

Field work moves ahead

HARRISBURG — Commonwealth farm operators rated six days suitable for field work during the week ending June 23, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Field activities included making hay and haylage; filling silos; cultivating corn; spraying oats, corn, potatoes and fruit trees.

Soil moisture was rated mostly adequate. Soil moisture was rated 68

percent adequate to 18 percent surplus in the north; 92 percent adequate to eight percent short in the south; and 79 percent adequate to 16 percent short in the central counties.

Statewide, the average height of corn is 10 inches, three inches less than last year. Compared to 13 inches last year, the crop is eight inches tall in the north and 12 inches tall in the southern areas.

Tobacco is 78 percent transplanted, behind last year's 87 percent planted at this time.

Soybeans are 92 percent planted, compared to 91 percent planted last year. The northern counties continue to lead the state with 95 percent planted while the central and southern counties reported 93 percent and 87 percent planted, respectively.

Traces of barley are being harvested, with 40 percent headed, 54 percent turning yellow, and five percent ripe. The northern areas reported 62 percent headed. Last year, 28 percent was headed, 56 percent turning yellow and 20 percent of the barley was ripe. The northern areas reported 62 percent headed and 38 percent turning yellow. In the central areas, 38 percent was headed and 62 percent is turning while the south reports 18 percent headed, 59 percent turning, 19 percent is ripe, with four percent harvested.

Wheat is 79 percent headed and 14 percent turning yellow. This compares to 62 percent headed and 15 percent turning last year. The north reported 83 percent headed and seven percent turning. The central portion of the state reported 81 percent headed and 10 percent turning, while the south reported 71 percent headed and 28 percent turning.

First cutting of alfalfa is 73 percent complete, statewide, compared to 72 percent harvested last year. The

north, central and southern areas reported 61, 73 and 95 percent harvested, respectively. The southern counties also reported four percent of second cutting completed.

Clover is 57 percent harvested compared to 56 percent harvested at this time last year. The north reported 50 percent harvest while central areas reported 56 percent complete and the south had harvested 71 percent.

Hay quality for the week

was mostly good to fair. In the north, 47 percent of the hay was reported of good quality and 53 percent fair. In the central counties, 53 percent was reported fair and 40 percent good. The southern section reported hay at 64 percent good to 36 percent fair quality.

Feed and pasture was rated mostly average to above average. The northern counties rated pasture at 65 percent average to 25 percent above average. The central region rated pasture at 80 percent average to 20

percent above average, while the south reported 80 percent of the pasture was average and ten percent above average.

All areas are having some corn problems, with yellowing caused by cold weather in the north, weed problems in the central counties and slug and stalk borer damage in the south.

Northern areas report late blooming of grapes, and slow ripening of strawberries. Southern areas reported strawberry harvest to be essentially complete.

Northern Lebanon FFAers visit Washington



Bryan Blatt, left and Mark Deaven, center, Northern Lebanon FFA, are greeted in Washington, D.C., by Doug Rinker, right of Winchester, Virginia, National President of the Future Farmers of America. Bryan and Mark attended the week-long National FFA Washington Conference program, held this week.

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