

Fine weather moves fieldwork ahead

HARRISBURG — Fine weather over most of Pennsylvania during the week ending May 9 allowed farmers to quickly move ahead with spring fieldwork, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

All three regions of the state reported six days suitable for farm field activities which included plowing, spreading lime and

fertilizer, chopping rye, spraying fruit trees and planting oats, corn, alfalfa, potatoes and soybeans.

Statewide, soil moisture was rated mostly short to adequate. All reporters in the northern region rated soil moisture as short. In the central region, 73 percent rated it short, and 27 percent rated it adequate, while in the southern

region, 91 percent rated soil moisture adequate and nine percent rated it short.

Plowing in the Commonwealth was rated as 72 percent complete compared with 80 percent last year. In the northern region plowing is 75 percent complete, while in the central region it's 67 percent complete. Plowing in the southern region was rated as 76 percent complete.

Seeding of oats is ahead of last year with 87 percent sown statewide compared with 86 percent last year. In the northern region 82 percent of the crop is sown, while in the central region 91 percent is sown. In the southern region 84 percent of the crop is

sown. Planting of potatoes is 56 percent complete compared with 61 percent last year. The northern region reported 53 percent of the crop planted. The central region reported 54 percent planted, while the southern region reported 60 percent of the potato crop planted.

Statewide, 27 percent of the corn crop is planted compared with 28 percent at this time last year. In the north 20 percent of the crop is planted. In the central region 18 percent is planted, while in the south 40 percent of the corn crop is planted.

The winter grains continued mostly in the pre-boot stage. However, 13 percent of the barley

crop is booted compared with 18 percent last year, and nine percent of the wheat crop is booted while at this time last year 11 percent was booted.

Peaches are reported as 30 percent in pink stage, and 68 percent in full bloom or past. Cherries are reported as 28 percent in pink stage and 72 percent in full bloom or past, while apples are reported as 39 percent in pink stage and 55 percent in full bloom.

Both alfalfa and clover-timothy stands were rated good to fair statewide. The amount of feed obtained from pasture was rated below average by 50 percent of our reporters, average by nine percent.

Greene Co. host sheep field day

WAYNESBURG — A Sheep & Wool Field Day, sponsored by the Green County Sheep and Wool Growers Association, will be held Saturday, May 22nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Waynesburg, PA. The fairgrounds is located just west of I-79 at the Waynesburg Exit.

The program will include:
 - 10:30 and 2:30 - Working Sheepdog Demonstration;
 - 11:30 - Sheep Blocking Demonstration;
 - 12:15 - Leadline Contest;
 - 1:30 Dr. Paul Lewis, Professor of Animal Science at West Virginia University.

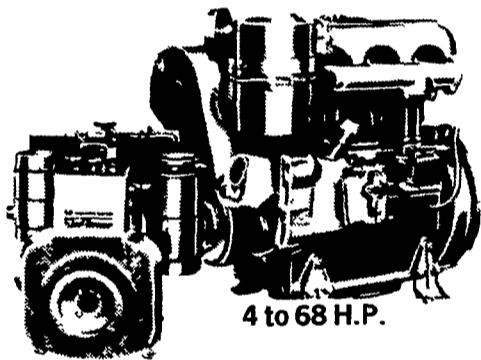
Lunch will begin at 11:30 with a lamb menu. The following

demonstrations will be held throughout the day: sheep equipment; knife sharpening; management demonstrations; sheep shearing; sheep to shawl demonstrations.

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