

Planting continues behind schedule

HARRISBURG — Most fieldwork was accomplished early in the week before rain moved into the state later in the week ending May 22, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Statewide, three days were rated suitable for fieldwork.

Activities for the week included: planting oats, corn, potatoes, soybeans, and alfalfa; harvesting asparagus; plowing; spreading fertilizer; spraying; and cutting rye for silage and green chop.

Topsoil moisture in the Commonwealth was rated surplus by 65 percent of our reporters and adequate by 35 percent. In the northern region, 64 percent of our reporters rated it surplus and 36 percent rated it adequate. In the central region topsoil moisture was rated surplus by 73 percent and adequate by 27 percent while in the southern region, it was rated surplus by 50 percent of our reporters and adequate by 50 percent.

By the end of the week spring plowing was 80 percent complete compared with 92 percent last year and a five-year average of 89 percent complete. Plowing was rated 77 percent complete in the northern region, 82 percent in the central region and 79 percent complete in the southern region.

Virtually all peach and cherry trees were in full bloom or past bloom, the same as last year. Apple trees in the state were virtually all in full bloom or past compared with 94 percent last year. The frost reported during the past week in some locations appears to have caused no extensive damage to fruit trees in the commonwealth.

Damage to strawberries, tomatoes, and peppers was reported to be extensive in some areas because of the frost during the week.

Statewide, 90 percent of the oat crop was planted while oat seeding was virtually complete at this time

last year.

Soybean planting was 12 percent complete in the Commonwealth compared with 33 percent last year. In the northern region 8 percent was planted, 10 percent in the central region, and 18 percent in the southern region was planted.

By the end of the week 70 percent of the potato crop was planted compared with 84 percent planted at this time last year. In the northern region 56 percent was planted, in the central region 68 percent was planted, and in the southern region of the state 90 percent of the potato crop was planted.

Statewide, 44 percent of the corn crop was planted compared with 75 percent last year and also compared with a five-year average of 60 percent planted. In the northern region 31 percent was planted, in the central region 45 percent was planted and in the southern region 60 percent of the corn crop was planted.

By the end of the week, 43 percent of the barley crop was in boot stage, and 30 percent was headed compared with 35 percent in boot stage and 49 percent headed last year.

By the end of the week 50 percent of the wheat crop was in boot stage, and less than 5 percent was headed compared with 35 percent in the boot stage and 15 percent headed last year.

Statewide, 69 percent of our

reporters rated alfalfa stands good, and 31 percent rated them fair. However, alfalfa weevil damage has started to increase.

Clo-tim stands were rated good by 67 percent of our reporters and fair by 33 percent.

The amount of feed obtained from pastures was rated average by 56 percent of our reporters, above average by 27 percent and below average by 17 percent.

Paraplowing

(Continued from Page A31)

at Coshocton between July, 1970, to July, 1973, totalled 21,360 pounds an acre from clean-tilled, continuous corn and 230 pounds from untilled, continuous corn.

Since 1940, thousands of measurements of water runoff at the Experimental Watershed show that runoff from clean-tilled corn

increases with the amount of rain that falls at intensities greater than an inch an hour.

"But runoff is much less when the surface is not tilled," Edwards says. At Coshocton, runoff from continuous, untilled corn was compared with runoff from corn in a 4-year rotation, corn-wheat-meadow-meadow, 1965-1972 and 1979-1982. Runoff from the conventionally tilled rotation corn was 20 times the runoff from untilled continuous corn. In another study, runoff from a 4-year rotation was measured 29 years. The plowing, discing, harrowing and corn cultivation every fourth year caused 30 times as much runoff, about 2.5 inches a year average, as the runoff from the meadows, less than 0.1 inch a year.

Corn yields at the Experimental Watershed for nine years, 1964-1972, averaged 8 percent more from continuous corn without tillage than from corn grown in rotations with conventional tillage. "That's because some of our soils are drouthy," Edwards says, "and the mulch increases infiltration and helps hold soil moisture."

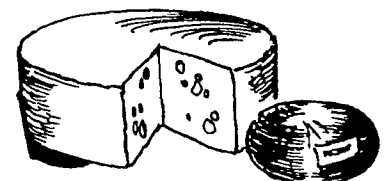
Amerman summarizes 19 years of no-till research, pointing out that in addition to increasing yields and reducing fuel and labor costs, planting without plowing enables farmers to grow corn on many soils and slopes without serious erosion hazard. He says results vary at locations with soils, slopes and weather patterns that differ from those at Coshocton. On a clayey soil in Missouri, for example, planting without tillage increased runoff — but still caused less erosion than conventional tillage.

