

Showers dampen fieldwork

HARRISBURG — Four days of shower activity across the Commonwealth limited farmers to three days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 4, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Rainfall, totaling from 0.5 inch or less to 2.5 inches, gave southern regions an extra day of fieldwork, while limiting northern regions to only two days.

Farm field activities included preparation of soils, planting of oats, potatoes, tobacco, corn, cabbage and home gardens,

liming, spraying and hauling manure.

Statewide, soil moisture continued to improve, with 63 percent of the farm acreage reported as adequate, 28 percent surplus and nine percent short. Northern soils were rated at 53 percent surplus, 35 percent adequate and 12 percent short. In the central region, soils were rated as 75 percent adequate, 20 percent surplus and five percent short, while southern operators rated their soils as 89 percent adequate and 11 percent short.

Frost damage this spring has

been scattered and severity has varied greatly from one locale to another. Apples are reported as 28 percent in pink stage and 39 percent in or past full bloom. Cherries are now 24 percent in pink and 64 percent in or past full bloom, while peaches are 20 percent in pink and 71 percent in or past full bloom.

Plowing, at 71 percent adequate, is still well ahead of the 57 percent completed last year at this time, but is only slightly ahead of the five-year average of 69 percent. Plowing is now 60 percent complete in the north, 79 percent

complete in central counties and 83 percent complete in the south.

Oats are 77 percent sown compared to the 57 percent sown at this time last year. Percentages of the oats crop sown, by region, are 50 percent in the north, 92 percent in central counties and 87 percent in the south.

Potato planting slowed during the week, but at 43 percent complete, is still ahead of the 20 percent planted last year. Planting is at 23 percent in northern counties, 48 percent in central counties and 67 percent in southern counties.

Planting of tobacco beds is virtually complete, about a week behind last year. Southern tobacco farmers report beds are being treated for blue mold.

Planting of soybeans in the Commonwealth stalled during the week, and stands at eight percent complete, compared to six percent last year.

At 15 percent planted, the 1981 Pennsylvania corn crop is slightly ahead of last year's eight percent and the five-year average of 12 percent.

Barley is now eight percent booted statewide, while wheat is six percent in boot. This compares to less than five percent last year for both crops. In the northern counties, barley and wheat are less than five percent booted. Central counties show wheat at seven percent in boot, while barley stands at less than five percent. Southern counties report 11 percent of the barley crop and ten percent of the wheat crop now in boot.

Alfalfa and clover-timothy hay stands are mostly good to fair. Statewide, alfalfa stands were reported as 70 percent good and 30 percent fair, while clover-timothy stands were reported 65 percent good and 35 percent fair. Amounts of feed being obtained from state pastures was rated mostly average.

Agronomy major wins U. of Dela. undergraduate research award

NEWARK, Dela. — Degree with distinction candidate Philip M. Jardine, a senior majoring in agronomy, has received this year's undergraduate research award at the University of Delaware.

The award was presented to Jardine April 30 at the annual banquet of the Delaware chapter of Sigma Xi (a national research society) in recognition of his work on the thermodynamics of potassium exchange in soil.

This isn't the first honor the hard-working young scientist has received since he began his basic soil research project less than a year ago.

Last fall he accompanied his advisor, soil chemist Donald L. Sparks, to Detroit where he reported his findings before a national gathering of soil scientists. And in March he was selected for recognition by the American Society of Agronomy under its National Agronomy Senior Recognition Program.

Jardine and his advisor have



Agronomy major Philip M. Jardine is 1981 winner of undergraduate research award given by Delaware chapter of Sigma Xi, a national research society.

prepared an article based on Jardine's study of the mechanics of potassium exchange in Delaware soils which is scheduled to appear soon in a scientific journal.

A native of Delaware, Jardine became interested in chemical research while attending Concord High School in Wilmington. After

graduation he plans to continue his studies at the University while he works for a master's degree in soil chemistry.

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