

Showers hamper harvesting

HARRISBURG - Although five days were rated suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 5, frequent afternoon showers limited progress, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Commonwealth farm operators rated soil moisture levels as mostly adequate, but high humidity is posing a problem in curing hay and tobacco.

The state's tobacco is now reported at 56 per cent cut, three days behind the 69 per cent cut a year ago at this time. Growers are reporting

a crop high in both quantity and quality, but some growers may be delaying harvest in hopes of better weather for curing the leaves.

The wet fields are hindering potato digging which is now rated 30 per cent complete, just ahead of the 28 per cent dug last year. No progress was made in the north last week although vines were being killed. Central counties are one-third done while digging in the south stands at 28 per cent complete.

Corn for grain, at 42 per cent dented is five days ahead of the 30 per cent dented last year at this time. Northern counties show 41 per cent dented, central areas are reporting 45 per cent and the southern operators report dented at 39 per cent. Corn growers are optimistic about the crop.

Corn ensilage is reported at six per cent cut compared to 11 per cent a year ago. Many operators prepared equipment last week to begin cutting of their corn for the silo.

Plowing made little progress last week, and at 35 per cent done, lags last year's 40 per cent by a week.

Frequent showers are blamed for holding up operations as operators are ready. Very little barley or wheat has been reported sown.

Despite quality problems operators were making hay last week rather than risk overmaturity. Alfalfa third cutting is now 62 per cent made and the second cutting of clo-tim is at 82 per cent complete. Quality improved last week and now is evenly split between fair and good. The fourth cutting of alfalfa remains stagnant.

Pastures are providing average amounts of feed for this date. Pasture conditions improved in response to last week's scattered showers.

Dairy denied service

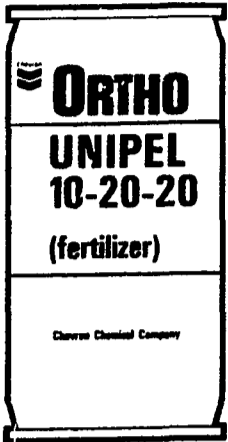
DUBOIS - Carol Tucker Foreman, assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services, announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture withdrew dairy grading and acceptance services from Beaver Meadows By-Products Corp., located here, for six months beginning Aug. 28.

denied services because the firm labeled nonofficially graded butter with the official U.S. Grade AA mark. In addition, grading services are denied to any dairy establishment affiliated with Kirk for the next six months.

Beaver Meadows signed a consent order agreeing to the withdrawal after FSQS charged that the firm that the firm had never applied for authorization to display the USDA grade mark on butter nor agreed to conform to regulations governing its use.

According to officials of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS), the firm and its plant manager, Joseph Kirk, Jr., are being

