

# Spring farming slowed by weather

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer recently issued the first in a series of weekly crop and weather reports that will be released by the Agriculture Department during the 1978 crop season.

Shelhamer said the reports, compiled by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, are intended to keep farmers and the public abreast of the changing farm situation as the growing season progresses.

A cool spring and wet fields similar to that of last year is keeping farm operators out of the fields. Statewide, during the week ending April 17, four days

were considered suitable for fieldwork in areas where the fields were dry enough to work.

Rapidly moving weather systems produced a variety of conditions from day to day during the week. Temperatures for the week averaged near normal, and were the mildest since early November.

This was the driest week since early March, but soil moisture levels are still rated adequate by one-half and surplus by the other half of farm operators who are reporting. Soil moisture in the south of the state is rated adequate by two-thirds of the operators.

Plowing is now rated at 16 per cent done, three days

behind the 29 per cent completed a year ago at this time. Plowing is furthest advanced where teams are being used instead of heavy equipment. Northern counties are at 13 per cent done, central counties stand at 15 per cent and plowing in the south is now about one-fifth complete.

Potatoes are under five per cent in the ground compared to seven per cent planted last year. A few fields are planted in the north, and none in central counties. The southern counties show 13 per cent planting completed.

Tobacco beds are now being prepared with 54 per cent reportedly sown. Last year virtually all tobacco beds had been sown by this time.

Wheat and barley are still in the pre-boot stage. Wheat overwintered very well. Barley is generally in good condition, but some dead

spots are being reported while barley fields were too wet last fall.

Oats are now seven per cent sown, five days behind the 22 per cent in 1977. Although no oats are reported sown in the north, central counties report six per cent and southern counties are at 19 per cent done.

Pastures are too wet to use and consequently providing a below average amount of feed, but are greening up rapidly. Alfalfa hay stands are rated two-thirds in good condition and one-third fair. Clover-timothy stands are mostly in good condition, with some only fair.

Apples, peaches and cherries are in the pre-pink stage. Northern operators are reporting some bud swell in early grape varieties. Some southern peach varieties show more than usual winter damage, while northern orchardists report abnormally high rodent and rabbit damage.

## Junior heifer show announced by American Chianina Association

BLUE SPRING, Mo. — The American Chianina Association will sponsor its first National Junior Chianina Heifer Show on Wednesday, November 15, 1978 at Louisville, Ky. The ACA National Junior Heifer Show will be held in conjunction with the ACA National Open Show and Sale. These events will take place at the North American Livestock Exposition.

Only ACA junior members who are not more than 21 years of age on January 1, 1978 will be eligible to enter Chianina heifers in the ACA National Junior Heifer Show. Any registrable Chianina female calved on or after January 1, 1977 and before May 1, 1978, and owned by a bonafide ACA junior member meeting the age specifications for this

show, may be nominated and shown. All Chianina heifers nominated for the ACA National Junior Heifer Show must be Owned and Registered in the ACA junior member's name before August 15, 1978.

There will be two categories in the ACA National Junior Heifer Show. Fullblood and American purebred Chianina (seven-eighth and higher) heifers will be shown together in age classes and percentage Chianina heifers (quarter bloods to three-quarters) will be shown together in age classes.

The grand champion Chianina heifer in both categories will receive \$1000 each in premiums. Other premium money will be awarded in each age class and to the division (calf, junior and senior) champions in both show categories. Making the official placings for the ACA National Junior Heifer Show will be Dr. Gary Minish of Blacksburg, Va.

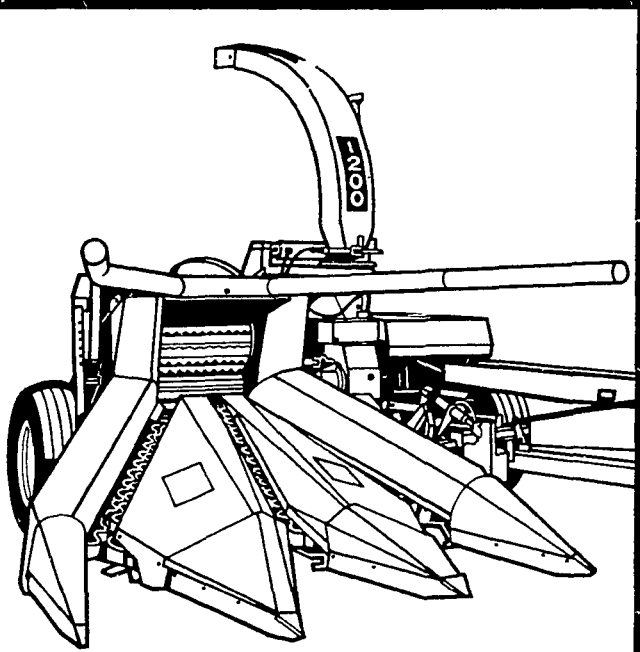
Official nomination forms for the ACA National Junior Heifer Show can be obtained from the American Chianina Association, Box 159, Blue Springs, Mo. 64015. Only those Chianina heifers nominated through the ACA national office on official ACA nomination forms will be allowed to show in the ACA National Junior Heifer Show.

### Proceed, Please

Two lawyers were arguing a case in court and began to attack each other's personalities. You're a shyster," said one. "And you're just an ambulance-chaser," was the reply. Finally the judge settled the matter. "Now that you two have introduced each other to this court," the judge said, "you may proceed with the case at hand."

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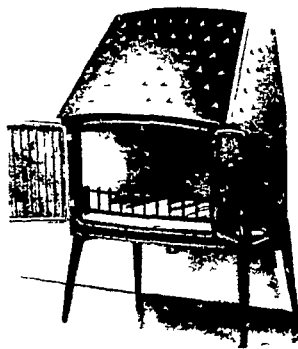
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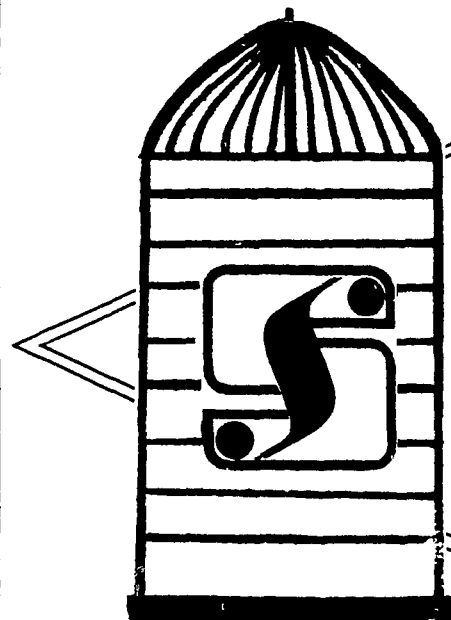
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