

Harvesting moves ahead in Pa.

HARRISBURG — Following a stormy Labor Day evening, commonwealth farmers were presented with five days of clear, cool weather and good conditions for fieldwork during the week ending September 9, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The average temperature was 61 degrees, four degrees below normal. Farm activities included plowing; seeding small grains; baling straw; making hay; and harvesting tobacco, corn silage, apples, peaches, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn and peppers.

Topsoil moisture supplies for the state were rated adequate by 84 percent of the reporters and surplus by 16 percent. The northern region reported 67 percent adequate and 33 percent surplus.

Central region reporters indicate adequate moisture throughout the region and southern reporters rated moisture supplies as 89 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus.

Across the commonwealth 87 percent of the corn crop was in the dough stage or beyond and 25 percent was dented, compared with 95 percent in dough and 51 percent dented. The five-year average is 93 percent in dough and 52 percent dented. In the northern region of the state 76 percent was in dough and 29 percent dented, in the central region 92 percent in dough and 33 percent dented, while the southern region had 97 percent of the corn crop in dough and 38 percent dented. The harvest of corn silage statewide totaled ten

percent compared with 19 percent harvested last year.

At week's end the potato harvest reached 42 percent compared to 45 percent harvested at the same time last year. Northern reporters indicated 41 percent of the crop was harvested, with the central and southern regions reporting 39 and 49 percent, respectively.

Partially because of the wet conditions, fall plowing in the commonwealth was reported to be about 42 percent complete, compared with last year's level and the five-year average of 45 percent complete. The northern region reported fall plowing at 24 percent complete, the central region reported 53 percent complete, and the southern region reported 46 percent complete.

Meanwhile, the harvest of apples was reported to be about 20 percent complete and the peach harvest is about 60 percent complete. Central reporters indicate incidence of ear worms in sweet corn. Harvesting of tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and melons continues.

Harvest of the third crop alfalfa was 63 percent complete, compared with 76 percent complete last year, while the fourth cutting was 23 percent harvested, com-

pared with 14 percent last year. The harvest of second crop clover was 91 percent complete, one percent ahead of last year. The quality of hay made last week was reported poor by 11 percent, average by 36 percent and good by 53 percent. The amount of feed obtained from pastures was rated below average by three percent, average by 77 percent and above average by 20 percent of the reporters.

Berks tour on Oct. 18

LEESPORT — The Berks County Conservation District tour scheduled on October 18 will in-

clude visits to the various brassica demonstration plots.

Sunflowers

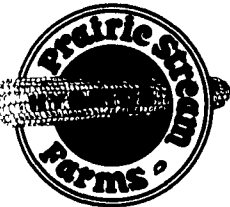
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corn per bushel, so they're less expensive to ship. They also cost anywhere from \$50 to \$120 less per acre than corn to grow, and Breech believes they show excellent potential for gross revenue over 80 to 100-bushel corn and 20-bushel beans. Because sunflowers build an extensive root system as they grow, they keep down weeds in a field. Breech's clients have also noticed up to 10 bushels per acre higher corn yield following a sunflower rotation, which Breech attributes to the sunflower root system preparing the soil. Sunflowers require 75 frost-free

days for growing. They can be planted early or late because they're frost-resistant with what Breech calls "their own antifreeze system." Once cut, sunflowers dry much faster than corn and can air-dry under most weather conditions.

Bay-Mor is looking for more growers to fill their market needs. But Breech stresses that he won't let everyone get involved. "We won't put in more acres than there's a market for," he says. "And we don't want sloppy farmers. We're looking for progressive and efficient farmers who are ready to expand their cropping options."

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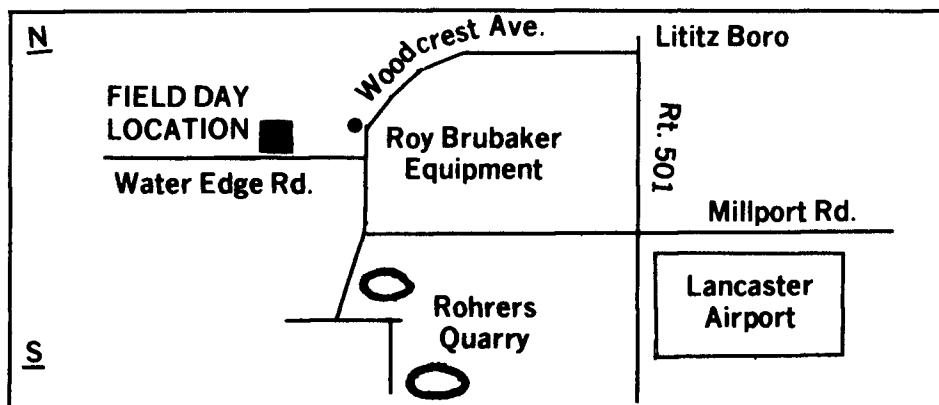
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FIELD DAY LOCATION: 629 Water Edge Road, Lititz Paul W. Minnich farm



DATE: Monday, September 17, 1984

TIME: 2 PM till 8 PM

Representatives will be on site.

ALSO: Look at Conservation Tillage and Herbicide Rates



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