

Rain, wet fields delay corn and potato harvest

HARRISBURG - Mid-week rain restricted fieldwork across the Commonwealth to four days during the week ending October 22, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities included harvest of potatoes, soybeans, corn, fruits and vegetables; haymaking; fall plowing; and silo filling.

Farm operators reported LP gas supplies as five percent tight and 95 percent adequate, with diesel fuel rated four percent tight and 94 percent adequate, statewide.

Last week's precipitation

held soil moisture across the Commonwealth to 43 percent surplus and 57 percent adequate. The southern part of the state rated soil moisture at 35 percent surplus and 45 percent adequate while the central region reported soil moisture as 40 percent surplus and 60 percent adequate.

Corn for grain is now reportedly 18 percent dented and 68 percent mature, compared with last week's 25 percent dented and 66 percent mature. Harvesting of corn progressed to 14 percent, compared to last

year's 33 percent harvested and the five-year average of 29 percent completed. Harvesting of ensilage corn is 78 percent completed, a six percent gain from last week. Respondents statewide reported that much of the crop is ready for harvest, but ground and weather conditions are not conducive for harvest progress. Though fields are wet, some farmers did harvest later in the week.

The potato harvest progressed last week with the crop now 88 percent dug, a two percent increase from the previous week. The

southern and central areas of the state report potato digging at 96 percent and 75 percent complete, respectively. The northern part of the state saw 82 percent of the potatoes dug. Some potato rotting has been observed.

Soybeans seem to be maturing very well throughout the state. Harvest is reported at ten percent complete.

Alfalfa fourth cutting is 77 percent complete. Hay made last week was of mostly poor to somewhat fair quality due to wet weather. Pastures are providing average to above

average amounts of feed for this time of year.

Respondents report the apple crop as plentiful and with good sizing. Harvesting of cabbage and pumpkins continues.

Fall plowing made limited progress last week. Plowing increased to 90 percent complete, a two percent gain from the previous week's 88 percent complete. The north reports fall plowing 92

percent completed, the central 89 percent and the south reports fall plowing is 85 percent done.

Fall seeding for wheat is 85 percent complete. This compares to the prior weeks 83 percent complete. The north reports fall seeding 92 percent completed, the central 83 percent and the southern portion of the state is 64 percent completed.

Lancaster Co. Women attend forum

BUSHKILL - Over 130 4-H leaders, from 12 states, attended the 2nd Northeast Region Volunteer Leader Forum at the Fernwood Resort. Attending from Lancaster County were Dorothy Charles and JoAnn Enders.

The conference was designed to help volunteers gain additional skills and share ideas for effective 4-H youth programs. Based on the theme, "Working With Teens", the forum featured in-depth workshops on helping adolescents achieve their potential, helping 4-H achieve its potential for teens, working with groups of teens, working with teens individually and helping teens to develop their own 4-H programs.

One of the most outstanding parts of the program was Dr. Douglas Heath's workshop on understanding the needs of teenagers in order to build a stronger 4-H junior leader program.

Principal speakers were Douglas Heath, Professor of Psychology, Haverford College, Haverford, PA; Rich Savin Williams, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; and Hope S.

Daughtery, Acting Assistant Deputy Director, Science and Education Administration - Extension, 4-H, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dorothy Charles plans to apply what she gained at the forum to "better promote 4-H in her local area. She wants parents to become more aware of the many opportunities that 4-H young people on a county, state and national level can become involved in. She would like to see workshops to motivate adults to become dedicated 4-H leaders."

JoAnn Enders plans to apply what she gained at the forum "by initiating new projects and activities into the local 4-H club program that meet the needs and interests of teenagers. Also, by training other leaders to be more sensitive to the needs and interests of teenagers."

The forum was sponsored by National 4-H Council in behalf of the Cooperative Extension Service of the State Land-Grant Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Financial assistance was provided by the J.C. Penney Company and its member stores throughout the Northeast region.

