

Last week's weather puts grain in bins

HARRISBURG — The week ending July 20 was another great week, weather-wise, for the state's farmers, as six days were rated suitable for field activities, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Farm field activities included harvesting sweet corn, snapbeans, cabbage, cantaloupes, apples and peaches; making hay; harvesting small grains; baling straw; and spraying potatoes and alfalfa.

The tart cherry harvest is underway in the northern region, but is virtually over in the southern counties. Southern operators report early harvest of peaches, apricots, potatoes and cantaloupes.

Statewide, harvesting of green peas and snapbeans continues. Southern growers report harvest of some apple varieties, particularly Lodi and Yellow Transparent. Many growers are reporting fire blight damage. The sweet corn harvest is in full swing in the southern region and nearly ready for harvesting further north.

Hot, mostly dry weather decreased topsoil moisture in the state, with moisture rated adequate to short. The northern region rated topsoil moisture 56 percent adequate and 44 percent short; the central region rated topsoil moisture 67 percent adequate and 33 percent short; while the southern region rated the moisture supply 50 percent adequate and 50 percent short.

Corn height statewide is significantly taller than a year ago

with 57 inches reported as an average. Average height in the northern, central and southern regions are 48, 57 and 65 inches, respectively. The presence of corn borers in central and southern area fields was again reported.

Pennsylvania's barley crop is 84 percent harvested, seven percent turning yellow and nine percent ripe. The south reported barley six percent ripe and 94 percent harvested; the central region reported nine percent ripe and 91 percent harvested, while the north reported barley 22 percent turning yellow, 28 percent ripe and 50 percent harvested.

The wheat harvest across the Commonwealth is ahead of last year with 52 percent harvested, 11 percent of the crop turning yellow and 36 percent ripe. The south reported 34 percent ripe and 66 percent harvested; the central region reported 36 percent ripe and 64 percent harvested; and the north reported 38 percent turning, 40 percent ripe and 18 percent harvested.

Oats in Pennsylvania are 21 percent headed, 50 percent turning yellow, 24 percent ripe and five percent harvested. Southern growers reported less than five percent headed, 47 percent turning, 38 percent ripe and 12 percent harvested. Central growers reported six percent headed, 58 percent turning, 33 percent ripe and less than five percent harvested, while northern growers reported 56 percent headed and 44 percent turning.

With good haymaking weather across the state, the second cutting harvest was reported as 61 percent complete, compared to last year at this time when 50 percent was complete. The south reported second cutting 70 percent complete, the central region reported 56 percent complete and the north reported 38 percent complete. Moderate leaf hopper damage was reported in the southern counties.

The harvesting of first cutting clover-timothy stands is virtually complete, slightly ahead of last year.

Hay quality in the Commonwealth for the week was mostly good to fair. Feed from pasture was rated average to below average as farmers reported pastures becoming drier and growing more slowly. Southern farmers rated pastures 60 percent average, 30 percent below average and ten percent above average. Central region pastures were rated 66 percent average, 17 percent below average and 17 percent above average while the north rated pastures 50 percent average and 50 percent below average.



Vo-ag teachers

(Continued from Page A26)

vocational agriculture for 29, and 33 years respectively. Seald-Sweet Inc., Tampa, Fla., presented Frederic Stillwagen, advisor of the Lehigh Co. FFA chapter, the trophy for the National Champions in sales of citrus fruit.

Gene Love, Associate Dean College of Agriculture at Penn State, was presented a plaque in appreciation for his service to vocational agriculture education.

Watches were presented to the following for teaching vocational agriculture 25 years; Joseph Very, James Faust, Ray Klaar, Robert Karona, and Charles Osani.

At the PVATA awards breakfast, the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association honored teachers and educators by presenting certificates to those who promoted vocational agriculture through the communication media reaching beyond the borders of Pennsylvania. Recipients of this award, the "Thirty Minute Club," were William Harshman, James Diamond, Samuel Curtis, David Howell, Donald Evans, and Frederic H. Stillwagen. National teacher of teachers awards were also presented to those who have former students teaching agriculture: Clair Zerby, 1; Philip

Ogline, 3; Harry Kline, Steward McDonough, and Kenneth Rhodes, 5 or more.

The Harvest of Ideas winner was Robert Leib, chapter news letter; 2. Wayne Lutz; 3. Mike Kennis; 4. Ron Federick; 5. Steve Miller; 6. Donald McNutt; and 7. John Meyers. The ideas submitted are to be shared with fellow ag teachers and can be used in the classroom.

