

# Fieldwork continues unhampered

HARRISBURG — For the third consecutive week Pennsylvania farmers were blessed with five days suitable for fieldwork in the week ending May 7, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, with a sixth day reported in

southern counties. Showers in the later part of the week raised soil moisture to one-fourth surplus and the rest adequate statewide. Most surplus ratings are from the north where temperatures were somewhat cooler than the remainder of the state.

At 73 percent done, spring plowing is even with a year ago. The north stands at three-fifths done, central counties report four-fifths with the south at 78 percent done.

Oats are four-fifths sown, one day ahead of last year's 78 percent. Three-fifths are sown in the north, 90 percent in the central areas and 94 percent in the south.

Potatoes are 44 percent planted, the same as a year ago. While virtually all of the crop is planted in the south, central counties are 49 percent planted and the north is only two-fifths done. Some plants have emerged in the south.

Corn is now 15 percent planted, compared to 17 percent last year, with the historic average at 13 percent. Only five percent is planted in the north, central counties report 15 percent and 19 percent has been planted in the south. Many operators are waiting for soil temperatures to rise before planting, as the fields themselves are ready to be

planted. Some corn has emerged in the south.

Barley is one-fifth into boot, 11 days ahead of last year when less than five percent had reached boot. Boot stands at seven percent in the north, 27 percent in central areas and 20 percent in the south. A small amount has headed in the south. Wheat, at one-sixth in boot, also leads the under five percent last year by 11 days. The crop is seven percent booted in the north, 23 percent in central counties and 15 percent in the south.

Pastures and hay have made rapid growth recently. Alfalfa is rated in mostly good condition but somewhat fair in the north due to excessive moisture and cool temperatures. New alfalfa seedlings look very good but the alfalfa weevil is active.

Clover-timothy is rated fair by one-third of the reporters and good by the rest. The amount of feed being obtained from pastures is average or below.

Peaches and cherries continue two weeks ahead of last year, with apples about ten days ahead. Peaches are two-thirds in or past full bloom compared to ten percent last year. Cherries are three-fourths in or past full bloom compared to 12 percent last year. Northern and central areas report some frost damage but the extent is uncertain at this time. Buds are swelling on grapes in the north where significant damage to cherries by frost is expected. Peas are sprouting. Downy mildew is reported on some cabbage plants.

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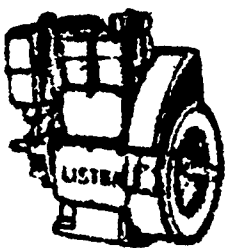
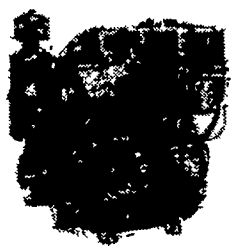
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