

Wheat good

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farmer is quoted as having announced he experienced the worst harvest in 10 years. Another reaped a meager 65 bushels from an eight acre field. "And they were both good farmers, Klingerman added emphatically.

With the harvest estimated to be about 75 per cent completed in Columbia County, just about all comments on the quality of the crop remain favorable. Klingerman reported no problems. The wheat coming to his mill was testing mostly in the vicinity of 56 to 58 pounds per bushel, with some down as low as 51, and some up to 60. Moisture readings had remained "fairly dry" until Wednesday.

Klingerman pointed out that farmers aren't waiting like they used to get into fields. "It used to be 2 o'clock in the afternoon before they'd enter the fields; now it's common to see them combining at noon. Some Lancaster Countians were out after their wheat a couple hours earlier than that.

Wheat in Adams County is just about all off and an average yield of around 40 bushels per acre is reported by the County Extension office. The only significant problem noted was the occurrence of barren grain heads in the York Springs area. Although the reason for it has not been positively pinpointed, observers believe scab may have hit those fields.

In Dauphin County, Lynn Henninger of the Upper Dauphin Grain Center, Inc., Elizabethville, describes the harvest as being "very medium to poor." Few farmers, including himself, have averaged more than 30 bushels per acre. To illustrate his evaluation, Henninger revealed that he had approximately 20,000 bushels of wheat in storage as of Thursday afternoon. A year ago he had 62,000 bushels at the end of the harvest season, and he doesn't expect to have more than 40,000 this year. Henninger himself farms more than 1000 acres in the Lykens Valley of which 200 acres are in wheat.

According to Henninger, an "unusual" grass problem has become evident in a number of Dauphin County wheat fields. "Fields are more grassy this year — more than any other year I know of," said the spokesman for the grain center, which has a storage capacity of nearly a half million bushels.

As in most areas, the quality score of the wheat remains satisfactory. Test weights recorded by Henninger range mostly between 56 and 58 pounds. He estimates that only about half of the crop has been combined in his area and that the harvest didn't really get into full swing until just a week ago.

Berks County's wheat harvest is 85 to 95 per cent completed and farmers for the most part are definitely disappointed, according to a spokesman at F. M. Brown's Sons. Quality started out "real good" with test weights often over 60 pounds, but lately they've read five to six pounds lower on account of the rain. "It's now beginning to be poor — it's just

a shame it went down like that," the mill spokesman said. Yields have averaged around 30 bushels per acre, with very few problems reported. The incidence of garlic is reportedly lessening each year and occurrences of grass or sprouted wheat are also low.

Optimism prevails throughout the area on assessments of other crops. Corn is receiving praise from everyone contacted, and even hay is coming away from gloomy forecasts. "It's not going to be as bad as some people anticipated," said one observer, with several others voicing similar opinions.

But as far as the wheat crop is concerned, one miller probably said it best when he commented: "it's a definitely a non-profit year."

Weather went dry, funds did not

WASHINGTON - The Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) has announced that livestock producers in Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin are now eligible for federal aid in obtaining up to a 90-day supply of hay. The program, which was to have expired July 16, has been extended through Oct. 15. The federal government will pay two-thirds of the transportation cost (up to \$27 per ton) on a 90-day supply of hay (without regard to hay on hand) for all livestockmen in the affected areas of the three states.

Portions of the three states have experienced continuing drought conditions and have drastically reduced feed supplies.

By Aug. 25, farmers' needs for feed will again be reassessed and an announcement will be made about Sept. 1 as to whether there is need to continue the