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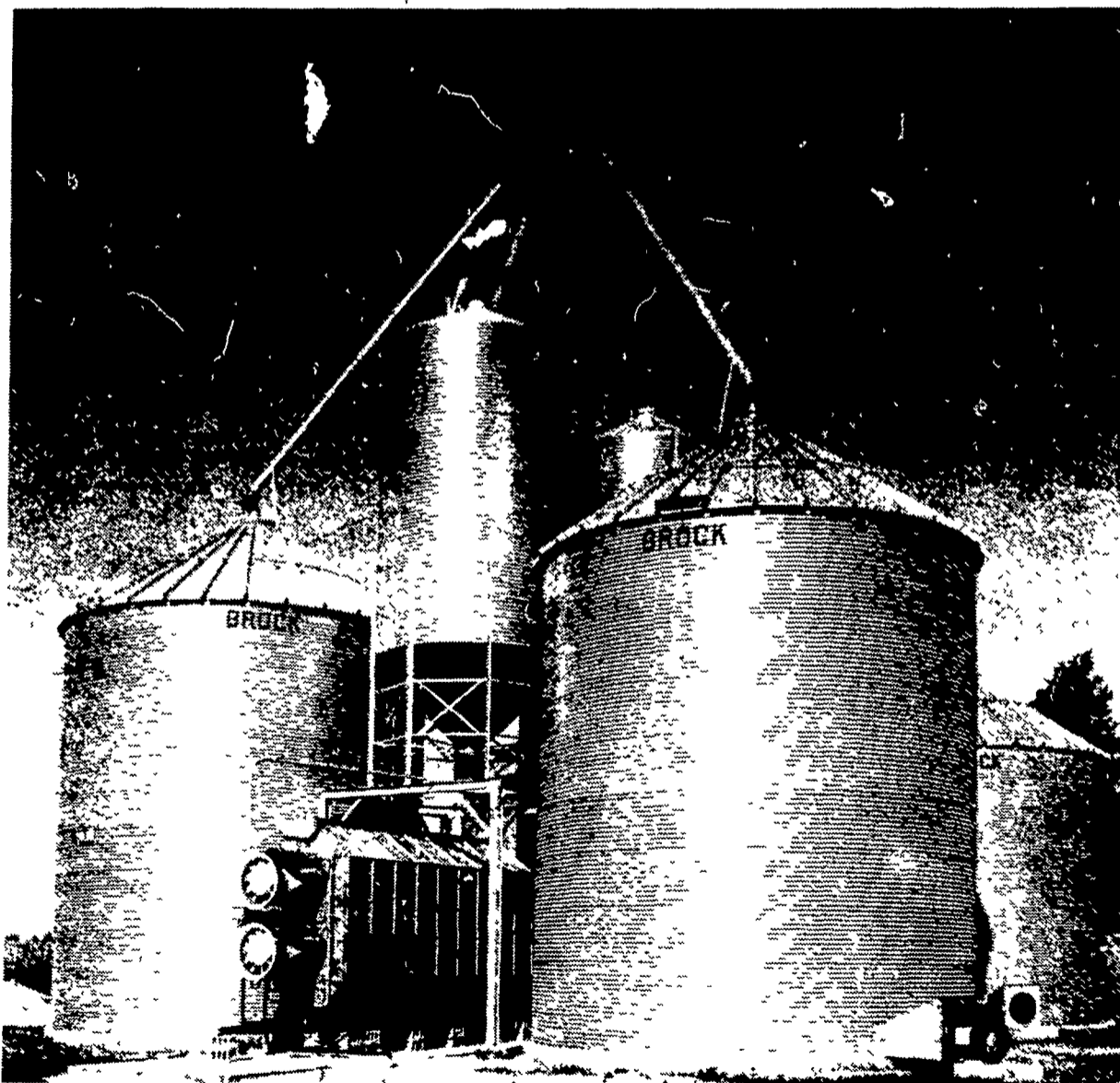
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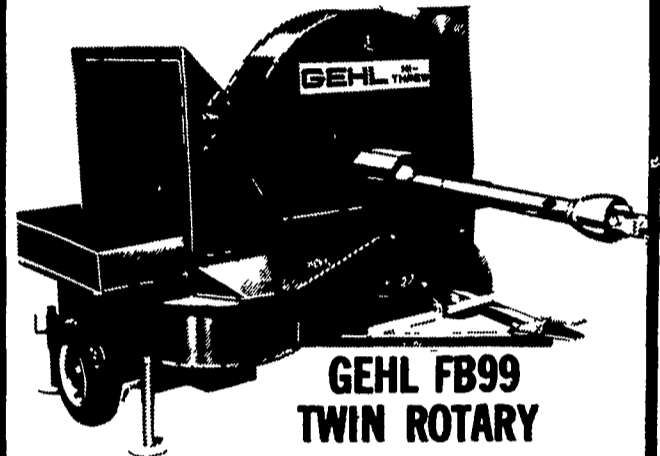


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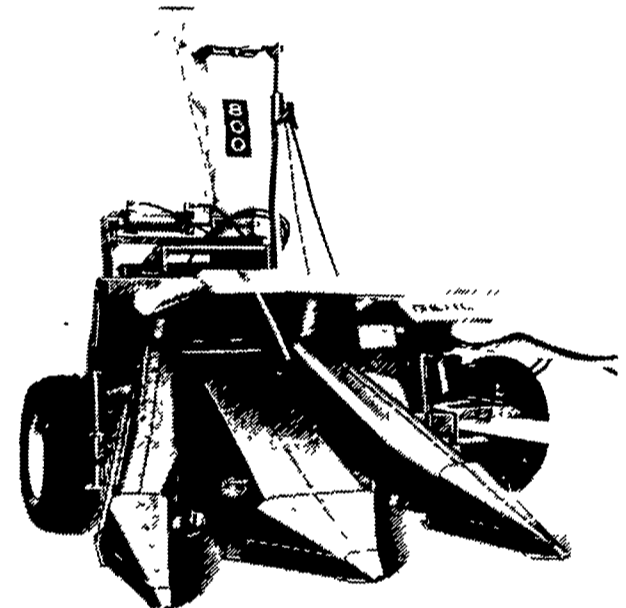


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