

Rain limits fieldwork

HARRISBURG — Changeable, wet weather conditions which affected most of the state during the week ending May 18 limited farm fieldwork activities to three days statewide, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Four days were considered suitable in southern counties.

Farm activities included plowing and discing; planting corn, potatoes, soybeans and oats; spreading lime and manure; cutting rye and barley for green

crop and silage; spraying and trimming fruit trees; and repairing fences and machinery.

Showers and thunderstorms on Monday and Friday brought their harvest rainfall to the eastern half of the state, with rainfall levels ranging from less than a half inch in extreme western counties to from one to 3.5 inches east of the Susquehanna River. Statewide, soil moisture was rated as 80 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus. Soil moisture was rated at 65 percent adequate and 35 percent

surplus in the north, 89 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus in the central region, and 92 percent adequate and eight percent surplus in the south.

At 86 percent complete, plowing is still slightly ahead of last year's 82 percent, but now lags the five year average of 87 percent complete at this time. Plowing is 78 percent complete in the north, 91 percent in central counties and 92 percent complete in the southern counties.

Almost all peaches and cherries are reported in or past full bloom, on a par with last year. Apples are slightly ahead of the 79 percent in our past full bloom last year and now stand at 84 percent. Most vegetable and strawberry crops will be late due to the cool weather this spring.

The Pennsylvania oats crop is now 91 percent sown, compared to 89 percent sown last year at this time. Oats are 85 percent sown in the north, 94 percent sown in

central counties and virtually all in the ground in the south.

Planting of potatoes stalled during the week and stands at 65 percent complete. This is still ahead of the 60 percent planted last year at this date. Potato planting is at 51 percent in the north, 63 percent in central counties and 85 percent in the south.

Soybean planting is proceeding slowly and is now 15 percent complete statewide, behind last year's 18 percent. Soybean planting is at 22 percent in the north, 15 percent in central counties and 11 percent in the south.

The corn crop, at 47 percent planted, is slightly ahead of the 43 percent planted last year, but behind the five-year average of 49 percent. Corn is now 28 percent planted in the north, 54 percent planted in central counties and 68 percent planted in the south. Farmers report slow growth of early seedings due to the low soil temperatures.

Statewide, barley is 39 percent booted and 18 percent headed. This compares with 42 percent booted and 17 percent headed last year. Barley is 27 percent booted and nine percent headed in the north, while central counties report barley as 50 percent booted and ten percent headed. Southern barley is reported as 37 percent booted and 34 percent headed.

The 1981 wheat crop is now 33 percent booted, compared to the 30 percent booted last year at this time. Wheat is now 15 percent booted in the north, 48 percent booted in central counties and 34 percent booted in the south.

Both alfalfa and clover stands are in good to fair condition, but could use warmer temperatures. Statewide, alfalfa is rated 72 percent good and 28 percent fair while clover-timothy is rated 63 percent good and 37 percent fair. The amount of feed being obtained from pastures is rated mostly average.

Abe Hoover

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fields for mulch. Extra protection is applied to the land in the form of manure from the 250 head of registered Holsteins and 500 beef steers raised on the farms.

Hoover says he's still learning about conservation farming and credits the expertise of the local

knowledgeable engineers and expert personnel;

— encourage landlords to explore the realities and values of soil conservation and establish a mutual goal;

— be willing to cooperate with landlords with time and equipment to begin a soil conservation practice;

"If I had to do it over again I would,"

Hoover says emphatically.

Soil Conservation technicians in helping to plan the conservation needs on the farms. He adds the conservation plan for the farm where he and wife Jean now reside (purchased in 1979) is being developed and should be implemented over the next several years.

Reflecting on his lifetime as a steward, Hoover lists seven things he had to do:

— make a positive decision to do what is best for the fertility of the soil and production of food for both present and future generations;

— have a vision of starving people and the need to distribute the world's food supply;

— be willing to cooperate with

— be ready and willing to change practices and programs instilled for many years, such as getting away from straight rows and putting up with trashy-looking fields that are hard on a farmer's pride.

