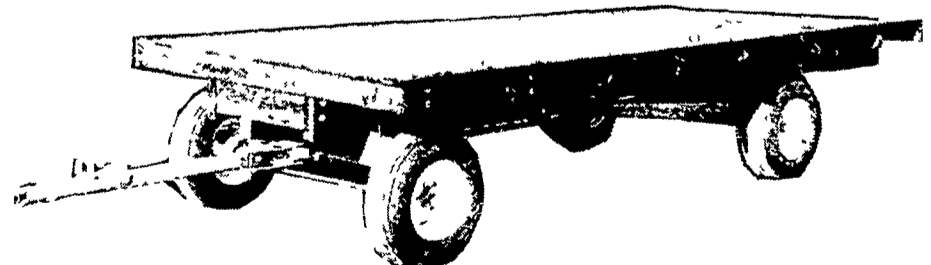
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