

FARMFEST's crop progress surprising

LAKE CRYSTAL, Minn. - Crops are in exceptionally good shape at the FARMFEST 76 site, despite another year of heavy drought losses in the Upper Midwest.

Above average yields are expected when harvest demonstrations get underway here Sept 13 at the country's official Bicentennial farm exposition, thanks to several well-timed rains.

"There'll be surprises in just about every field," predicts field operations director Doug Leith, the man in charge of FARMFEST's seven-day, 1400-acre harvest of corn, soybeans, sunflowers, sugar beets, and cotton. Farmers from across the U.S. will be on hand for what is shaping up to be the biggest professional ag convention of the year.

"We could start harvesting a few corn fields today, if we had to," Leith said on Sept. 1. "People will probably be surprised at our yields, considering we're short about six inches of precipitation this year."

Crop development is generally about three weeks ahead of normal at FARMFEST, according to Leith. Dry spring weather allowed early planting and caused roots to grow deep. Early-maturing seed was used to insure good stands for 1000

acres of machinery demonstrations.

"The two and a half inch rain we had just before the corn tasseled didn't hurt either," Leith says.

Even the 300 exotic crops in FARMFEST's U.S. Crops Review are thriving, though it took three plantings of peanuts before the pocket gophers gave up, Leith says.

Machinery demonstration bean fields are also in good shape, having escaped podding problems reported in the region.

Experimental fields — such as one in which beans were drilled in 6-inch rows — are also producing above average crops, though dry spells dulled the effect of herbicides in some spots.

Minnesota's entire 1976 cotton crop — two acres at FARMFEST 76 — is waist high and has sprouted golf-ball size bolls. That, despite a herd of cattle stampeding through the patch, Leith says. A cotton harvesting machine is expected to arrive from Tennessee shortly.

FARMFEST's 55 acres of sunflowers have been described as one of the best fields in the state. Sugar beets have received enough moisture and will also be ready for harvest, Leith said. Four — and in some places five — alfalfa cuttings were made.

Climate

(Continued from Page 98)

stations. Recently the firm has been toying with the idea of having farmers or farmer cooperatives as subscribers to the service, but nothing definite has been decided. While the service would be too costly for the average farmer to afford, he believes cooperatives or large-scale operators could find the investment well worth their money. Because their weather reports aren't "ordinary" — they're specifically tailored for an individual business' needs.

Asked about possible changes in climate, Abrams said that there is no significant evidence that contemporary weather patterns are better or worse than those of generations ago. What may cause people to believe otherwise is that climatic changes have become more important today than they ever were before because of the "land and people squeeze."

The periods of drought, storms, etc. are controlled by a vast number of factors, including sunspot activities. And some man-made factors can become involved, if only in a small way. The paving over of huge parcels of land to build developments, roads, and so forth, can change evaporation and drainage patterns and thus directly affect the weather. The construction of dams and the relocation of rivers, for example, can change cloud patterns.

With much of Europe, especially England, now experiencing the worst drought in modern times, Abrams offered a simple explanation:

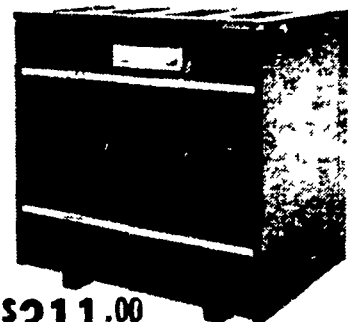
Wind patterns have strengthened and Europe for much of this year has been on the "fair or sunny" side of a weather pattern known as a "trough." Those are the wavy patterns one sees on every weather map. The forward side of these troughs is usually wet, while the trailing side is sunny and dry. England has had little relief from drought due to the prevailing winds keeping the position of the trough in a near stationary position. But there will be a change, someday.

Says Abrams: "If you don't like the weather, it will change if you just wait."



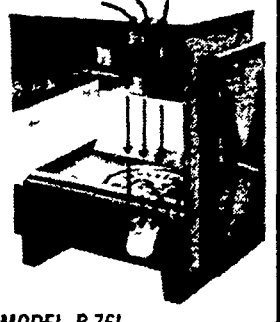
A familiar voice on many radio stations across the country is that of Elliot Abrams from Accu-Weather in State College. Here he prepares a taped up-date on the weather for use by a subscribing broadcaster.

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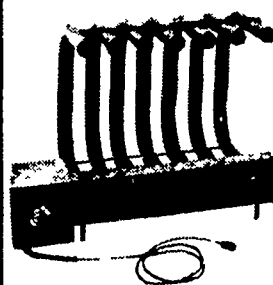
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Parade route announced

YORK - Arrangements for the York Fair Bicentennial Parade, September 12, have almost been completed by the parade committee, headed by Bernard Naftal.

The parade will consist of more than 125 units, making it one of the largest parades in York history. There will be 53 miscellaneous entries, including floats; five dancing schools; 20 fire companies with 53 pieces of equipment; 12 high school bands; 11 veterans organizations; one military band; and six drum and bugle corps.

Parade marshalls will be York natives General Jacob Devers (ret.) and Admiral Edward Grim (ret.) with John Dempwolf, president of the York Fair.

The parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. from Downtown North shopping center, will

march up George Street to Market Street, and will continue on Market Street and Carlisle Avenue to the York Fairgrounds.

At the conclusion of the parade, a massed bands concert will be held in front of the grandstand. The concert will be conducted by Robert F. Zellner, associate professor at Gettysburg College. The program will feature "Stars and Stripes Forever", "Chester March", "Amazing Grace" (directed by Arlington Kahley), "The Liberty Bell March", and "Battle Hymn of The Republic".

Members of the parade committee, in addition to Naftal, are Jamie Whorl, secretary, N. Richard Gallatin, Robert Smyser, Robert L. Young, Glenn E. Bailey, Ivan Frantz, and Arlington P. Kahley.

Speed up licensing

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania motorists can help speed up processing of vehicle registrations and operator licenses if they will provide their telephone numbers with applications, Frank Garber, director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, said recently.

A blank space for telephone numbers was recently added to all applications, Garber said, to help the Bureau contact motorists whose applications have been held up because of error.

"If an application comes in with an incorrect check or some erroneous information, we are now set up to make immediate contact with the applicant so we can keep the

process moving," Garber said.

"And that is the only purpose of the telephone listing - to help improve our service."

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