

## Fieldwork progresses into June

**HARRISBURG** — Scattered showers and thunderstorms during the week ending June 1 held farm fieldwork to four days across the state, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities included plowing and discing, making hay, green chop and silage, planting corn, potatoes and soybeans, and spraying fruits and vegetables.

Sugar peas are reported as being ready for harvest, while green peas are flowering. Apples are now all in or past full bloom, a few days behind last year.

The rainfall last week, which ranged from less than .1 inch at Lancaster to over 1.5 inches through the southcentral mountains, helped statewide surface soil moisture improve.

Statewide, soil moisture was

rated as 71 percent adequate, 18 percent short and 11 percent surplus. Soil moisture was rated at 67 percent adequate, 22 percent short and 11 percent surplus in the north, while central counties were rated as 68 percent adequate in soil moisture, 21 percent short and 11 percent surplus. Southern counties rated 80 percent adequate, ten percent short and ten percent surplus.

Statewide spring plowing is virtually complete, on a par with last year and the five-year average.

Potato planting, is now 93 percent complete, compared to the 88 percent planted last year. Planting is virtually complete in southern and central counties, and stands at 80 percent in the north.

Corn planting made excellent

progress last week, and is now 85 percent complete. This compares favorably with last year and the five-year average of 81 percent. Planting is now at 65 percent in the north, 91 percent in central counties and 90 percent in the south. Early planted corn is reported as looking good, but some minor root worm problems have been reported.

Planting of soybeans is now 36 percent complete statewide, compared with the 48 percent planted last year at this time. Soybean planting is at 25 percent complete in the north, 45 percent in central counties and 30 percent in the south.

Barley is now 15 percent booted and 75 percent headed statewide, compared to 18 percent booted and 78 percent headed last year. In the north, 20 percent is booted and 50 percent is headed, while in central areas, 22 percent is booted and 67 percent is headed. Southern barley is six percent booted and 94 percent headed.

Wheat is now 34 percent booted and 45 percent headed across the state. This compares to the 42 percent booted and 46 percent headed last year at this time.

Northern wheat plantings are 24 percent booted and 20 percent headed, while central areas report 40 percent booted and 43 percent headed. In the south, 30 percent is booted and 59 percent is headed. Overall, small grains are reported as looking very good.

Both alfalfa and clover-timothy stands are good to fair. Alfalfa is rated as 74 percent good and 26

percent fair while clover-timothy is 78 percent good and 22 percent fair. First cutting of alfalfa is reported as 22 percent complete, compared to 16 percent cut last year. Alfalfa is being used for both silage and hay, with 73 percent in silage and 27 percent in hay. Some spittle bug infestations have been reported in alfalfa, but not enough to warrant spraying.

### Agent reports on Pa.'s dairy production

**NORRISTOWN** — Dairy farms account for over half of all farm receipts in Pennsylvania and dairying is the healthiest sector of the farm industry in the state, according to Joseph H. Way, county agricultural agent.

"Besides being large, the industry is very stable," adds Way. Pennsylvania dairymen produce 20 percent more milk, (virtually all grade A quality) than the state needs. This makes Pennsylvania an important supplier of milk to other areas in the northeast, particularly the markets of New Jersey and metropolitan New York."

Nationally, Way says that consumers spend about 18 cents of every dollar of their personal consumption for food and over 2 cents on dairy products. That translates to over \$29 billion retail with the farm value at around \$13 billion.

Pennsylvania dairy farmers' share of that \$13 billion amounts to around \$800 million or over 42 percent of all farm sales. Dairy farm records show that another 10 percent of total cash flow is generated by the sale of cull cows, dairy calves, surplus grains and hay.

## Walebe Farms

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converted greenhouses. He explains he's been using the greenhouses for the past four years, noting they are cheap to build, provide a pleasant working area, give the calves lots of sunshine, and makes feeding them easy.

Because the houses are kept at 55 degrees Fahrenheit, even in the winter time, Waltemyer chuckles and says, "The only disadvantage is you've got to put up with flies all year long."

As the tour comes to an end, Waltemyer gives a short run down of the farm's history. He says Walebe Farms was incorporated in 1962 and went into operation in 1963. He explains the corporation involved four owners at its inception, with himself acting as president.

Over the course of time, the other owners sold out their shares, and Waltemyer became the sole owner of the 2000-acre corporation in 1978.

"I always wanted to market milk," says Waltemyer, "but the complexity of this operation is greater than anybody thought it would be."

Waltemyer confesses he never dreamed he would be the owner of such an outstanding operation, and credits much of his success to the former York County Assistant Extension Agent Harry Roth and his father-in-law, J. Edgar Trumbauer.

Waltemyer credits Roth with helping him get into Penn State to study dairy science and setting him up with a job at the University's dairy barns. While at Penn State, Waltemyer met his future wife, Phoebe Trumbauer, a bacteriology major. After completing three years of college, he recalls, he dropped out in 1957 to work on Phoebe's father's Jersey farm in Lansdale.

