

Fieldwork runs ahead of last year

HARRISBURG — A high pressure system followed by a cold front caused temperatures in the Commonwealth during the week ending May 11 to vary from highs in the 80's to lows in the 20's, with many reports of frost. Scattered shower activity across the state left farmers with four days suitable for fieldwork, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Farm fieldwork activities included plowing, discing, spraying, spreading lime, hauling manure, cutting rye for green chop and silage, and planting corn, oats and potatoes.

Statwide, soil moisture was rated 71 percent adequate, 18 percent short and 11 percent surplus.

In the north, soil moisture was rated 73 percent adequate and 27 percent surplus. Central soil moisture was rated at 79 percent

adequate, 14 percent short and seven percent surplus, while southern soils were rated 62 percent adequate and 38 percent short.

Frost damage to fruit crops is still being reported but is scattered and difficult to assess. Peaches and sweet cherries are reported to be hit the hardest. Statewide, peaches are reported as 87 percent in or past full bloom compared with 70 percent last year at the same time. Cherries are reported as 92 percent in or past full bloom compared with 78 percent last year, while apples are reported as 66 percent in or past full bloom compared with 39 percent last year. Green peas are reported up and looking good.

At 81 percent complete, plowing is still ahead of last year's 74 percent but is now equal to the five-year average for this date. Plowing is rated as 73 percent

complete in the north, 83 percent in the central region and 87 percent complete in the south.

Oats are 88 percent sown compared with 81 percent at this time last year. In the north 72 percent of the crop is sown with 92 percent reported sown in the central region. Planting is virtually complete in the southern counties.

Potato planting advanced to 64

percent complete compared with 45 percent last year. Northern counties reported 51 percent planted with central counties reporting 62 percent planted. In the south, 81 percent of the crop was reported planted.

Statewide, barley is 19 percent booted and seven percent headed compared with 25 percent booted and less than five percent headed

at this time last year. Wheat is 12 percent booted, the same as last year. Planting of soybeans statewide did not make much progress last week with only ten percent reported complete, about the same as last year.

At 30 percent complete, corn planting is slightly ahead of last year's 27 percent and the five-year

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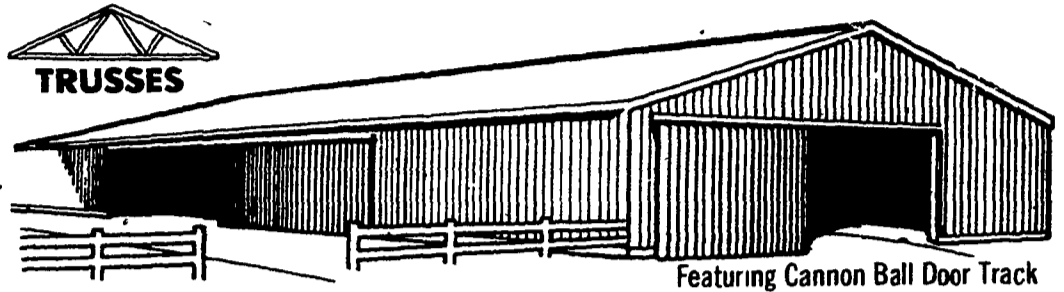
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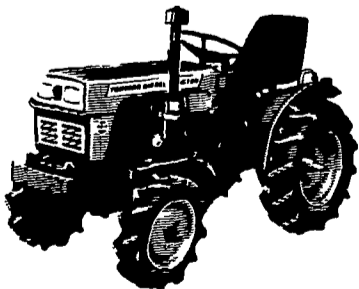
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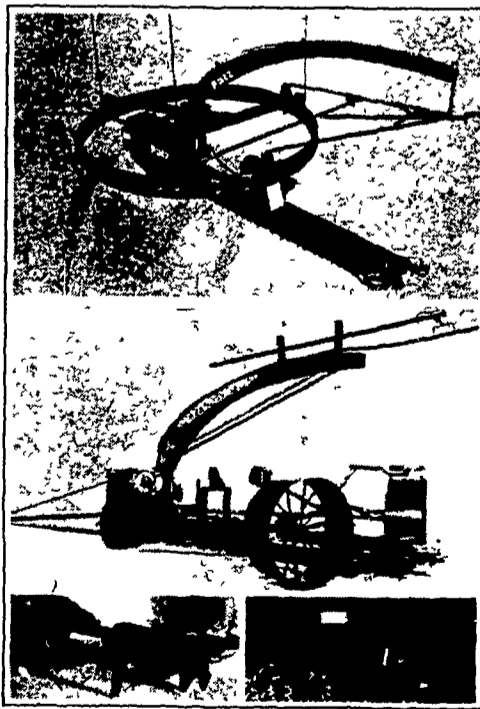


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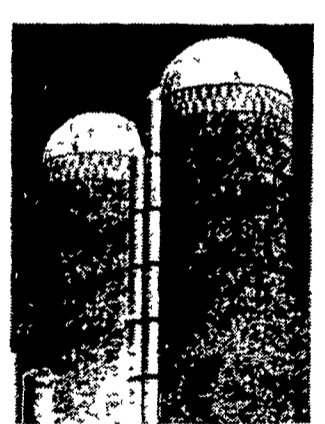
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