USDA gives \$63 million in feed aid

LANCASTER — U.S. livestock producers received over \$63 million in emergency feed aid from the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the 11-month period October 1978 through August 1979, according to Ray Fitzgerald, Administrator of the Department's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Fitzgerald said the money provided financial assistance to farmers and ranchers when natural disasters reduced the availability of livestock feed. During the 11-month period, farmers bought 3.25 billion pounds of feed under the program, Fitzgerald said.

Successful applicants may be reimbursed up to 50

percent of the cost of feed purchased during the emergency period. This, however, may not exceed two cents per pound in terms of feed grain equivalent, according to Paul B. Klme Chairman of the Lancaster County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee (ASCS).

During the 11-month period, the Department approved 49,187 (83 percent) of the 59,579 applications received, Fitzgerald said.

During Fiscal Year 1978, the first year of the program, the Department provided \$169.4 million to help farmers buy approximately 3.67 billion pounds of feed.

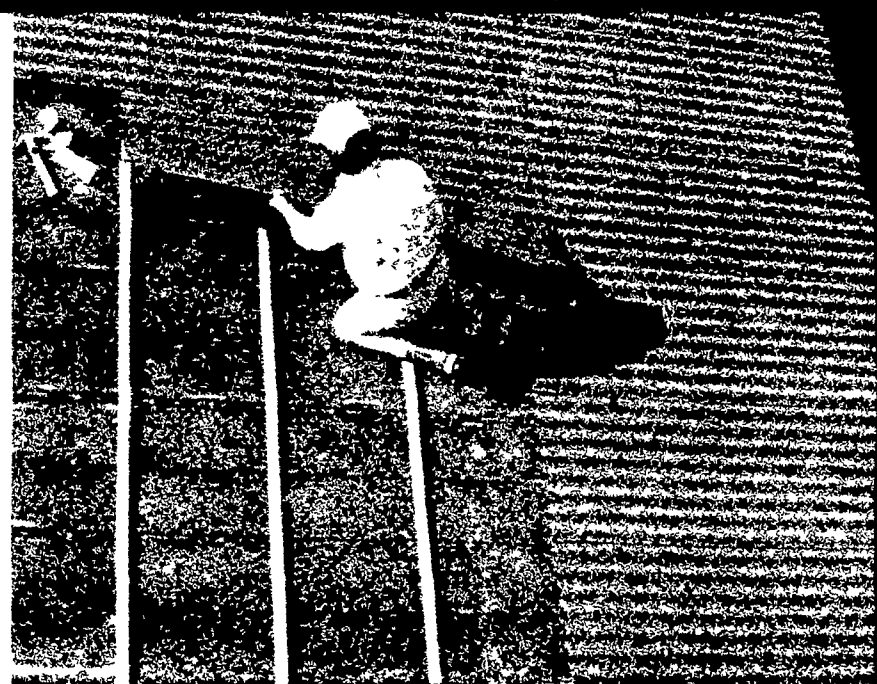
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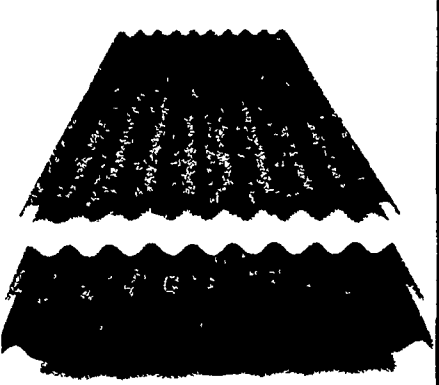


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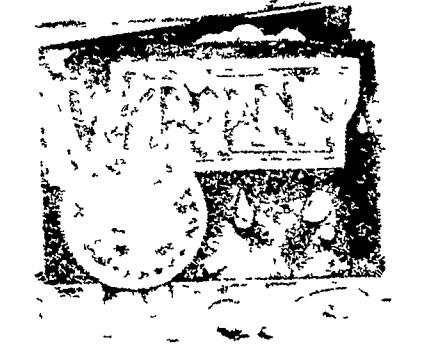


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