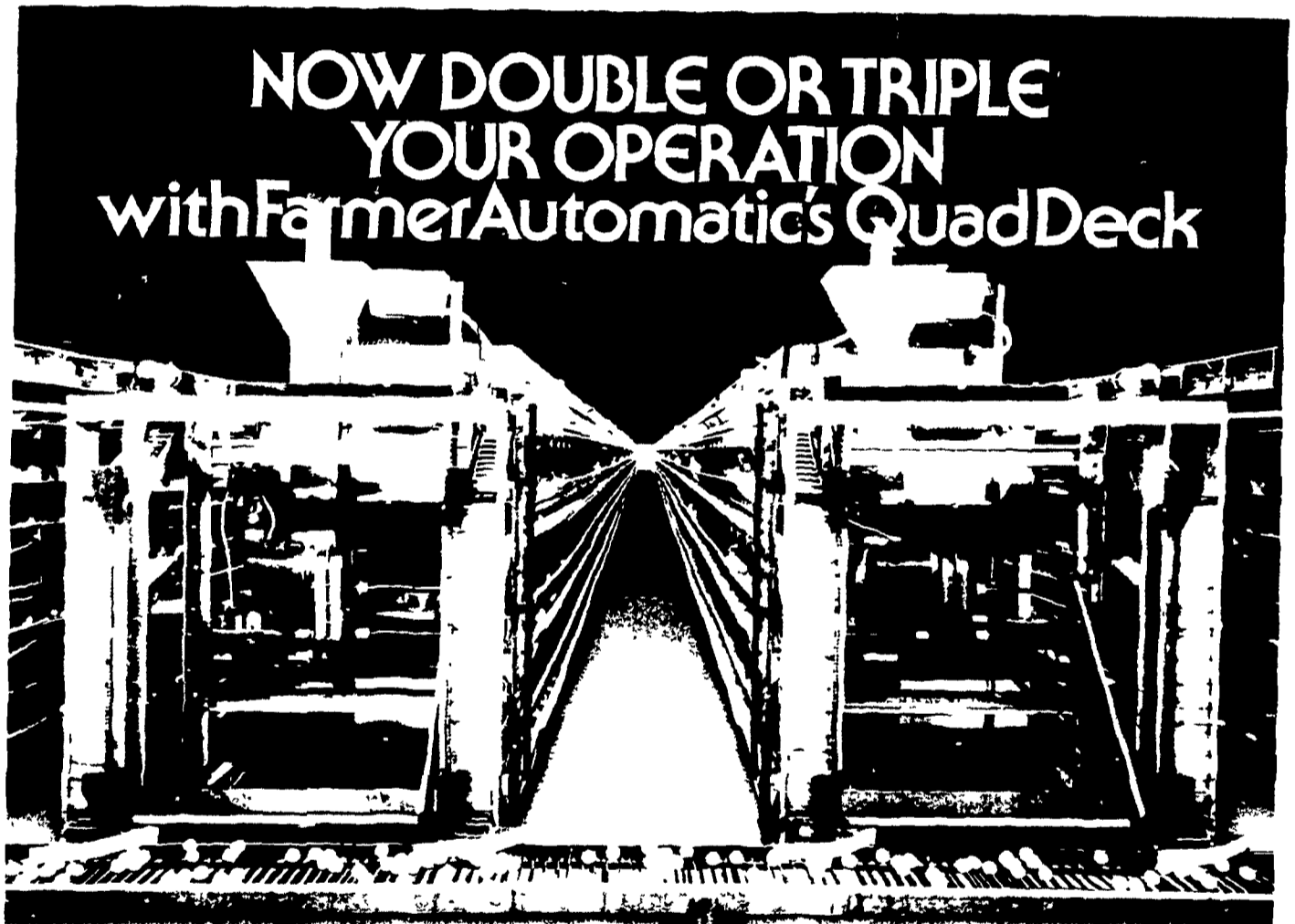
Waltemyer smiles as he confesses his experience on his father-in-law's farm is what got him started in the Jersey business even though he always worked with Holsteins as a child.

After a year, Waltemyer's relationship with Edgar Trumbauer went from employer to father-in-law, but he continued to work at the Lansdale farm until 1960.

That year, Waltemyer and family moved to a farm next door to the present Walebe Farms and milked 50 cows until the corporation went into operation in 1963.

Today, after almost two decades, Walebe Farms is a symbol of Waltemyer's success — where the highest-selling Jersey bull, Valentino, was raised and where other top names in both the Jersey and Holstein breeds continue to uphold the farm's reputation.

The Waltemyer family, Earl, Phoebe, and children Cindy, Karen and Richard, together strive to uphold the Walebe Farm motto — "where excellence is measured performance."



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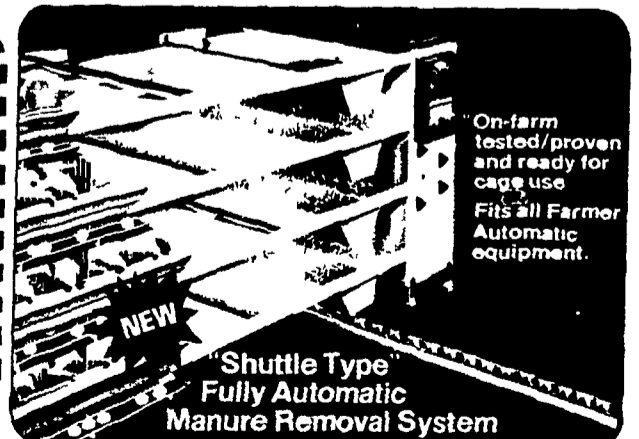
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