

Pa. fieldwork review outlined

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania farmers continued harvest of apples, grapes and cabbage as well as green chop, ensilage, high moisture ground ear and shell corn and corn for grain in the three days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 28, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Other farm activities during the week included plowing, seeding wheat, making small amounts of hay and fixing fences. Fieldwork was limited by rain in all parts of the state, ranging from 6/10 of an inch to 2.45 inches.

The harvest of apples and grapes statewide reached 83 and 94 percent respectively. The harvest of cabbage is nearly complete.

Across the state, the corn for grain crop was 90 percent mature and 22 percent harvested. Last year's crop was virtually all mature and 43 percent was harvested at this time. The five-year average of corn harvested by this date was 42 percent. Corn is drying down much slower this year than normal. In the northern region, corn was 81 percent mature and 17 percent harvested. In the central region, corn was 93 percent mature

and 23 percent harvested. The southern region reported 98 percent mature and 28 percent harvested. The harvest of corn silage statewide totaled 91 percent compared to virtually complete at this time last year. The northern region reported 87 percent harvested, while central and southern regions reported 93 percent of corn silage as harvested.

The harvest of soybeans was 21 percent complete statewide, trailing last year's 39 percent harvested. The northern region reported 17 percent of the soybeans harvested, and the central and southern regions reported harvesting rates of 23 and 28 percent respectively.

Fall plowing in the state was reported as 94 percent complete compared with last year's 92 percent and the five-year average of 93 percent complete. Wheat planting statewide reached 90 percent complete, one percent point behind last year.

The harvest of fourth crop alfalfa was 69 percent complete compared with 86 percent last year. The quality of hay made during the past week was rated poor by 68 percent and fair by 32

DHIA

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one that will enable farmers to go on-line with their own computers.

State-run testing and reporting facilities are not the only thing the state DHIA directors are concerned about; they recognize that the individual contacts between supervisors and dairymen are important too.

"Pennsylvania DHIA is a federated system," explains Kindig, "so the local boards of each county are responsible for setting local policy that's in tune with the state and national rules."

To help the counties, which vary so much in circumstances and available resources, meet this task, the state now employs three fieldmen.

The responsibilities of the fieldmen are to directly help the supervisors in their work with the state and to communicate with the local boards and local dairymen.

From the county point of view, Jay Mylin indicates that the fieldmen perform several important services — handling particular problems supervisors are having, training new super-

visors and conducting workshops for dairymen.

To increase service for the counties, Kindig notes that they are now in the process of hiring two additional fieldmen, and will be adding a sixth next summer.

With more fieldmen, the state directors are looking, too, for greater promotion of DHIA. Currently, 47 percent of the herds in the state are on test, and Kindig says they'd like to increase that figure. "The more herds that are on test, the better off every dairyman is because we can hold down the cost of the program per member," says Kindig.

But with promotion, as with many other parts of DHIA, success lies in the hands of the county DHIA directors, who have most of the influence and responsibility for running the program, stresses Kindig. Supervisors are hired and fired on the local level, and fees are set by the county boards.

"Counties have to stay on top of the situation," says Kindig. A monthly printout of supervisor

errors, the "kick-out sheet," should be reviewed at least every other month to get an overview of the quality of the supervisors' work. In some counties, and Lancaster is one of these, the board of directors even award financial incentives to supervisors for superior performance. Criteria for the Lancaster County program, explains Jay Mylin, are mailing time, errors per thousand cows, centering date range, and farmer evaluations. Supervisors who meet these standards earn a \$300 bonus.

But Jay Mylin would be quick to point out that this is certainly not the only reason Lancaster County has a good track record with DHIA. He is convinced that a responsible board of directors is crucial too.

And Bob Kindig's final comment is, "I hope that business-minded people who are interested in helping their fellow dairymen will get involved at every level, local and state."

Local milk promotion

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vertising, dairy princess pageants or travel expenses.

The general thrust of the subcommittee's recommendations was to approve only local funding applications that showed evidence of contribution of local money or resources to the promotional programs.

In other action regarding the work of HBM/Creamer, the advertising agency designated to conduct a six-month \$600,000 program which began September 1, the advisory board voted to proceed, for an initial sum of \$13,000, with the contracting of Bruce Baumgartner, 1984 Olympic gold medalist in free-style

wrestling, for an advertising campaign.

Board members viewed a videotape of Baumgartner in action at the Olympics. Muschweck described Baumgartner, an Edinboro native, as a "natural" for milk advertising. Baumgartner is committed to using dairy products, drinking over three gallons of milk a week and eating lots of ice cream and other dairy foods.

With the promotion board's approval on Wednesday, HBM/Creamer will also begin airing four new radio advertisements that promote "Make It Milk" within a holiday theme.



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percent of our reporters. The amount of feed being obtained from pasture was rated below average by 39 percent, average by 46 percent and above average by 15 percent.

Topsoil moisture supplies for the commonwealth were rated adequate by 82 percent of the reporters and short by the remaining 18 percent. Northern region reporters rated soil moisture as 86 percent adequate and 14 percent short. Central region reporters rated soil moisture as 67 percent adequate and 33 percent short. Southern region reporters rated soil moisture as 100 percent adequate.

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