

Pa.'s corn crop is excellent

HARRISBURG — The cool evenings and overcast days during the week ending August 2 slowed crop growth in the Commonwealth, while scattered showers limited farmers to four suitable days for fieldwork, according to

the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Although the weather slowed growth somewhat, the state's corn crop is in excellent condition. Average height statewide is at 69 inches, about the same as

last year. Northern counties report height at 62 inches, central counties at 67 inches and southern counties are at 83 inches. Sweet corn is reported in excellent condition with harvest activity heavy.

Wheat harvest is now rated 71 per cent done with 21 per cent ripe, compared to 60 per cent harvested and 25 per cent ripe last year at this time. Poor to average yields are being reported.

Oats are now rated 37 per cent harvested statewide, much ahead of last year's 27 per cent at the same time. Another 43 per cent is ripe with 16 per cent turning yellow. Harvest is 15 per cent completed in northern areas, 37 per cent in central areas and 68 per cent in southern areas. Yields are rated average to above average with localized areas reporting lodging problems.

The first cutting of alfalfa is now 99 per cent done with the second cutting 62 per cent completed. Quality is rated mostly fair to good with average yields. Clover timothy is now 94 per cent harvested.

Pastures continue to supply an adequate amount of feed.

Tomatoes, snapbeans, green peas and cabbage are being picked for fresh markets and all are reported in good condition. Early apples and peaches are presently being picked.

In the United States, as of July 27, the corn crop remained in generally good condition, with some major states reporting potential yield reductions due to moisture shortages. The dry spell in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota stressed the corn crop and caused leaves to curl and



Dee Spittle, of the Lower Dauphin FFA Chapter at Lower Dauphin High School attended the National FFA Bicentennial Conference in Washington, recently. The program's purpose was to improve leadership skills, develop national pride, and to prepare each participant for his leadership role. Above, Dee is greeted by Leo Anderson of Albin, Wyo., national vice president of the Future Farmers of America.

fields to fire. Iowa, with less than half the crop in good condition, indicated that 92 per cent is silked, compared to 64 per cent a year ago and a 62 per cent average for this time of the year.

Fluctuating grain markets have ruined many a calm night's sleep for farmers who dream of making a profit on their crops.

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