

Fall harvest running ahead of last year

HARRISBURG — Statewide, four days were rated suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sept. 26, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. In the northern and central regions of the state, four days were rated suitable, while in the southern region reporters rated five days suitable for fieldwork.

Activities for the week included harvesting potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, cabbage, pumpkins, apples, grapes, cantaloupes, tobacco, and corn silage; plowing; planting wheat and barley; and making hay.

Topsoil moisture in Pennsylvania was rated adequate by 64 percent of our reporters and short by 36 percent.

By the end of the week, 57 percent of the corn crop was in the dent stage and 24 percent was mature, compared with last year's average of 49 percent harvested at this time last year.

Statewide, 77 percent of the potato crop was harvested compared with 59 percent harvested last year. In the northern region 71 percent was harvested, in the northern region 73 percent was harvested, and in the southern region 90 percent of the potato crop was harvested.

The Commonwealth's potato crop was 91 percent harvested while at this time last year harvest was virtually complete.

By the end of the week 63 percent of the barley crop was planted compared with 52 percent planted last year. In the northern region 67 percent was planted in the central region 62 percent was planted, and in the southern region 61 percent was planted.

Wheat was 46 percent planted compared with 38 percent planted last year. In the northern region 48 percent was planted, in the central region 50 percent was planted, and in the southern region 43 percent of the wheat crop was planted.

Statewide, fall plowing was 78 percent complete compared with both last year's and the five-year

average of 69 percent complete.

Third crop alfalfa was 79 percent harvested compared 84 percent last year. In the northern region 67 percent was harvested, in the central region 72 percent was harvested, and in the southern region 94 percent of the third crop was harvested. Fourth crop alfalfa was 37 percent harvested compared with 31 percent harvested at this time last year. In the northern region 31 percent was harvested, in the central region 40 percent was harvested and in the southern region of the state 43 percent was harvested.

The quality of hay made during the week was rated fair by 54 percent of our reporters, good by 25 percent, and poor by 21 percent. The amount of feed obtained from pastures was rated below average by 52 percent of our reporters and average by 48 percent.



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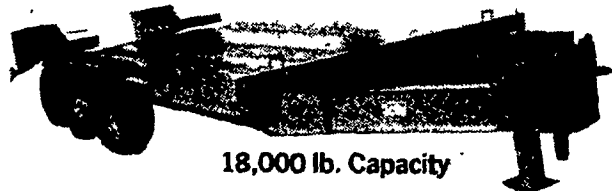
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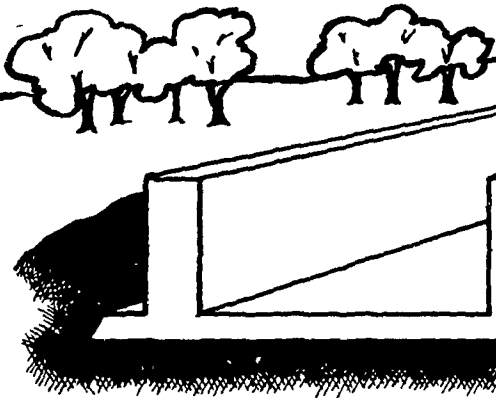
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