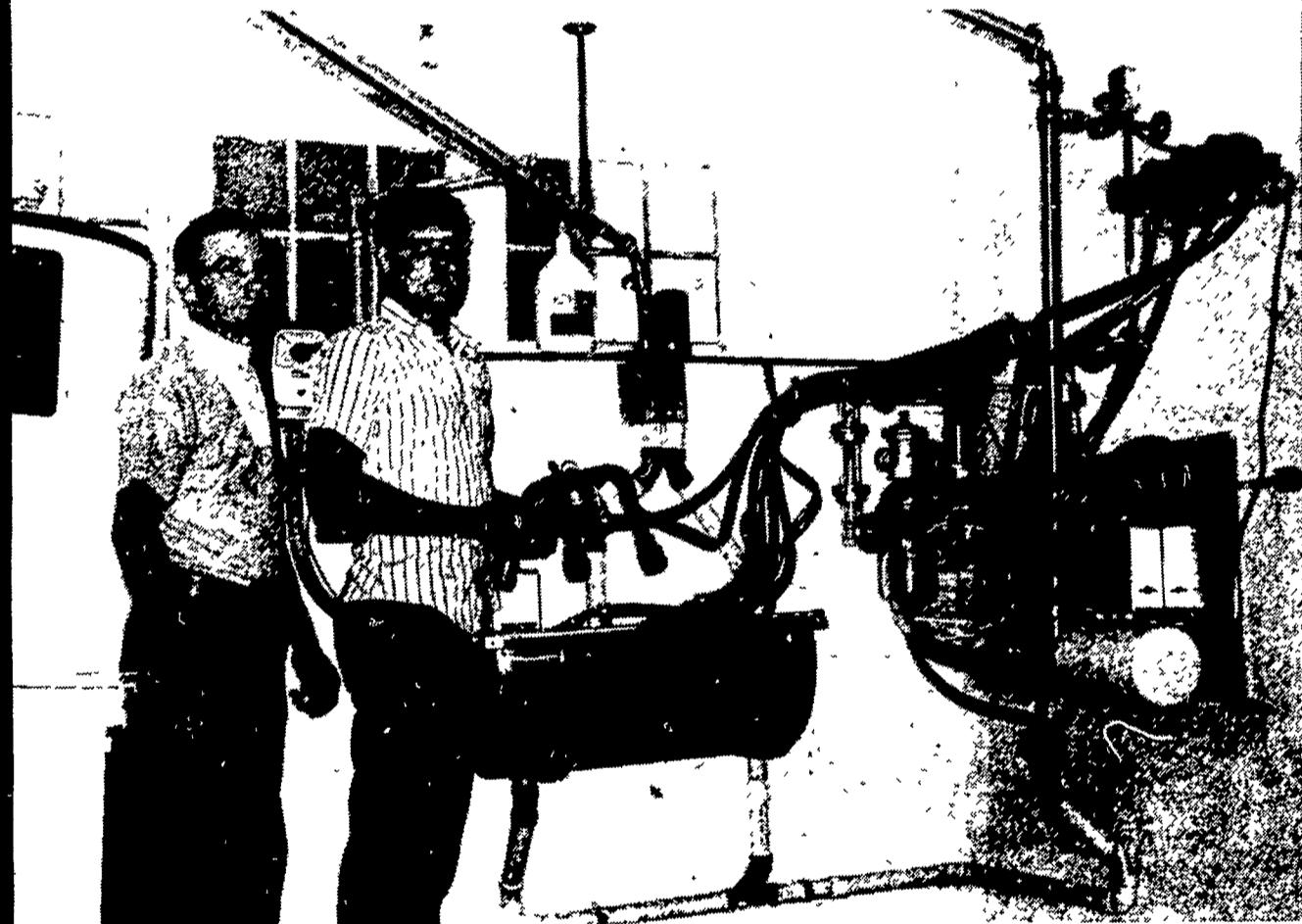
program past the Oct. 15 deadline.

The original emergency program aided those producers who were totally out of hay and allowed time to better evaluate roughage supply needs for the lengthy fall and winter feeding season in affected states. The extended program will allow farmers and ranchers to better evaluate long-range feed needs and gain greater latitude in making orderly hay purchases and other managerial decisions.

Transportation assistance to dairy farmers will not exceed 40 pounds of hay per brood cow per day and 20 pounds per replacement heifer per day. Transportation assistance to cattlemen for beef cattle will not exceed 20 pounds per animal per day. In computing the amount of hay for which assistance will be available, ASCS will use current livestock numbers.

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Robert Metzler (left) & son, Jerry, of Winding Glen Farm, Christiana RD1. Jerry says, "We bought these milkers because we wanted milkers which didn't fall off. We've tried others which fall off . . . they color your vocabulary. With our old milkers, when we took them off, the cow teats would be blue and we had some mastitis, but the Sta-Rite milkers are much easier. They take care of the cows' udders. My grandfather (John Metzler) milked cows for 45 years and he has observed these Sta-Rite and notes that the cows seem to enjoy being milked and the Sta-Rite is a gentle milker."

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