Weather puts damper on fieldwork

HARRISBURG - Thunderstorms and showers limited farm fieldwork across the Commonwealth to four days during the week ending June 29, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities included harvesting of barley, cherries, green peas and snapbeans; making hay, haylage and green chop; cultivating corn, potatoes and tobacco; and spraying alfalfa and fruit trees.

Topsoil moisture levels in the state increased from the previous week with the moisture supply rated 58 percent adequate and 42 percent surplus. The northern region soils were rated 55 percent adequate and 45 percent surplus, while central soils were rated 50 percent adequate and 50 percent surplus. Southern counties rated soil moisture at 73 percent adequate and 27 percent surplus.

Farm operators in various parts of the commonwealth reported damage to their corn crops from cutworms, army worms and stalk borers. Corn averaged 19 inches across the state, three inches higher than a year ago. Corn height in the northern, central and southern regions averaged 12, 21,

and 24 inches respectively.

Pennsylvania soybean crop is 92 percent planted, compared to 95 percent a year ago at this time. The central region again leads with 93 percent planted while the northern and southern counties reported 91 and 89 percent respectively. Tobacco transplanting is 87 percent complete compared to 93 percent last year.

Barley throughout the state is progressing slightly behind last year with 19 percent of the crop headed, 42 percent turning yellow, 28 percent ripe and nine percent harvested. In the north, barley is 42 percent headed, 50 percent turning and less than five percent ripe; central counties show 16 percent headed, 49 percent turning, 33 percent ripe and less than five percent harvested; and southern counties report 27 percent turning yellow, 48 percent ripe and 25 percent harvested.

Statewide, wheat is 40 percent headed, 53 percent turning yellow and five percent ripe. The north reported 51 percent headed and 43 percent turning while the central region reported 41 percent headed, 58 percent turning and less than five percent ripe. The south reported 25 percent headed, 58

percent turning and 17 percent ripe. Lodging was prevalent in some areas and farmers also reported problems with scab and powdery mildew.

Pennsylvania's oats are 70 percent headed and eight percent turning yellow compared with 61 percent headed last year. The north reported 49 percent headed and the central region reported 76 percent headed and six percent turning, while the south reported 86 percent headed and ten percent turning.

Statewide, alfalfa first cutting is 75 percent complete, compared to 89 percent last year. Second cutting harvest stands at 11 percent. The south reported 93 percent of first cutting and 16 percent of second cutting harvested. Central areas reported 79 percent and 12 percent respectively, while the north reported 54 percent and six percent harvested. All three regions reported leaf hopper activity.

Clover-timothy stands are 61 percent harvested, compared to 76 percent last year. The southern counties lead with 77 percent harvested, while the northern and central regions reported 46 and 68 percent harvested, respectively.

Hay quality for the week was mostly fair to poor as farmers again reported poor haymaking weather throughout the commonwealth. Feed from pasture was rated average to above average as rain spurred pasture growth. The south rated pasture 64 percent average, 22 percent above average and 14 percent below average; the north reported 80 percent average and 20 percent above average; and the central

area rated pastures 68 percent average and 32 percent above average.

Sweet cherry harvesting is in full swing in the southern part of the state. Southern growers also reported green pea and early snapbean harvesting. Apple growers in the north reported scab damage to orchards. Potato growers reported infestation of Colorado potato beetles and potato leaf hoppers.

Red and Whites launch program

BOULDER, Co. - A national Red Holstein sire proving program has been launched by Red and White Associates of Boulder, Colorado reports Fred Hendricks, manager.

Through this nationwide program, incentives are being offered to dairy producers to sample well-bred Red Holstein bulls, Hendricks explains.

The participating herd must be enrolled in a milk testing program approved for USDA sire sumary purposes, and may be comprised

of grade or registered cattle. The cattle may be black and white or red and white, he points out.

Red and White Associates have been developing Red Holsteins for over three years, says Hendricks. To date, their organization has developed over thirty Red Holstein sires, thus making Red and White Associates the largest independent group in the world proving Red Holsteins.

For further information on the National Red Holstein sire proving program, contact Red & White Associates, 2223 Mead Dr.,

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