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Energy problems are here to stay

By KENDACE BORRY
 "You can expect to live with an energy problem the rest of your life," Pennsylvania Petroleum Association director Dale Murphy stated last week at the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation seminar.

"There is no way out of this horrible mess before the year 2000," he continued. "It can be relieved slightly, but only if we establish an effective national energy policy and do it now!"

Murphy told his audience that most Americans don't believe that there is a fuel crisis. But, he added, there is growing indications that many Americans do believe that the meddling of government officials in the energy markets may be the real problem.

"Our energy supply is a serious problem," Murphy stated. "We can't meet this fantastic demand through the year 2000 without a yearly increase of imports outside our borders. Over 47

per cent of our oil is imported."

A national energy policy would bring about great personal sacrifices of people at all levels, Murphy stressed. It would require billions of dollars but much of that could be spent from the savings of the money resulting from the decrease of imports because of this new energy policy.

It would require the use of The United State's own vast resources.

"The national energy policy should include all of that and more," he continued.

"It must be reasonable about environmental demands," he continued.

"It must cut out unnecessary governmental regulations. We must return to the free enterprise system."

"It must be sensible about encouraging the U.S. businesses to find new energy sources," he continued.

Turn to Page 15

Grain harvest marred by low yields and empty fuel tanks

By DIETER KRIEG
 LANCASTER — There's not much positive news this year about the small grain harvest in southeastern Pennsylvania. The weather was about all that was good about it. And that was just for the time that the combining took place. It was dry. Too much rain earlier in the season has kept high yields from developing, and a number of fields were flattened. The reports aren't encouraging.

An even more worrisome factor might be the fuel shortage which has kept phones ringing at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as well as farm organizations and elsewhere. Some farmers report that they can't get fuel to run their combines and tractors. According to John Nikoloff, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the problem is widespread throughout the state.

So far, solutions to the fuel problem have been limited. Those suppliers who can help have generally been cooperative, says a public information officer at the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. But oftentimes the suppliers say they can't get fuel because of truckers having tied up supply routes.

While some farmers report delays with their

barley harvest, others are done. The word is that yields were nothing to brag about. Dealers in the area are paying \$1.70 to \$2.00 per bushel, delivered.

The quality of barley isn't much either this year, reports indicate.

Meanwhile, grain prices are moving roller-coaster fashion as orders are affected by reports of grain sales to Russia and official acreage figures from the United States Department of Agriculture. A week ago grain prices moved sharply upward. This week they dropped just as harshly, hitting the limit in several instances.

With barley combining nearing its final stages, early reports from the area say that not much can be expected of the wheat crop either. A fungus disease, called scab, has hit some fields in the region, causing the heads to be not fully filled out. Scab is caused by the same organism that causes stalk rot in corn, explains Adams County Extension Agent John Schwartz. The problem can be especially acute if small grains are planted in fields that had previously been in corn, especially minimum-till fields.

One consolation to the poor harvest is that farmers are at least getting a fair amount of straw.

In this issue

There's a satellite in the sky that may be looking at your fields. The Pa. Crop Reporting Service is presently involved in 'ground-truthing' the satellite in cooperation with NASA. For more information, see the story on page 122.

Farm wife	24
Grain buying	28
Ag hot line	29
Nuclear power	31
Pa. FFA officers	33
Homestead Notes	90
Jr. Cooking	92
Home on the Range	96
Ida's Notebook	98
Joyce Bupp	99
Goat recipes	102
SUN dairy princess	108
Pa. dairy princess	110
Eastern	105, 114
Lancaster DHIA	115
Satellite	122
Sheep parasites	124
Kendy's Kolluman	128