York PIK handlers

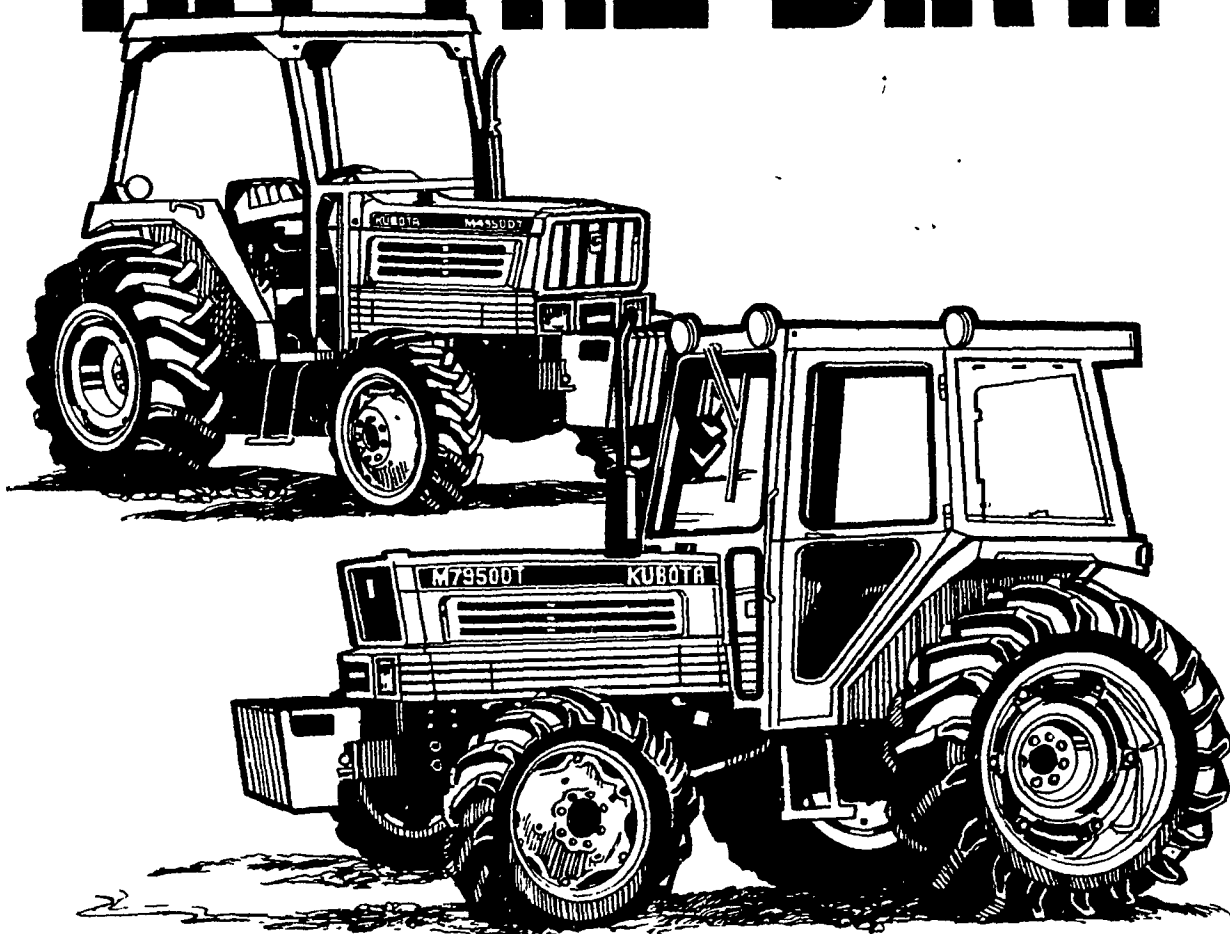
YORK — York County will have three handlers for corn under the 1983 ARP/PIK Program.

These handlers are Agway, Inc., West York; Spangler & Sprenkle, York; Hostetter Farm Supply, Hanover.

Producers enrolled in the PIK Program who wish to have their corn delivered in York County must select one of these handlers. Contact the ASCS Office, 120 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA. 17402 at 755-2801 for additional information.



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