

Hot, humid weather helps with catch-up

HARRISBURG — Hot and humid weather dominated the week ending June 19, with all three regions of the state reporting six days suitable for fieldwork activities according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The good weather boosted most farm activities closer to last year's levels. Activities for the week included picking strawberries; transplanting tobacco; planting corn, soybeans and potatoes; spraying; making hay and haylage; and cultivating corn and potatoes.

Soil moisture in the commonwealth was rated adequate by 88 percent of the reporters and short by 12 percent.

Statewide, corn planting for the year is virtually complete, about the same as last year and the five-year average. The average corn height was six inches in the state, compared with 12 inches at this time last year.

Soybean planting was 80 percent complete in the commonwealth, the same as last year. In the southern region 72 percent of the crop was planted, in the central region 84 percent was planted and in the northern region 79 percent was planted.

Transplanting tobacco from the beds to the fields was only 70 percent complete compared with

83 percent complete at the same time last year.

Statewide, 40 percent of the barley crop was turning yellow and five percent was ripe, compared with last year when 58 percent was turning yellow and six percent was ripe. In the southern region 62 percent was turning yellow and 17 percent was ripe, in the central region 38 percent was turning and less than five percent was ripe, while in the northern region 26 percent of the barley crop was turning yellow and less than five percent was ripe.

Thirteen percent of the Pennsylvania wheat crop was turning yellow, slightly behind last year. In the southern region 35 percent was turning, in the central region six percent was turning and in the northern region less than five percent was turning yellow. Powdery mildew still continues to plague some areas.

Statewide, oats crops were only 15 percent headed with five percent turning yellow, compared with 47 percent headed last year.

Many of the reporters said the week was one of the best ever for June haymaking, as 64 percent of the first cutting alfalfa was completed, compared with 40 percent last year. Weevil and spittlebug damage still continues, and leaf hopper damage has

begun.

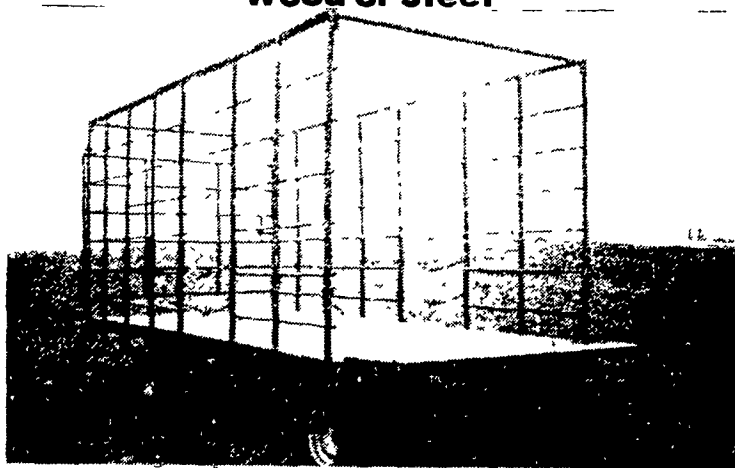
Clover-timothy first cutting was 50 percent complete compared with 19 percent complete last year

at this time. The quality of hay made during the week was rated good by 91 percent of the reporters and fair by nine percent. The

amount of feed obtained from pastures was rated above average by 17 percent of the reporters, average by 80 percent and below average by three percent.

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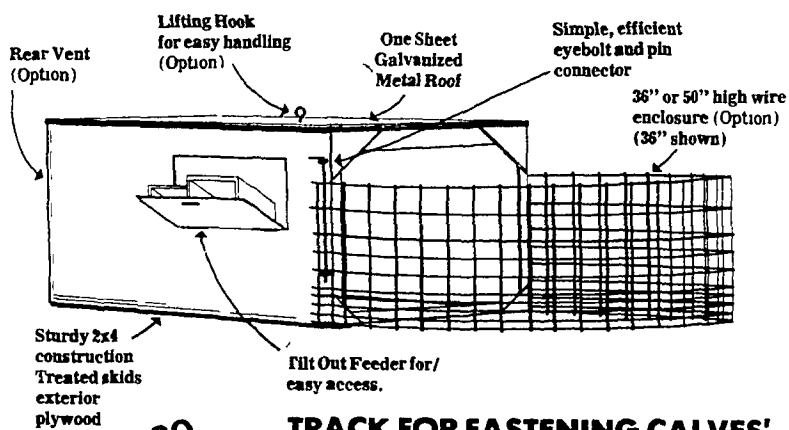
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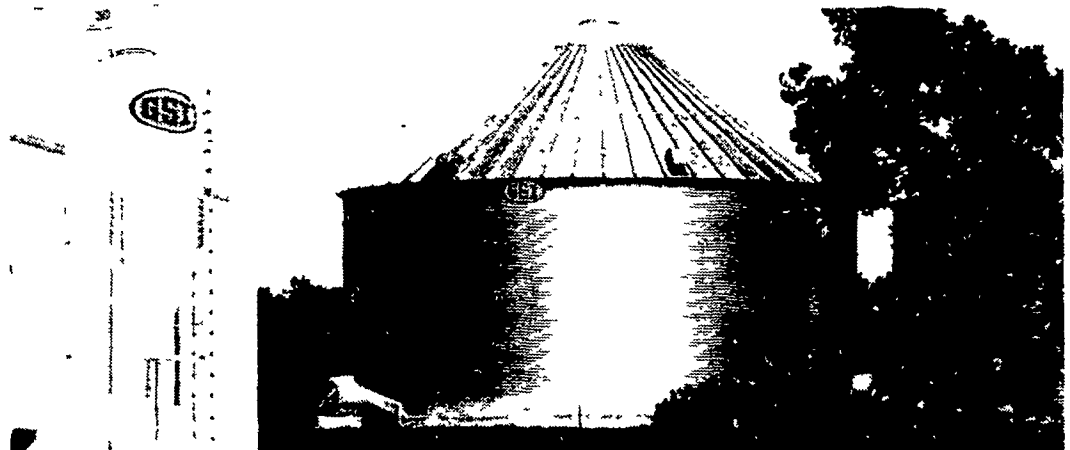
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