

## Wet fields slow harvesting

**HARRISBURG** - A fourth consecutive week of showers and wet field conditions limited field work to under four days during the week ending October 8, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Fast moving weather systems provided changes almost daily throughout the week.

Statewide, moisture levels are rated adequate by half and surplus by the other half of farm operators. Over four-fifths of the farmers in the northern counties are reporting surplus water levels.

Grapes and potatoes are being hurt by the excess water standing in fields. Potato digging is being delayed by the wet fields and now is 75 per cent complete, three days behind the 79 per cent done a year ago. Southern operators are two-thirds complete, central counties are at 86 per cent and northern areas report 72 per cent of potato crops dug. Northern operators are reporting deteriorating

conditions as the potatoes stand in wet fields.

In spite of rains, operators continue to cut hay, with some being green fed or ensiled rather than baled due to wetness. Quality of hay made during the week is rated as fair by half and poor by the remaining fifty per cent of operators.

The third cutting of alfalfa is 90 per cent done with 44 per cent complete on the fourth cutting. At 96 per cent done, second cutting of clover-timothy is virtually complete. Pastures continue to provide average to above average amounts of feed for this time of the year.

Corn for grain is now eight per cent harvested with another 65 per cent mature and safe from frost. Last year corn harvest stood at five percent with 46 per cent mature at this time. Southern areas show twelve per cent harvested, central areas at eight per cent and northern counties stand at five per cent harvested.

Corn silage harvest progressed to 73 per cent, still one day ahead of the 70 per cent done in 1976. The south is 82 per cent harvested, central areas are at 80 per cent and the north shows 61 per cent cut.

Fall plowing now is 83 per cent done, ten per cent ahead of last year. Barley and wheat seeding have caught up with last year's progress and stand at 62 per cent and 85 per cent in the ground, respectively. Emerged barley is said to be in very good condition and showing good growth.

## Critical corn

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cannot meet its own set goals and the ears aren't filled out.

According to Weideman, depth of planting is also a key factor to good yields. He likes to see the kernels about 1½ inches in the ground, explaining that this is deep enough to have access to moisture, while not so deep as to be in cool soil. Pioneer studies in Lancaster County indicate that for eight of the past 10 years, the best time for corn planting has been between April 25 and May 5. "Around April 20 you better start thinking about planting corn," said Weideman. "After May 15 you begin to lose a bushel per acre per day."

Asked by one of the farmers why the Pioneer varieties shown at the Rohrer farm were so leafy, the Pioneer man explained a good leafy stalk is needed to get good yields.

Also important in corn management is a good insecticide program. Weideman continued. Specific details on that subject were presented by Steve Fisher of the FMC Corporation. Among other things, he revealed that two types - an early and late variety - of corn borer attacked corn. According to both Fisher, and Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Arnold Lueck, this area had a real problem with corn borers this year.

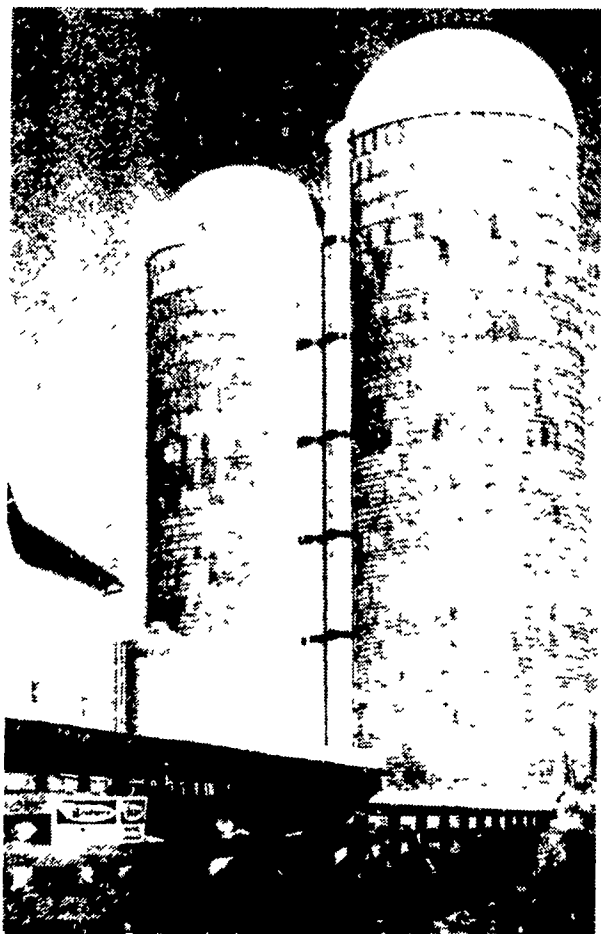
In the demonstration field, here, Rohrer prepared his ground by plowing down 500 pounds of 25-0-12 fertilizer to the acre, and then adding 140 pounds of 10-26-9 to the acre per row at planting time. The field also received a cover of steer manure, although exact amounts are not known. Treated with 1¼ pounds of Aatrex, 1½ quarts of Lasso, and eight pounds of Furidan per acre, the field recorded an average population in the field was 20,000 plants per acre.

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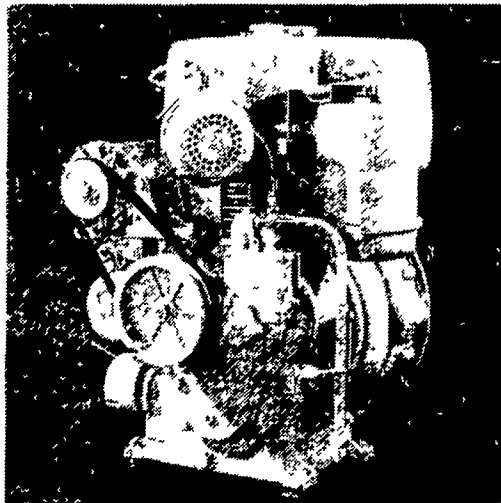
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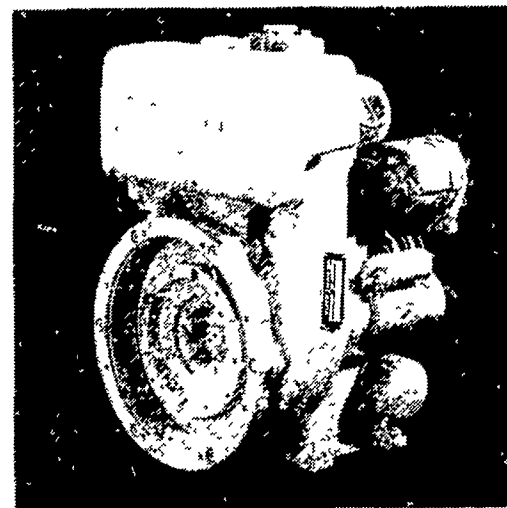
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