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Pa. farmer continue tobacco, corn harvest

HARRISBURG - Statewide, six days were rated suitable for fieldwork during the week ending Sept. 12, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. In the northern and central regions six days were rated suitable while in the southern region reporters rated five days suitable for fieldwork.

Field activities included baling straw; plowing; seeding alflafa; planting wheat and barley: making hay; clipping pastures; and harvesting tobacco, corn silage, apples, grapes, cantaloupes, potatoes, sweet corn and tomatoes.

Topsoil moisture in Pennsylvania was rated short by 61 percent of our reporters and adequate by 39 percent.

By the end of the week 32 percent of the corn crop was in dough, 61 percent was dented, and less than five percent was mature compared with 11 percent in dough stage, 54 percent dented, and 16 percent mature last year.

Statewide, 47 percent of the potato crop was harvested, about the same as last year. In the northern region 33 percent was harvested, in the central region 41 percent was harvested, and in the southern region 70 percent of the potato crop was harvested.

Harvesting of tobacco in the Commonwealth was 68 percent complete compared with 76 percent harvested at this time last year.

By the end of the week 23 percent of the barley crop was planted, about the same as last year. In the north 22 percent was planted, in

the central region 23 percent was planted, and in the south 24 percent of the barley crop was planted. Wheat was 21 percent planted compared with 14 percent planted at this time last year. In the north 25 percent was planted, in the central region 17 percent was planted, and in the south 25 percent was planted.

Fall plowing was 54 percent complete, the same as last year at this time. In the northern region 37 percent was complete, in the central region 65 percent was complete, and in the southern region 55 percent was complete.

Third alfalfa was 69 percent harvested compared with 60 percent harvested last year. In the north 52 percent was harvested, in the central region 67 percent was harvested, and in the south 83 percent was harvested. Fourth crop alfalfa was 23 percent harvested, same as last year. In the north 15 percent was harvested, in the central region 26 percent was harvested, and in the south 27 percent was harvested.

Statewide, 93 percent of second crop clover-timothy was harvested compared with 88 percent last year. In the north harvest of the second crop was virtually complete, in the central region 92 percent was harvested, and in the south 90 percent was harvested.

The quality of hay made during the week was rated good by 62 percent of our reporters and fair by 38 percent. The amount of feed obtained from pastures was rated below average by 52 percent of our reporters, average by 44 percent, and above average by four percent.



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