

## Fine weather speeds field work, crop output

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania farmers took full advantage of six days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending July 7, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities included cultivating corn and potatoes; spreading manure; baling straw; filling silos; spraying potatoes, tomatoes and fruit trees; and harvesting barley and wheat.

Corn is now averaging 22 inches in height, on a par with last year. Heights in the north and central areas average 18 inches, while southern corn fields are averaging 29 inches.

Barley is now 22 percent harvested, with 31 percent turning, and 38 percent ripe. Last year at this time, 31 percent was harvested, with 23 percent turning and 43 percent ripe. In the north, 67 percent is turning and four percent is ripe. Central

counties reported 32 percent turning, 56 percent ripe and another seven percent harvested. In the south, 40 percent is ripe and 58 percent is now harvested.

Wheat harvest has begun in southern counties, with statewide figures at 24 percent headed, 66 percent turning and eight percent ripe. The north reports 32 percent headed and 68 percent turning. Central areas have 29 percent headed, 66 percent turning and five percent ripe, while southern counties report seven percent headed, 65 percent turning, 23 percent ripe and five percent harvested.

Tobacco transplanting is virtually complete, the same as last year. Several reports of blue mold damage have been received, but the problem is lessening due to warmer summer weather.

Soybean planting is now virtually complete across the state.

Oats are 80 percent

headed, compared to the 73 percent headed last year at this time. The northern counties are 80 percent headed and traces turning,

and central areas have 87 percent headed. In the south, 70 percent of the oats crop is headed and 18 percent is turning.

## It's new strain of blue mold

LANCASTER COUNTY — It appears as if there definitely is a new strain of blue mold in Lancaster County tobacco fields.

"I'm positive we're dealing with a new strain of blue mold that is active at the higher temperatures," Arnold Lueck, agronomist and county extension agent, said.

Lueck said he has been investigating the fungus disease in a number of fields, which range from light to very heavy infections. The heaviest infections were located in fields where the disease was transmitted

through transplantings from untreated seedbeds.

The disease is still sporulating in the field and being transmitted to healthy plants. The spread is continuing despite the hot, dry conditions. Previously, blue mold development was checked when temperatures rose.

Lueck suggested that affected growers who did not use Ridomil follow a foliage spraying program with fungicides containing Manab. It may be necessary to repeat spraying every three to four days until the disease is checked.

The county agent has seen fields where half of the plants were affected. In cases where the disease was transplanted into fields, the plants are quite stunted. In older plants, blue mold

first appears as a green spot on the upper side of large leaves. The spot is about as big as a quarter. This green spot is the result of sporulation — airborne spread of the fungus.

On the underside of these leaves, a blue-gray discoloration can be noticed. This marks active growth of the fungus.



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## Governor signs

(Continued from Page A1)

Much of the crowd and media attention given the bill was the result of its being signed at the same time as laws dealing with boarding homes, appointment of new judges, delinquent taxes, and unemployment.

Thornburgh noted the milk security bill as one of the important initiatives and programs passed this year in Harrisburg.

He said he was pleased with the legislators' work

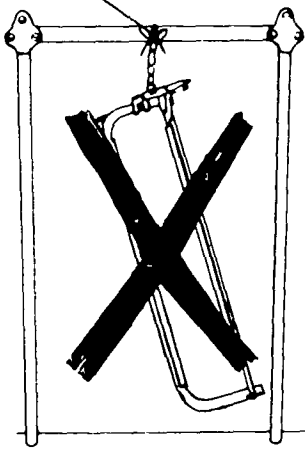
and thanked members of both houses on both sides of the political aisle.



Larger than normal press coverage attended the milk security measure's signing, due in large part to a number of non-farm bills signed at the same time. Governor Dick Thornburgh cited the benefits of the new bill, both to farmers and consumers.

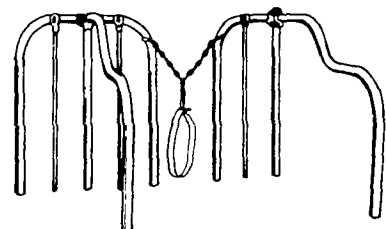
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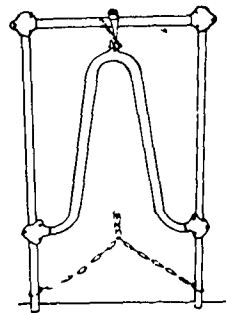


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