

Spring planting

(Continued from Page A1)

field, according to the moisture-holding characteristics of the soil.

Ironically, added Yocum, no-till crops are doing much better this year, because of the moisture-retaining qualities of limited cultivation practices. Last year,

however, heavy rains gave problems to no-till farmers, he said.

Planting is still significantly ahead of schedule, the crop reporting service said. In the week ending last Sunday, it said, six days were rated suitable for

plowing.

The meant that 43 percent of spring plowing was complete by week's end, while last year, only five percent was reported done. The five-year average for this date is 29 percent, the agency said.

Statewide, topsoil moisture was rated inadequate by 38 percent of those reporting to the state service, while 56 percent said it was

adequate and 6 percent indicated a surplus. In the northern regions, 42 percent found too little moisture, while in the south, the figure reached 50 percent.

So though the lack of rainfall isn't as critical now as it might be

in the crop-maturing months of June, July and August, it clearly is a growing consideration.

"We need at least a half inch of rainfall over the next two weeks to bring us up to where we should be," added Yocum.

Wood lot planning seminar scheduled

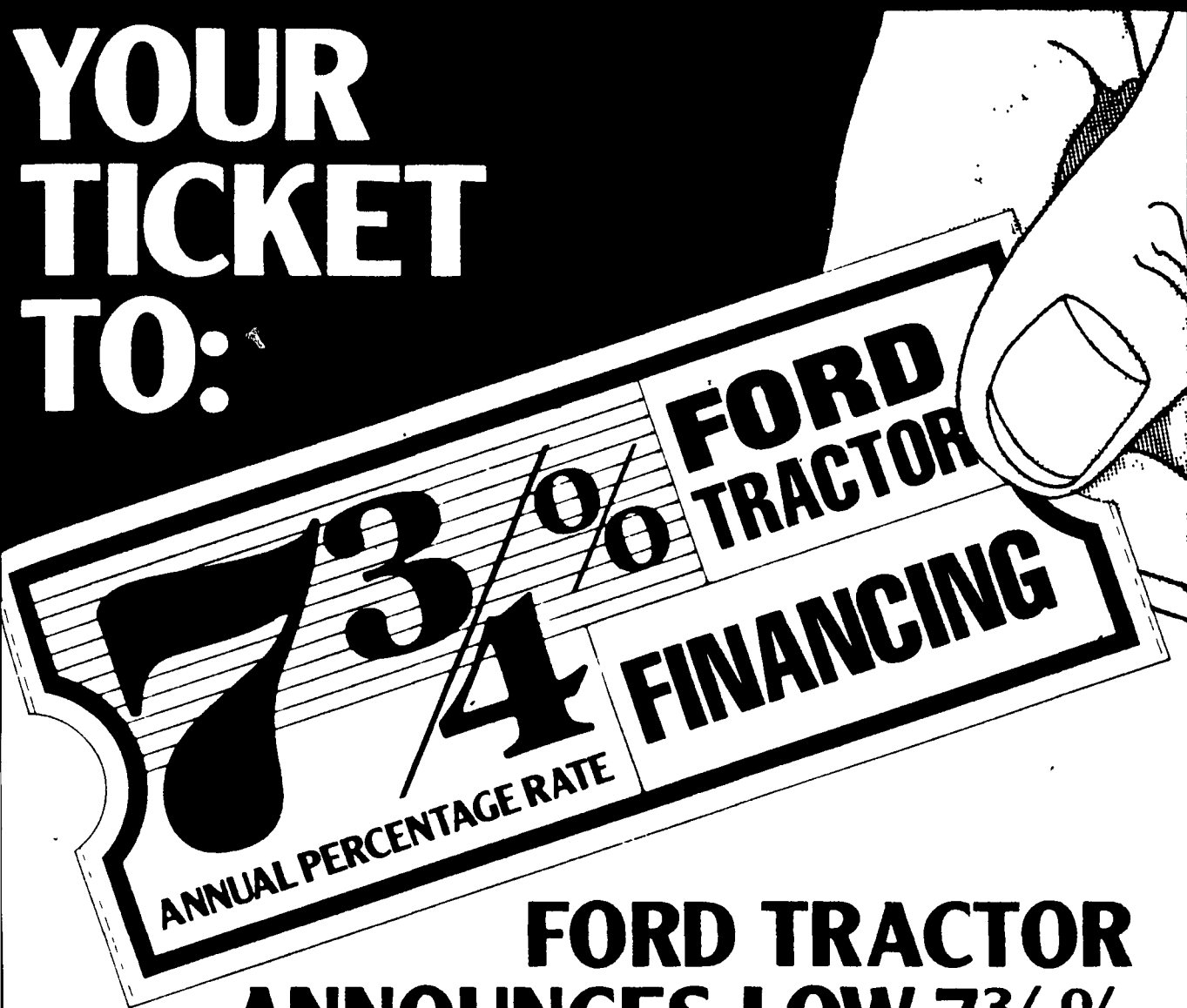
CREAMERY - A meeting to acquaint woodlot owners with the ways of measuring and evaluating their woodland will be held on Thursday, at the Montgomery County 4-H Center located at Creamery, one mile south of Skippack on Route 113.

There will be two sessions, the first starting at 9:30 a.m. as a discussion period to cover forest growth and tree quality, timber sales, tree planting and use of instruments to measure and analyze tree quality.

The 1:30 p.m. afternoon field session will be held at a woodlot near Creamery and provide "hands-on" experience using the information gained from the morning session.

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