

Showers relieve dry spell on Pa. farms

HARRISBURG — Widespread showers during the week ending Aug. 1 allowed all three regions in Pennsylvania to report five days suitable for farm field activities, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Field activities for the week included spraying, baling straw, clipping pastures, making hay, and harvesting barley, wheat, oats, peaches, apples, cantaloupes, potatoes, snap beans, tomatoes and sweet corn.

The widespread showers which appeared during the week were enough to relieve dry conditions as 58 percent of our reporters rated topsoil moisture adequate, 40 percent rated it short and two percent rated it surplus.

Corn was 59 percent silked and six percent in dough compared with 63 percent silked and eight percent in dough last year.

Five percent of the Pennsylvania potato crop was harvested compared with ten percent last year. Potato harvest in the northern and central regions was less than five percent, while in the southern region it reached 13 percent.

Pennsylvania's barley harvest was virtually completed, approximately a week ahead of last year.

Statewide 93 percent of the wheat crop was harvested compared with 79 percent last year. In the northern, central and southern regions wheat harvested was 93, 91 and 99 percent respectively.

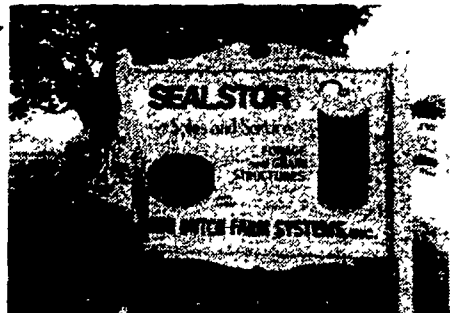
By the end of the week, 30 percent of the Pennsylvania oat crop was harvested compared with 35 percent harvested last year. Reporters have indicated that 17 percent of the northern region, 22 percent of the central region and 56 percent of the southern region oat crop has been harvested.

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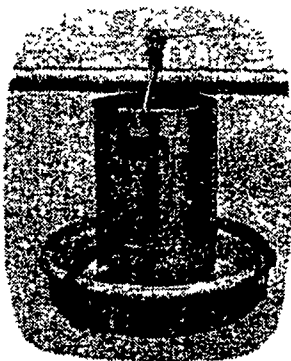
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