

Harvest season opens with barley

BROWNSTOWN — If the opening of the combining season this week in early barley is any indication, this year's overall harvest should be more bountiful than the past few.

But while the small grains are generally reported in good condition and barley yields are higher, later crops will depend on the weather leading up to their harvest.

Emery Hoover, custom combiner of R1 Leola, moved into some Barsoy barley along Rt. 772 between Brownstown and Leola earlier this week. It marked the opening of his harvesting season.

"This is the best crop we've had in the past four years," according to David Martin, R1 Bird-in-Hand, owner of the crop.

"The yield is running about 85 bushels to the acre.

"We were surprised but most of it was standing real well. In spite of all the wind and heavy rain, there were only a few spots where it lodged."

Martin has some Pennrad barley, which looks equally good, and should be ready for cutting during the coming week.

"Our wheat is coming along, too, and should be ready within the next couple of weeks," Martin added.

While most of his corn was at least knee-high, there is quite a bit of corn a lot smaller due to rain-delayed planting.

Eighty-bushel barley yields are about double many of the amounts taken from fields last year. The



Harvesting panorama, present and future, is depicted in fields located between Brownstown and Leola, Lancaster County. While combine moves through some barley in the background, the

foreground contains corn crop that's better than knee-high and a strip of wheat in between, which should be ready within a couple of weeks.

How local farmland values rose

LANCASTER — During the 12 months from February 1, 1979 to February 1, 1980, U.S. farmland values have increased an average of 14 percent, according to recently released USDA statistics. However, continued tight credit and moderate interest rates are expected to moderate price increases during 1980.

Farm real estate values more than doubled in 12 states between 1975 and 1980.

These states were Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Delaware, Maryland, and Colorado.

Since 1975 farm real estate values have increased by an annual average of 14 percent for the 12-month period ending in February, ranging from a low of 9 percent for the year ending February 1978 to 17 percent for the year ending February 1977.

	PA	MD	DE
March 1, 1972	732	419	566
March 1, 1973	843	491	645
March 1, 1974	980	621	810
March 1, 1975	1060	734	971
Feb. 1, 1976	1278	815	1155
Feb. 1, 1977	1355	978	1340
Feb. 1, 1978	1578	1092	1500
Feb. 1, 1979	1799	1245	1725
Feb. 1, 1980	2249	1370	2018

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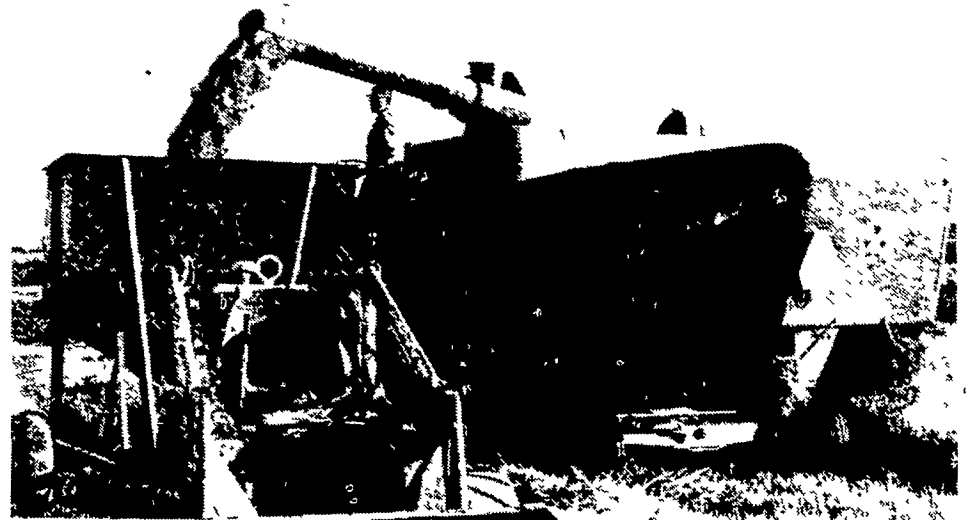
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Custom combiner Emery Hoover, R1 Leola, watches Barsoy barley gushing from combine auger into grain cart. Yield was running about 85 bushels to the acre, much better than the past few years.

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