

State's fieldwork continues to progress

HARRISBURG — Showers and thunderstorms across the state during the week ending August 10 limited farm field work activities to four days, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities for the week included harvesting vegetables, apples, peaches and small grains; digging early potatoes, making hay, baling straw, spraying potatoes, topping tobacco, clipping pastures, and plowing.

The harvesting of sweet corn, cabbage, snapbeans, cantaloupes, potatoes, cucumbers and tomatoes also continues throughout the state. The apple and peach harvest continues in Pennsylvania with some brown rot reported in southern orchards. All three regions reported some problems with tomato fungal diseases.

The potato harvest in the state is reported slightly ahead of last year with 13 percent of the crop harvested. The southern, central and

northern areas reported potatoes 16, 14 and five percent harvested, respectively. Heavy infestations of Colorado potato beetles and potato leaf hoppers were reported in the areas.

Topsoil moisture in the state was judged mostly adequate with some short and surplus areas reported. The north rated moisture supplies 86 percent adequate and 14 percent short, the central region rated topsoil moisture 79 percent adequate, 14 percent short and seven percent surplus, and the south rated topsoil moisture 77 percent adequate and 23 percent short.

Pennsylvania's 1981 corn crop is 58 percent silked and 22 percent in the dough stage. In the north, 50 percent of the crop was reported silked and 27 percent in the dough stage. The central region corn 60 percent silked and 18 percent in the dough stage, while the south reported 62 percent silked and 22 percent in the dough stage.

The barley harvest is virtually complete throughout Pennsylvania, about a week behind last year.

Although the weather was less than ideal, the wheat harvest in Pennsylvania was reported as 91 percent complete, about the same as last year at this time. The southern and central region farmers report harvest virtually complete while northern growers report the crop 78 percent harvested. There were again scattered reports of decreased yields due to wheat scab and powdery mildew.

The oat crop in the state is 67 percent harvested, slightly behind last year. Southern growers report oat harvest virtually complete, while central area growers report the harvest 74 percent complete and northern growers report the harvest 45 percent complete. Good yields are reported despite some lodging.

Fall plowing was reported at five

percent complete statewide, compared to 12 percent complete at this time last year. The southern, central and northern regions reported fall plowing to be eight, seven and one percent complete, respectively.

Statewide second cutting alfalfa harvest was reported to be 71 percent complete, compared to 76 percent last year at this time. The harvest is virtually complete in the south while central and northern regions report the harvest 75 and 57 percent complete, respectively. The third cutting of alfalfa is 15 percent harvested, statewide, compared to 20 percent last year.

Clover-timothy stands in Pennsylvania are 44 percent harvested,

about the same as last year. The northern, central and southern regions report clover-timothy stands 38, 43 and 55 percent harvested, respectively.

Hay made during the week was rated mostly fair to good quality statewide. Feed from pasture was rated mostly average to below average for the state. The south rated pastures 58 percent average, 33 percent below average and nine percent above average. The central region rated pastures 62 percent average, 23 percent below average, and 16 percent above average. The north rated pastures 65 percent average, 25 percent above average and ten percent below average.



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