— be patient and wait for results.

"If I had to do it over again, I would," Hoover said emphatically.

His teachings continue to be carried out by sons Dale, Dean, and Reid who have taken over the full-time farming responsibilities on the 500 acres of farmland in South Annville and West Cornwall Townships, with the part-time help of brother Nevin.

These fertile acres are in the good hands soil stewards.

Cattle on feed up 3 percent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for slaughter market in the seven states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.03 million head, a 3 percent increase from a year ago but down 8 percent from May 1, 1979, according to the Crop Reporting Board, USDA. This is the first year-to-year increase in the monthly number on feed since September 1, 1980.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during April totaled 1.39 million, off 3 percent from last year and 10 percent less than April 1979.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the seven states during April were 1.72 million, the highest for April since records began in 1972. April placements were 39 percent more than the low level of last year and 17 percent above 2 years ago.

The strong increase in placements on feed was influenced by a shortage of forage from grazing in several of the major feeding States.

NET PLACEMENTS of 1.58 million were up 43 percent from

last year and 26 percent greater than April 1979.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 142 thousand compared with 130 thousand in April 1980 and 220 thousand 2 years ago.

Md. Grange announces Deaf Scholarship winners

THURMONT, Md. — The Maryland State Grange Deaf Scholarship committee have announced the recipients of two \$500 scholarships for 1981.

Kimberly Lynne Davenport of Phoenix, Maryland, was awarded her second scholarship from the Maryland State Grange for a total of \$1000. She is a full-time student at Towson State University majoring in speech pathology and audiology, a graduate of Dulaney Senior High School and a member of Jarrettsville Grange, Harford County.

Stephen Charles DeMuth of

Wheaton, Maryland, was awarded his first \$500 scholarship from the Maryland State Grange. He is a graduate of the Maryland School for the Deaf and has earned his B.A. from Gallaudet College. He is a full-time student at Western Maryland College working for a Master's degree in deaf education. Stephen is deaf.

Grangers and individuals have contributed funds by having square dances, luncheons and suppers in their communities.

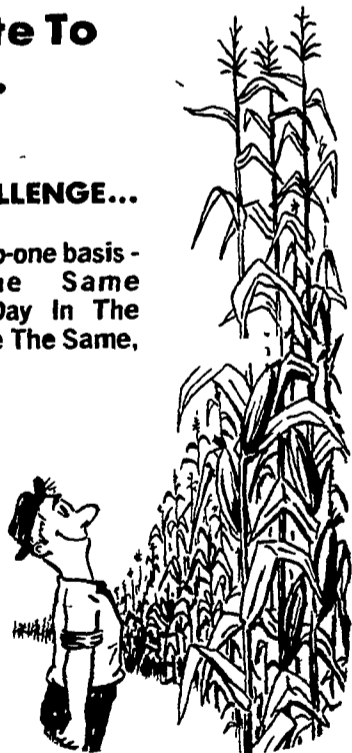
Kimberly and Stephen were selected from nine applicants.

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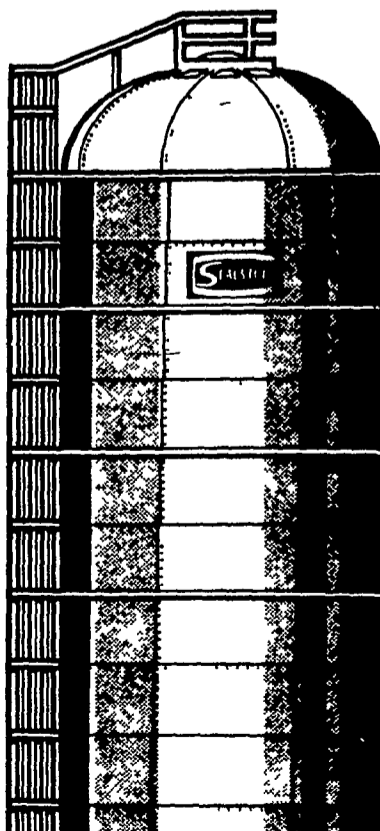


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