

Welcomed rains fall on Pa. fields

HARRISBURG — Much needed rain fell over most of the Commonwealth during the week of July 27 but left only four days suitable for farm field activities, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities included harvesting sweet corn, cabbage, snapbeans, green peas, potatoes, peaches and apples; making hay; harvesting small grains; baling straw and clipping pastures.

The harvesting of sweet corn, snapbeans, green peas and cabbage continues throughout the commonwealth. The apple and peach harvest has now extended into northern areas. The size and color of apples and peaches are reported as good but some varieties are in short supply. Tomatoes and potatoes are being harvested in many areas, particularly in the south. Some dry rot was reported in tomato fields.

The wettest week since early June increased topsoil moisture across the state. The supply was rated mostly adequate with some short and surplus areas reported. Northern topsoil moisture was rated 81 percent adequate, 13 percent surplus and six percent short while the central region rated moisture supply at 88 percent adequate and 12 percent short. The south reported topsoil moisture at 55 percent adequate and 45 percent short.

The rains also spurred corn growth as the average corn height statewide was reported 64 inches, 13 inches higher than last year at this time. Average height in the northern, central and southern regions was 57, 63, and 73 inches respectively.

Statewide, barley was reported as 90 percent harvested and eight percent ripe, slightly ahead of last year. The barley harvest is virtually complete in the south while the central region reported the barley crop 95 percent harvested and five percent ripe. The north reported the crop 65 percent harvested, 30 percent ripe and five percent turning yellow.

Pennsylvania's 1981 wheat crop is still ahead of last year with 71

percent of the crop harvested, 23 percent ripe and six percent turning yellow.

The south reported wheat 89 percent harvested and 11 percent ripe; the central region reported wheat 77 percent harvested and 23 percent ripe; and the north reported the crop 41 percent harvested, 40 percent ripe and 19 percent turning yellow.

Oats are eight percent headed, 34 percent turning, 34 percent ripe and 23 percent harvested statewide. The south reported 20

percent turning, 38 percent ripe and 42 percent harvested; the central region reported the crop 31 percent turning, 45 percent ripe and 24 percent harvested; while the north reported oats 25 percent headed, 51 percent turning, 18 percent ripe and less than five percent harvested. Some lodging was reported in all three regions, but particularly in the north.

Wet weather slowed haymaking somewhat across the state as the second cutting alfalfa harvest was

reported 65 percent complete. This is still ahead of last year when the crop was 52 percent harvested. The second cutting alfalfa harvest was reported to be 84 percent complete in the south, 70 percent complete in the central region and 40 percent complete in the north. Leaf hopper damage was again reported in all regions as spraying continues to try to control the pest.

Hay quality in the state this week was mostly good to fair. Second and third crop growth was

reported to be looking good although some farmers feel lack of rain slowed growth. Feed from pasture was rated average to below average statewide. Southern pastures were rated 64 percent average and 36 percent below average; central region pastures were rated 73 percent average, 20 percent below average and seven percent above average; and northern pastures were 86 percent average, seven percent below average and seven percent above average.

Syndicate buys high-selling Holstein at Berks



A newly formed syndicate who adopted the name Sparkie Syndicate after their purchase of the Lot 1 heifer at Thursday evening's Berks County Holstein Club Sale purchased Russelldale Jerry Sundown, the July 30, 1979 daughter of Eng-Amer Ivanhoe Jerry, for the top price of \$7400. Bred to Marshfield Elevation Tony, the heifer was consigned by Ray E. Bicksler, Richland, who retained 1/3 interest in the animal.

Pictured with the high-selling Holstein are: from left, Betty Jean Hoch, Berks Co. Dairy Princess; Barbara and Ray Bicksler, consignors; Dean Hartman, Reading and Dave Nirschl, Mohrsville, buyers; with leadsman Ken Fabian and auctioneer Doty Remsburg and Norman Hill. The 38 head sold averaged \$2357.

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