

Fieldwork hampered by rainfall

HARRISBURG—Although four days last week were rated as suitable for fieldwork, excessive rainfall limited such activities as hay baling; Fall plowing; harvesting of potatoes, tobacco and oats; and seeding of alfalfa, wheat and barley, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Other farm activities included: machinery repairs; silage making; green chopping; filling silos; and Fall plowing.

Farm reporters across the Commonwealth reported LP gas at nine per cent tight, and 91 per cent adequate, with diesel fuel rated 19 per cent tight and 81 per cent adequate. Gasoline supplies are reported as two per cent deficit, 14 per cent tight and 84 per cent adequate.

Heavy rainfall increased statewide soil moisture to 36 per cent surplus, with 54 per cent adequate and 10 per cent short. Northern counties report 50 per cent

surplus, 28 per cent adequate, while central report 25 per cent surplus and 75 per cent adequate. Southern counties report 60 per cent adequate and 30 per cent surplus.

At 57 per cent in the dough stage, corn is the same as last year. The five-year average is 56 per cent in dough at this time. Corn is reported 20 per cent dented compared with 25 per cent for both last year and the five-year average. The northern region reports 19 per cent in dent. While both central and southern regions report 20 per cent in dent. Harvesting corn for silage is seven per cent completed. Southern counties report 20 per cent of ensilage corn harvested, while five per cent or less were completed in central and northern counties. Central counties report damage due to root worms and Japanese beetles.

The potato harvest progressed last week with the crop now 39 per cent dug.

The northern region advanced its harvest to 43 per cent complete, ahead of both the central region at 32 per cent and the southern region at 39 per cent harvested.

At 95 per cent complete, combining of oats is now equal to 1978 progress. The north reports 89 per cent complete, central counties are 98 per cent done while the southern areas are finished.

Wet conditions slowed haymaking for the second consecutive week. Cutting progressed less than five per cent on both second and third alfalfa cuttings, now at 86 and 34 per cent respectively. Clo-Tim harvest is 69 per cent completed, compared with 73 per cent last year. Hay made last week was mostly poor to fair.

At 35 per cent complete, fall plowing is one day ahead of last year. The north is 34 per cent done, central counties report 38 per cent and the south is at 33 per cent complete. Frequent rains

prohibited progress of fall seeding of wheat and barley.

Cutting of tobacco slowed by showers, is 30 per cent complete compared with 25 per cent reported last week. Harvest is one day ahead of last year's progress, with some damage noted.

Harvest of early apples and late peach varieties is well underway, with overall condition reported good. Grapes are beginning to color but mildew problems are reported in some vineyards. Cabbage cutting continues, while harvest of tomatoes is behind normal. Limited amounts of sweet corn and snap beans continue to be marketed.

Apple growers oppose marketing order

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Apple growers in six New England states have voted down a proposed federal marketing order program for their crop.

The program would have covered apples grown in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

P.R. Smith, a U.S. Department of Agriculture assistant secretary, said only about 30 percent of the producers voting favored the proposed program. They accounted for about 49 percent of the production represented in the referendum.

For the program to go into

effect, it had to be approved by at least two-thirds of the growers voting, either by number or volume of production represented.

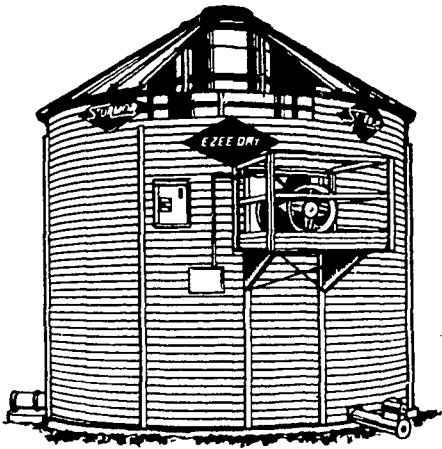
The program would have authorized maturity requirements and marketing research and promotion activities.

Currently there are 46 marketing order programs

covering a wide range of fruits, vegetables and specialty crops like nuts and raisins. These programs are initiated and designed by growers in cooperation with the department's Agricultural Marketing Service. Each program is tailor-made to cope with the industry's marketing problems.

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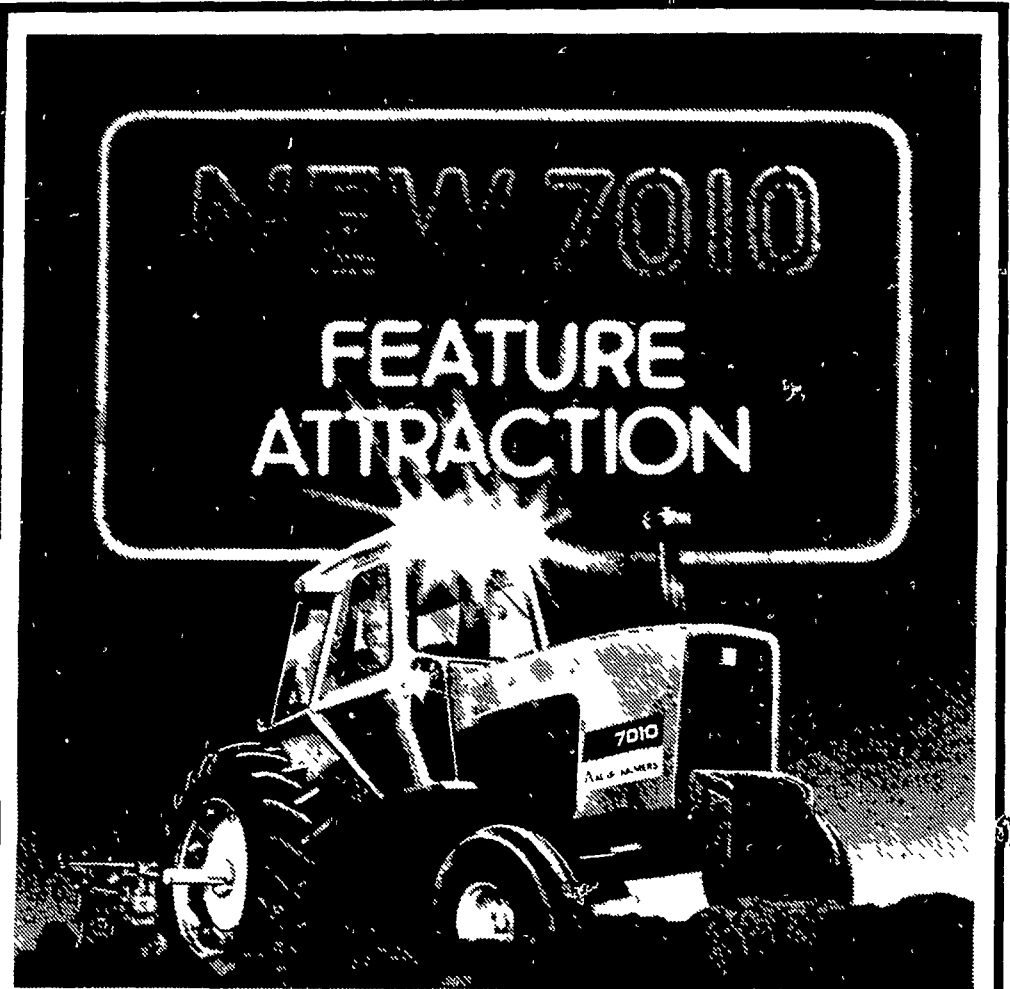
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