

Harvesters reporting 80-90 bu. barley

LANCASTER — Combines are back in area fields after more than a half-year of inactivity.

And reports of the yields they've been cutting in barley are quite a bit better than the past few years.

Generally, barley yields have been running about 80 to 90 bushels an acre, according to Dave Martin, of the John J. Hooper feed mill, Gordonville.

"It's been a much better than average barley harvest," Martin said.

"Due to the higher yields we finished buying last week, already."

Ken Garber, of R2 Willow Street,

is one of the county growers reporting one of his best barley crops.

"We averaged about 92 bushels on eight acres, which we're putting back in soybeans," he reports.

"Also, it yielded a lot of straw, too. We got 1,010 bales off the eight acres."

With crops in the 80 to 90-bushel range for barley this year, some growers may be nearly doubling yields that have been experienced in the past couple of years.

And as the barley harvest moves into its final stages, attention is turning to the wheat crop.

Wheat harvester concerns may

be directed in two primary directions as cutting gets underway within the next week or so.

First, there will be attention centered on how disease may have cut into test weights and yields.

Second, after the wheat is cut, there could be concern about what to do with it.

This week, the Pennsylvania Plant Food and Protection Society held an educational meeting visit to the Penn State Southeast Research Lab at Landisville.

Elwood Hatley, of the Agronomy Extension Staff, outlined three diseases evident in wheat this year. Wheat leaves have been

affected by powdery mildew and Septoria leaf spot, he explained. In addition, the heads of plants have been hit by scab, particularly in fields where wheat follows corn.

The mildew and Septoria moved in earlier than usual in combination and the effects have been worse than normal, he said. The same organism, which causes stalk and ear rot in corn, also causes scab in wheat, he explained. Thus, effects have been worse in fields where wheat follows corn.

The Potomac variety of wheat has some resistance to mildew, it was reported. No varieties are resistant to scab, but some have better tolerance. For scab control, crop rotations with at least a year's break in cereal crops will reduce the incidence as well as plowing to bury crop residues.

The effects of the diseases on the upcoming wheat harvest are expected to vary. Some growers are

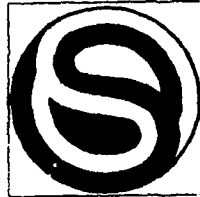
reporting a 10 to 15 percent infestation of the heads of wheat crops; while others are experiencing up to half of their crop affected.

Test weights and yields are expected to vary significantly, too, depending on individual fields and the hold the diseases may have taken.

