

Field crops still behind schedule

HARRISBURG — Five days were suitable for fieldwork across the state in the week ending August 21, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The increased heat and reduced rainfall was welcomed but high humidity continued to plague dry-down of hay and unharvested small grains. Seasonal harvesting of fruits and vegetables continued. Soil moisture levels declined to mostly adequate. The most frequent reports of surplus levels were from southern counties, but those were limited to one fourth of the area's reporters.

At 37 per cent in dough and a slight bit dented, corn continued at five days behind the 48 per cent in dough stage a year ago. One half of the crop was in dough in the south, 35 per cent in central counties and 31 per cent in the north. Each area reported less than five per cent on ensilage corn cut to date. Japanese beetle and stalk borer damage seemed fairly prevalent. Growers continued to view the crop with optimism. Through last week potatoes were 16 per cent dug, the same as last year. The northern counties report 14 per cent dug with central

and southern reports at 18 per cent. Some blight, aphid, leaf hopper and Colorado potato beetle problems continue to be reported.

Combining of oats was 69 per cent complete. This lags the 94 per cent of last year by

ten days. The north was 62 per cent done, central counties were at 71 per cent, while the south at 82 per cent showed the least progress last week. Harvest was hindered by lodging and weedy fields.

With only 12 per cent complete, Fall plowing was four days behind the 18 per cent a year ago. The north had 11 per cent done, central counties were at 12 per cent, while 16 per cent had been done in the south. Hay quality improved slightly last week and was rated as mostly fair. Alfalfa second cut was 82 per cent done with 23 per cent having been cut a third time. A year

ago the third cutting stood at 42 per cent. Clo-tim second cutting was 53 per cent done, ten per cent behind a year ago. Although the weather was better to mow hay, the humidity continued to be too high for good curing. Tobacco was about five per cent harvested. This was ten days behind the 18 per cent done a year ago. As with hay, curing is expected to be a problem.

Griest wins tractor driving

Twin Valley FFA Chapter President Howard Griest III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Griest, Honey Brook R1, won the tractor driving contest at the Kutztown Fair.

Other winners in the tractor driving contest were: 2. Ed Sittler, Oley Valley FFA; 3. Ernest Gelsinger, Conrad Weiser FFA; 4. Henry Noss, Conrad Weiser FFA; 5. Bruce Latshaw, Kutztown FFA; 6. Duane Howard, Oley Valley FFA; 7. Tom Kearns, Twin Valley FFA; 8. Dave Dietrich, Kutztown FFA; and 9. Kelvin Reinert, Lehigh County FFA.

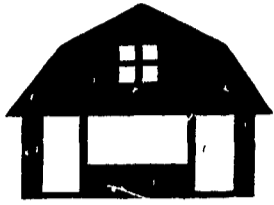
The tractor driving contest consists of seven different parts. The contestants must

take a written safety test, must find at least ten faults on a tractor, and must demonstrate simple skills. Students must also demonstrate how to perform a safety check on a tractor before starting it. There are then three actual driving tests.

Throughout the contest the students are scored on safety.

The top two students from this contest are now eligible to represent Berks County on October 12 in the Berks-Lebanon-Schuylkill County Area FFA Contest. The winner of this contest represents the B-L-S area in the Pennsylvania State FFA Contest next June at Penn State.

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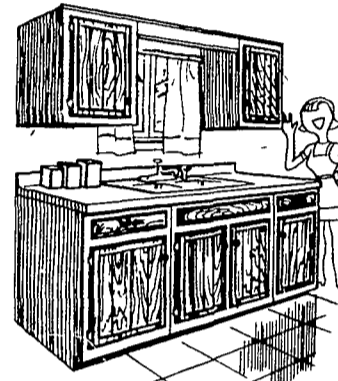
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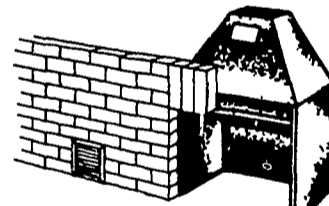
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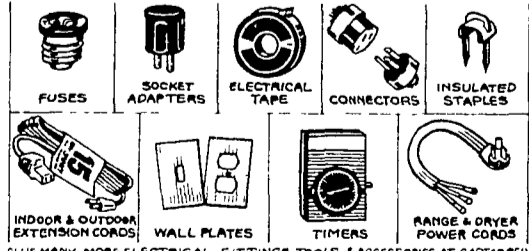
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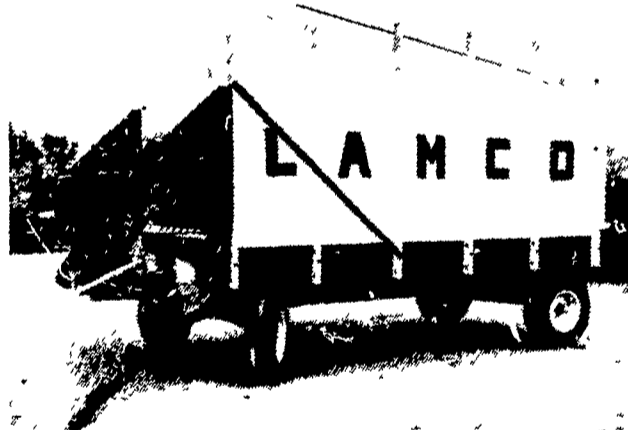


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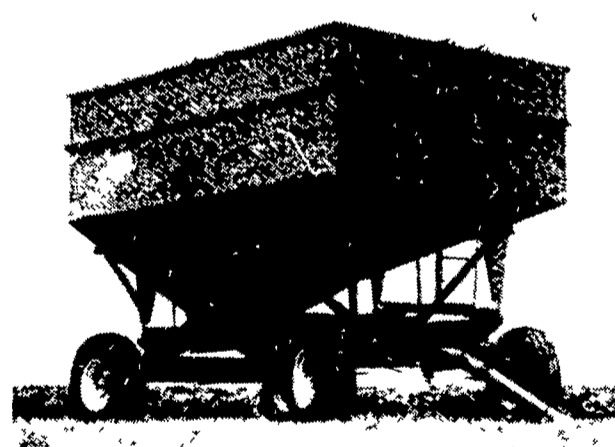
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