

Good growing conditions push crops

HARRISBURG — Rain combined with warm weather to provide good growing conditions during the week ending June 15, but limited Pennsylvania farm fieldwork to four days, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Harvesting of strawberries and cherries is in full swing.

Field activities included spraying; harvesting strawberries and cherries; making hay, haylage and green chop; and planting soybeans, tobacco and corn.

Topsoil moisture for the state was mostly adequate to surplus with a reported 63 percent adequate, 30 percent surplus and seven percent short. Regionally, soil moisture was reported 37 percent adequate, 58 percent surplus and five percent short in the north; 81 percent adequate, 13 percent surplus and six percent short in the central region; and 82 percent adequate, nine percent surplus and nine percent short in the south.

Corn planting is 93 percent complete, compared to last year and the five-year average when corn planting was virtually

complete. Planting is now 92 percent complete in the north while 94 percent complete in the central and southern counties. Corn height is averaging eight inches for the state, compared to seven inches last year.

At 70 percent, soybean planting is still behind last year when 83 percent of the crop was planted. The central region reported 73 percent planted while the northern and southern regions reported 69 percent planted. Tobacco transplanting is 76 percent complete, compared to 56 percent last year.

Statewide, barley is 63 percent headed with 34 percent turning yellow, compared to last year at this time when 65 percent was headed with 31 percent turning. In the north, 73 percent of the crop is headed with 18 percent turning, while the central region reported 72 percent headed and 28 percent turning. The south reported 44 percent headed and 56 percent turning.

Wheat is reported 84 percent headed and less than five percent turning yellow across the commonwealth. Last year at this time wheat was 90 percent headed and

eight percent turning. The north reported 71 percent headed and five percent turning. The central region reported 97 percent headed and less than five percent turning while the south reported 84 percent headed and five percent turning.

Statewide, first cutting of alfalfa is reported as 43 percent harvested, down from 50 percent harvested last year at this time. The south reported 67 percent harvested, while the northern and central regions reported 19 and 52 percent respectively.

Clover-timothy stands are 29 percent harvested in Pennsylvania, compared to 28 percent harvested last year. The central region reported 38 percent harvested, while the northern and southern regions reported 16 and 37 percent respectively.

Hay quality for the week was mostly good to fair. The north reported hay quality 47 percent fair, 29 percent good and 24 percent poor. The central region reported hay quality 43 percent fair, 28 percent good and 29 percent poor. The south rated hay quality 55 percent fair, 36 percent good and nine percent poor. Feed from

pasture was rated average to above average for the state. Some frost damage to peach and

apple trees was reported in various parts of the state. Cabbage growers again reported problems with cutworms.

Block appoints new director

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block announces the appointment of D. Elmer Hawbaker as State Director for Farmers Home Administration in Pennsylvania.

Prior to his appointment, Hawbaker had been a Bureau Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture since 1979. There he had responsibility for 150 chemists and inspectors in the food control and milk sanitation activities for the state.

Hawbaker, 65, owned and operated a dairy farm in Mercersburg for over 30 years. In conjunction with his own farming enterprise, he managed two other farms of 150 acres each and operated his own pasteurizing

plant and marketed retail milk.

Hawbaker served in the State Senate from 1961-1972, and there he was chairman of several committees, including Republican Caucus, Agriculture, Labor and Industry, Pesticides, and Special Committee on Milk Marketing.

The Farmers Home Administration is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As State Director, Hawbaker is responsible for the loan and grant activities of 175 FmHA employees in 37 County and 5 District Offices, as well as a State Office in Harrisburg.

Hawbaker served with the U.S. Army Air Force from 1943-1946. He attended Chambersburg Business College.



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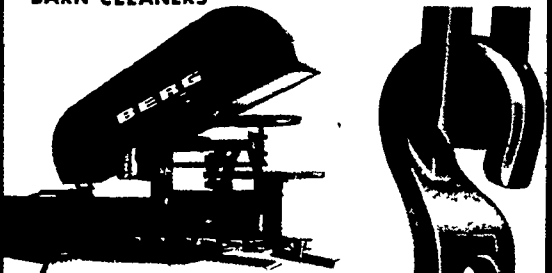
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