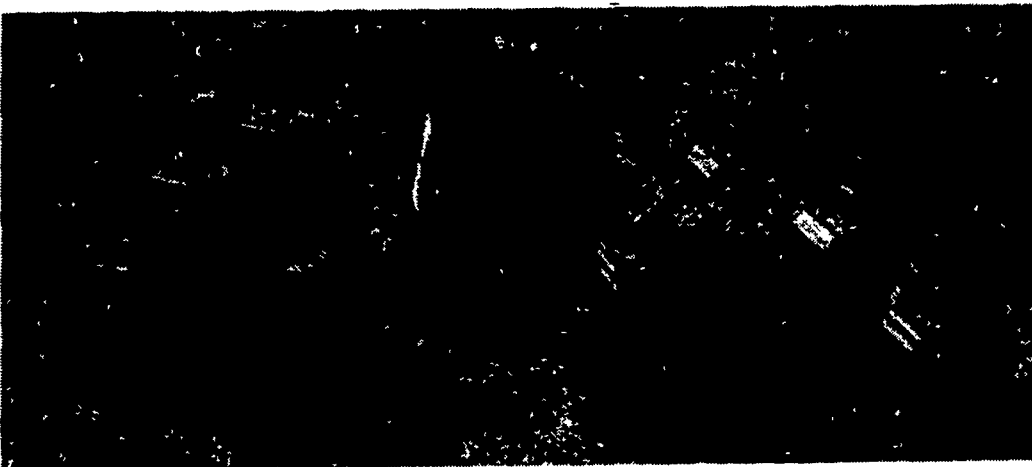
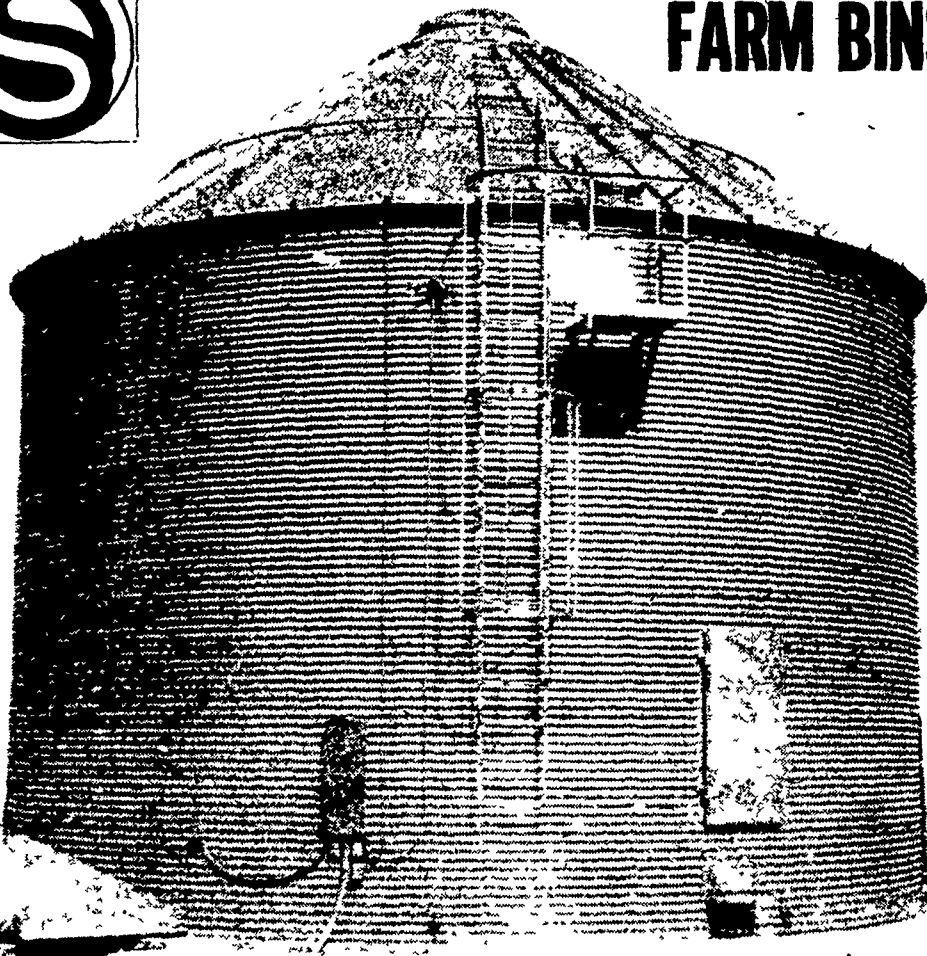
As combining moves into the wheat, operators are reminded to check their grain bins frequently. If an abnormally high amount of affected heads are being found, the air flow should be increased to gain maximum cleaning.

And when the wheat is marketed, local growers will have one less outlet this year, with the discontinuance of operations by Lancaster Milling. Particularly if the crop requires drying, growers may experience difficulties in moving the harvested crop and a wheat backup could result.—DA

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YORK — The York County Vegetable Growers will entertain the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association for its annual summer tour of farms on July 6-7, 1981.

Highlights on the tour will be stops at one of the largest independent processors of frozen and canned vegetable products in the eastern United States, and at a locally owned 7,000 acre vegetable farm. Other tours during the two-day event will include family vegetable farm operations and processing and marketing facilities in York County.

Pennsylvania vegetable growers and other interested persons are welcome to attend the event. Costs for the program are \$35 if registration is received before June 30. This fee includes the 2 day bus tour, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and all registration fees.

The Annual Vegetable Growers Tour is sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of Penn State in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Grower's Association.

Send registrations to PVGA, Box 28, Dalton, PA 18414.

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