

State to survey farmers

HARRISBURG — Representatives of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service will soon interview Pennsylvania farmers in late May and early June to determine how much of the Commonwealth's farmland went

into production this season and how much livestock is on hand. Similar surveys will be carried out in all 50 states.

Wally Evans of the Crop Reporting Service said disappointing crop prices, soaring in-

test rates and rising production costs underscore the need for accurate acreage and livestock information. The data compiled from personal interviews and mailed questionnaires will guide farmers in their future marketings

and inform commodity buyers, traders and policymakers on what to expect from agriculture this year. Farmer cooperation, he added, is the key to developing dependable estimates.

As of March 1, the nation's farmers planned to boost wheat, rice, barley and oats acreages and reduce sorghum, soybean, cotton and sunflower acreages. Corn acreage will be maintained.

Cattle numbers stood at 115 million head on January 1. This marks the second year of upturn in the current cattle cycle. Hog

numbers are down from the high levels of a year ago. Producers indicate they will continue to reduce farrowings this spring and summer.

Final state and national estimates will be published by USDA's Crop Reporting Board. The 1981 spring planted acres report will be available on June 29, followed on July 10 by estimates of yield and production for major crops. Estimates of hog and pig numbers will be reported on June 22 and cattle numbers on July 27.

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Fieldwork

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average of 29 percent. In the north, 15 percent of the crop is reported planted while 23 percent is planted in the central counties and 50 percent planted in the south.

Statewide, alfalfa stands are reported at 58 percent good and 42 percent fair while clover-timothy stands were rated as 56 percent good, 41 percent fair and three percent poor. The amount of feed obtained from pastures rated mostly average statewide.



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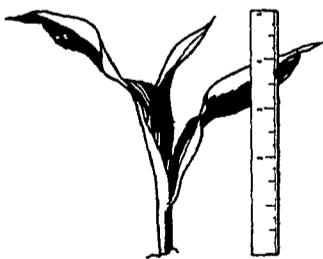
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