

Farm fieldwork, vegetable harvest continue

HARRISBURG—The 1980 summer weather patterns continued their course during the week ending September 15, bringing rain to western sections of the state and only a few scattered showers in the eastern region, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

In all, six days were rated suitable for fieldwork throughout the Commonwealth, with farm activities centering on harvesting of potatoes, tomatoes, corn for grain and tobacco; baling hay and straw; fall plowing; filling

silos; and general farm chores.

Harvest of apples and peaches is continuing, with peach harvest winding down. Sweet corn harvest is also in its closing stages. Tomato harvest continues, and late cabbage sizing is poor in drought affected areas.

Potato harvest was 51 percent complete statewide compared to 54 percent a year ago. Northern operators reported potato harvest at 54 percent, central operators reported harvest at 52 percent and operators in the south

reported harvest at 47 percent complete.

Pennsylvania soils are still rated mostly short to adequate statewide, with the weekly rainfall ranging from less than 0.5 inch in most eastern and central areas to 1.0 to 2.0 inches in western sections. Isolated areas in the west received up to 3.7 inches during the week.

Northern farmers rated soil as 54 percent short in moisture and 42 percent adequate. Central region soils stand at 89 percent short and 11 percent adequate while southern soils are rated at 85 percent

short and 15 percent adequate.

Silage corn harvest stands at 33 percent completed statewide compared to 14 percent a year ago.

Throughout the Commonwealth, corn for grain is 56 percent in dent, 17 percent mature and less than five percent harvested. A year ago, the corn crop was 51 percent in dent and only five percent mature. Over the past five years, the corn crop averaged 55 percent in dent, 12 percent mature, and less than five percent harvested.

Harvest of tobacco is 58 percent complete in the

Commonwealth, well behind last year's 87 percent.

Fall plowing is 49 percent complete compared to 58 percent complete a year ago. Fall plowing was rated as 39 percent complete in the north, 63 percent in central counties and 42 percent in the south.

Barley planting advanced to 24 percent during the week, well ahead of the 13 percent reported planted last year. Wheat planting increased to 28 percent, compared to eight percent at this time last year.

Third cutting of alfalfa was estimated at 68 percent

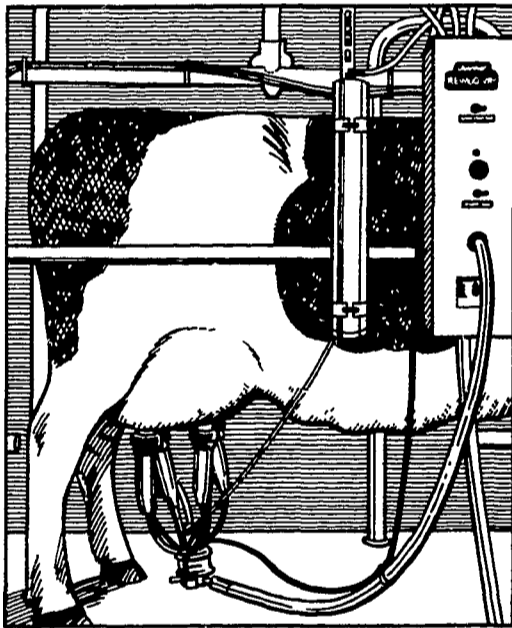
statewide compared to 72 percent last year. Fourth cutting was at 34 percent, well ahead of the 13 percent cut in 1979. Second cutting of clover-timothy stands is virtually complete, well ahead of the 85 percent last year at this time.

The quality of hay made during the week was rated good to fair throughout the state. Feed from pastures was below average to average statewide. Pasture in the north was rated 63 percent below average, 29 percent average and eight percent above average.

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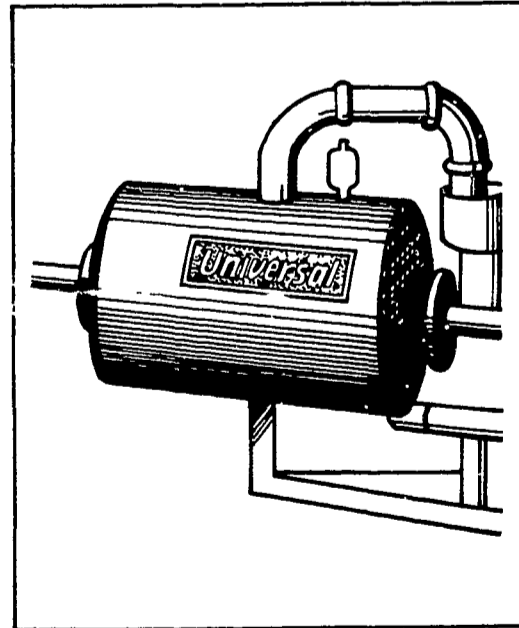
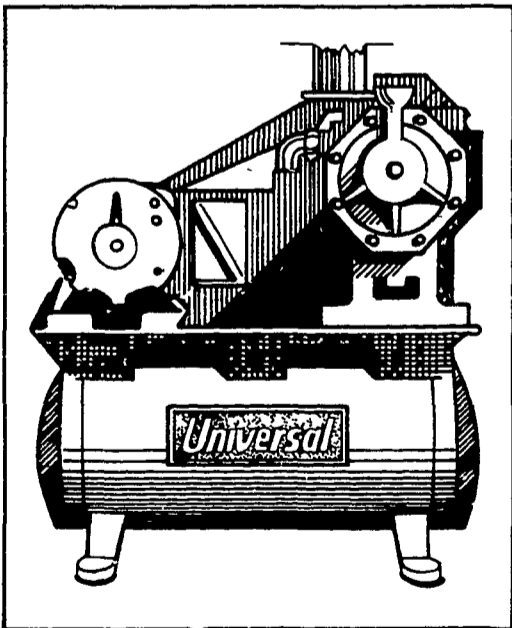
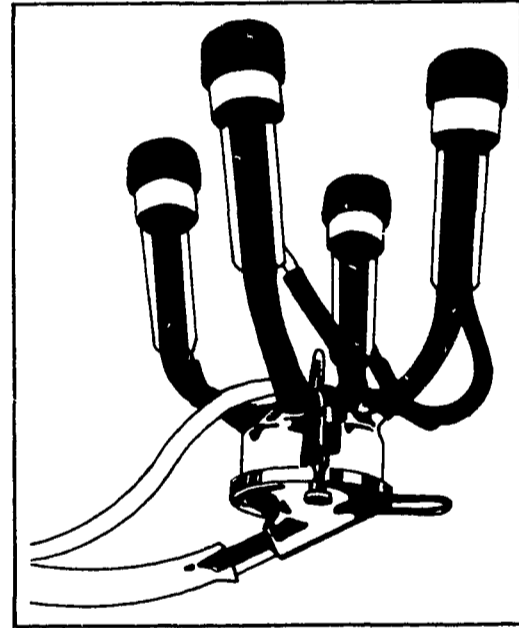
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