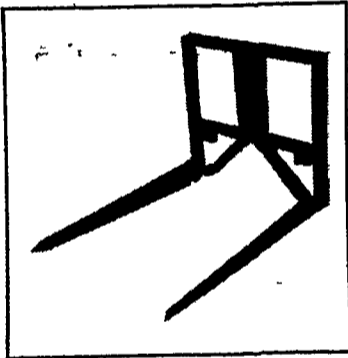
Donald Reinert, president of the PVATA, presented the past presidents plaque to Frederic H. Stillwagen for his services as state president in 1979-80.

Jerry Olson, Director, Bureau Of Vocational Education, Department of Education, addressed the final session and assured the teachers that the bureau is well aware of the contributions of vocational agriculture in the education system and of problems facing education in general. He stressed the need to work together to solve the problems and to improve education.

The new officers of the PVATA were installed for 1981-82; including President, Donald Reinert; president elect, Guy Naugle; treasurer, William Mackereth, and treasurer elect, Gerald Strickler.

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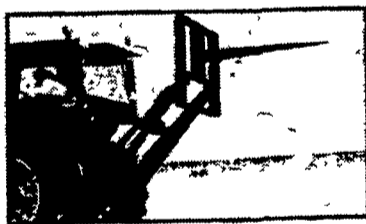
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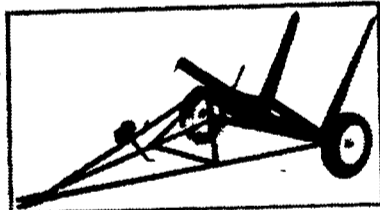
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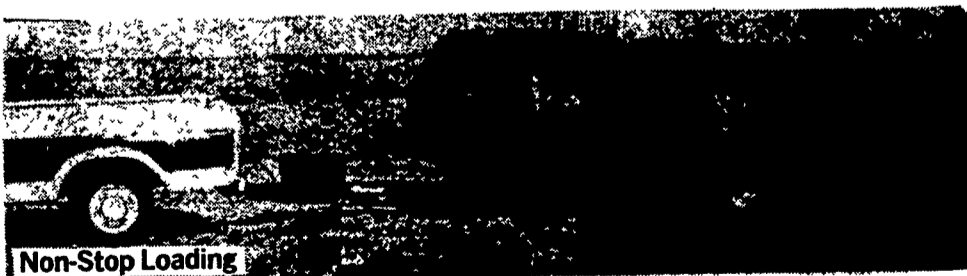
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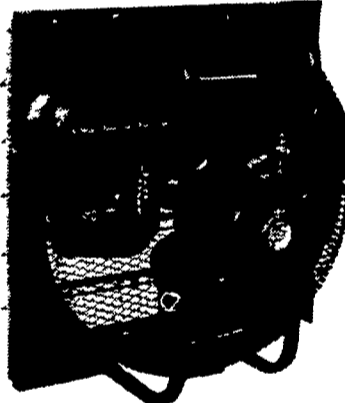
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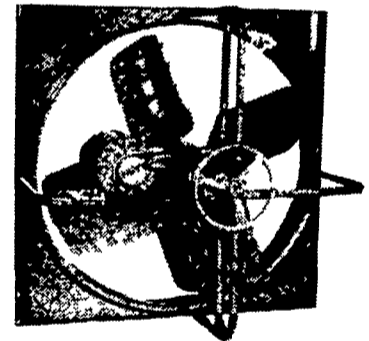
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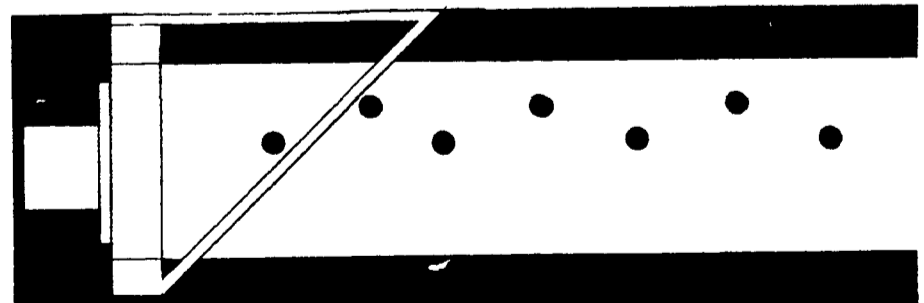
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