

Compare last week's planting with last year's

HARRISBURG — Sunshine finally prevailed throughout the Commonwealth for the week ending June 12, with five days rated suitable for fieldwork according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The southern region gained a day on everyone else with six days suitable, while the central and northern regions settled for five days each, the service reported Wednesday.

Activities for the week included planting corn, soybeans and potatoes; transplanting tobacco; making hay and haylage; spraying; green chopping; and mending fences.

Soil moisture throughout the state was rated adequate by 77 percent of the reporters, surplus by 20 percent and short by three percent.

Statewide, only 86 percent of the corn crop has been planted compared with virtually complete for both last year and the five-year average. In the southern region planting was 89 percent complete, in the central region it was 88 percent complete and in the northern region 82 percent complete. Some areas reported that replanting was necessary due to prolonged wet conditions. Growth has been slow throughout the state with an average height of 3.7 inches. Severe infestation of slugs were reported in many areas.

Soybean planting was 55 percent complete in the Commonwealth compared with 77 percent last year. Fifty-nine percent of the crop was planted in the southern region, 48 percent was planted in the central region, and 60 percent of the crop was planted in the northern region.

Transplanting tobacco from the beds to the fields was only 28 percent complete compared with 70 percent complete last year.

By the end of the week, 71 percent of the wheat crop was headed and five percent turning yellow compared with 83 percent headed and less than five percent turning yellow last year. The southern region has 80 percent headed and 15 percent turning yellow, the central region has 90 percent headed and less than five percent turning yellow, while the northern region has 48 percent of their wheat crop headed and less than five percent turning yellow. Evidence of smut and powdery mildew were reported as being quite severe in some areas.

At the state level, 62 percent of the barley crop was headed and 33 percent was turning yellow compared with 65 percent headed and 29 percent turning yellow. In the southern region, 39 percent was headed with 60 percent turning yellow, in the central region 79 percent was headed and 21 percent

turning yellow, and the northern region had 81 percent headed with less than five percent turning yellow.

Statewide, only eight percent of the oats crops was headed with less than five percent turning yellow. In the southern region 23 percent was headed and less than five percent was turning yellow, while the central and northern regions had less than five percent headed and turning yellow.

Statewide, first crop alfalfa is 35 percent cut, again with the major portion going for silage, compared with 27 percent cut at this time last year. Weevil and spittlebug damage are still prevalent in most areas. Some leafhopper in-

festations were also spotted, but damage was not extensive.

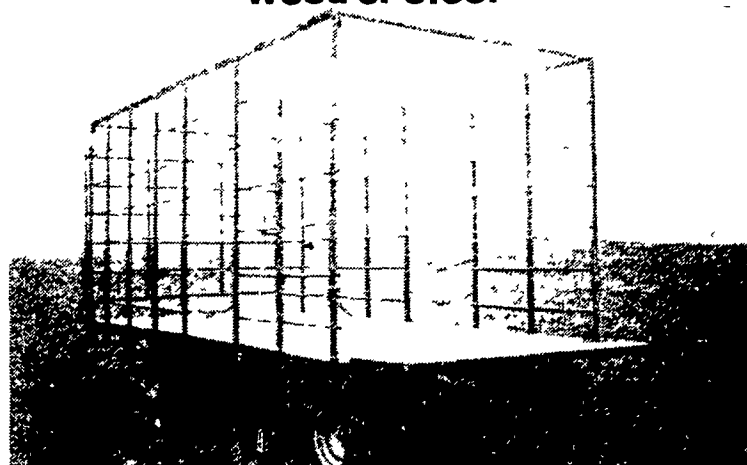
Clover-timothy first cutting was 19 percent complete compared with ten percent last year. The quality of hay made during the week was rated good by 42 percent

of the reporters, fair by 55 percent and poor by three percent. The amount of feed obtained from pastures was rated above average by 20 percent of the reporters, average by 72 percent and below average by eight percent.



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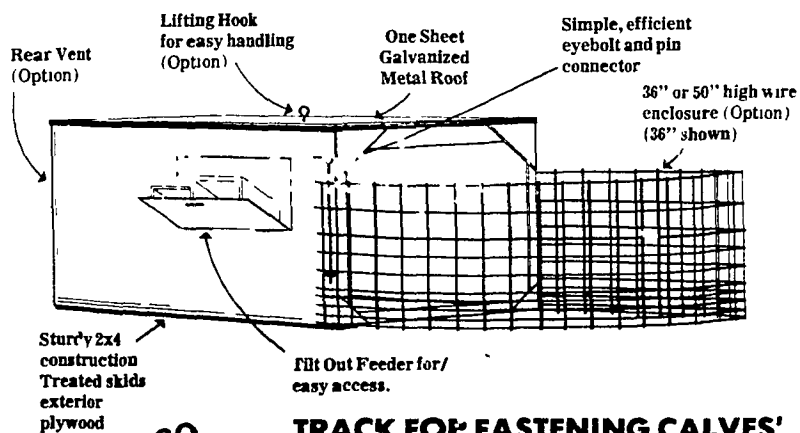
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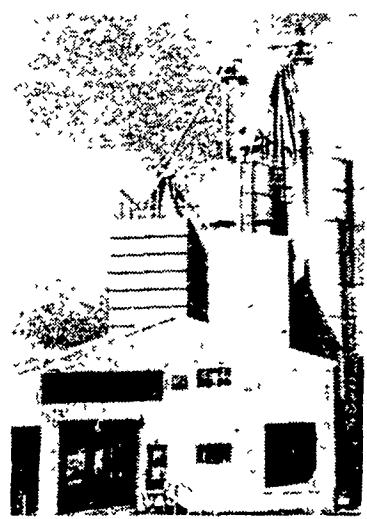
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