

Pears, apples showing

(Continued from Page 1)
growers tended to call the pear harvest poor, citing the frozen buds as the main problem responsible for the light crop. They spoke of high prices for pears this year, and noted that a problem that they had this Summer with the Persilla, which was so bad that it could have killed some of the

fruit trees, did not add to the possibility of a good harvest this year.

Looking ahead to the apple harvest which will shortly get into full swing, whether the crop would be good or not, depended a lot on what variety of apples one talked about.

Adams County growers

seem to expect about a 50 to 60 per cent crop overall in the apples this year, according to Donald Weiner, Aspers R1. He cited the problems of it being too wet and too cold early in the Spring, along with the poor pollination. But he added that the quality of the apples was good, as good if not better of the apples of the past few years.

He expects apple prices to stay basically the same, for although Pennsylvania apples were hurt this year, he stated that other states such as New York and Virginia, will have good crops, which will keep prices from rising.

Joseph Raab, of the Raab Fruit Farm, Dallastown R2, stated that he had just finished picking his Rambo apples and will be starting his main apple season within ten days. He expects a full crop of his Jonathon variety and a very light crop of the Red Delicious and Stayman Winetap apples. The Rome Beauty that he raises, he thought would be good, and the last ones to come in, being harvested at the end of October.

Raab noted that the week the apples came into full bloom, the temperature went as low as 24 to 28 degrees F., and then the week after that, it rained the entire week. He stated that the bees just did not pollinate as was needed this year.

He too did not expect the apple prices to rise though this year, because he told that he had heard that the Virginia and New York

apples were the best crop in the past three years this season in all varieties.

Richard Haas, of the Cherry Hill Orchard, in Lancaster County, put the apple crop situation this way, "Some places the apples are excellent in the orchard, and some places they are very light". He thought that the good varieties would be the Rambo, the Smokehouse, The McIntosh, the Golden Delicious, and The Rome Beauty. Some of the Red Delicious he thought were very good, some very light,

and the Stayman too, he saw as generally light.

He stated that over the Summer, there were no significant problems with the apples, and hoped that the crop would finish out nicely. He thought both the apples and pears would have good quality this year, stating that the apples to be picked looked beautiful.

Peter Alexih, from the Herr Fruit Farm, said that his Red Delicious crop should be at about 70 per cent this year, and his Golden Delicious were a light crop, at about 40 per

cent. He thought a heavy crop of Red Delicious is unusual in Pa. and noted that some of his fruit trees of that variety are so heavy with fruit that they are starting to break down.

Speaking of his Smokehouse variety, he noted that he expects to start picking them Monday, and that they should be excellent this year for the applesauce making. His McIntosh apples, he said, were reported at almost 100 per cent and his York and Rome variety of apples were both good in both quality and quantity.

Farm Bureau opposes Carter's energy plan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The president of the nation's largest farm organization has urged the U.S. Senate to reject the conference report on a key section of President Carter's energy plan.

Allan Grant, head of the nearly three-million member-family American Farm Bureau Federation, says the organization strongly opposes the seven-year "phased-in" decontrol of natural gas pricing, heart of the administration-supported conference compromise on natural gas legislation.

In letters to the members of the U.S. Senate, Grant called for immediate deregulation of the pricing on natural gas, saying "There are vast reserves of natural gas that have not been tapped because the price of natural gas is held artificially low. These reserves will not be

developed under the lengthy system of phased-in deregulation proposed in the conference report."

Grant also emphasized the importance of an agricultural priority for natural gas, pointing out that agriculture depends on biological processes and cannot make up for production lost as a result of a natural gas shortfall.

Without an agricultural priority for natural gas, the farm leader said, it would be difficult to meet this nation's requirements for food and fiber.

Grant encouraged the senators to recommit the conference report to the conferees with specific instructions to report back legislation that immediately deregulates natural gas pricing and contains an adequate agricultural priority similar to one approved by the Senate.

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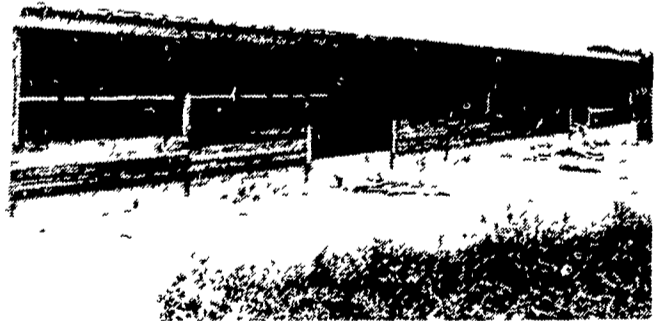
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