

Hay season looks good so far

(Continued from Page 1)
 were complaining about

The rain was praised, though, too, for helping make the hay crop a good one. "This wet Spring sure helped my hay crop," a northern Lebanon County farmer said. "I got my first cutting of alfalfa in about

three weeks ago, and now the rain we had this week is sure bringing my second crop along nicely. It won't be too long before I'm ready to cut it again."

Dick McDonald, market specialist for the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture, who works with hay prices, related that he thought hay prices will

depend a lot on what kind of season it will be.

"So far I'd say it's been a real good hay season, with some nice hay harvested" he noted. "This rain that we've been having sure should help the second cutting, too. I think most of the first cutting of alfalfa is in in southern Pa., but there still is a lot out

in the northern part of the state."

"There seems to be a fair number of loads of hay running through the markets right now," he added. "But most of the better alfalfa will come off in the second, third, and fourth cuttings so we'll just have to wait and see what it looks like. I know hay buyers want lower prices but whether they'll get them next Winter or not is hard to say now."

At the different hay markets around the Lancaster Farming area, new hay was reported sold.

During the week of June

19, the regional hay market which reports the prices for southeastern and south-central Pa. reported that new crop alfalfa was bringing \$50 to \$65 per ton. New crop timothy was priced at \$45 to 50 and new mixed hay brought \$50 to 60.

Norman Kolb, from the New Holland Sales Stables, reported that good new hay has been bringing as high as \$100 per ton. But he also added that hay with a high moisture content was only bringing \$40 per ton or less. An average price for the new hay he thought would be between \$65 and 90 per ton.

If not affected by the rain, he thought first cutting hay looked good, and he said the second crop seems to be shaping up the same way, calling it "fair" at the moment. He too said that future hay prices will just depend on what type of hay season 1978 will turn into.

"People bringing in this hay with a high moisture content can't sell that for horses," Kolb related. "It's just not good for horses and I hate to see it go for that, but now cows aren't as particular so you'll see a lot of dairies using that kind of a hay."

Prices at New Holland this week ranged from \$50 to 86 for alfalfa; \$27 to 92 for mixed hay; and \$40 to 111 for timothy; but these prices included both loads of new and old hay.

Robert Frame, representing the Vintage Sales Stables, summed up the new hay as "some of it good, and some of it not good".

"The prices for hay have fallen," he related, "and those who have been selling the hay are spoiled by the past high prices. They don't want to sell it now. If the weather continues as it is and we have a good season for making hay, I don't think we'll see the high prices next year that we had last Winter. There should be more hay available."

Prices for the new hay at the Vintage Sale Stables ranged from \$52 to 72 per ton.

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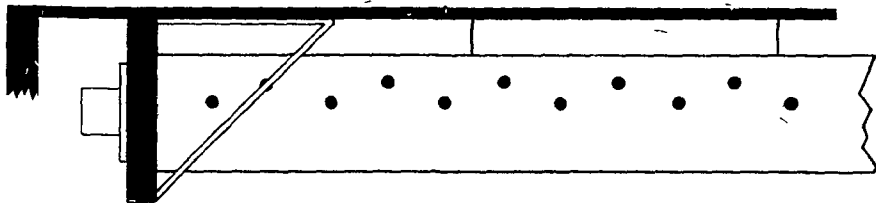
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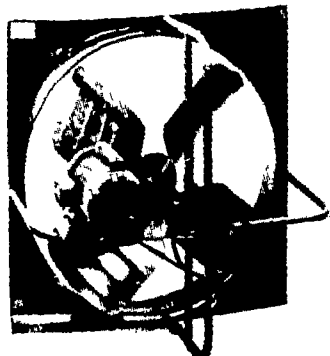
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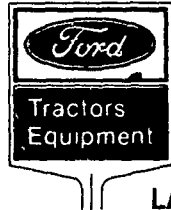
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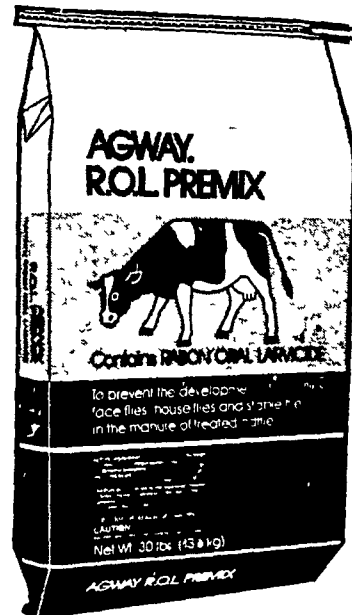


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