

Apple harvest begins

HARRISBURG — Apple growers in the southern region of the state began harvest of early season varieties during the week, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Harvest efforts continued in the northern region, where growers were completing harvest of the 1985 strawberry crop in the state. Producers in other areas of the Commonwealth continued harvest of blueberries, peaches, sweet corn, tomatoes, green peas, snap beans and tart cherries.

Statewide, only four days were rated suitable for fieldwork during the week. Activities for the week included harvesting hay, haylage, green chop, barley and wheat; cultivating and side dressing corn; and spraying soybeans. The average temperature was 68 degrees, one degree below normal. The average precipitation was .83 inch.

Throughout the state, topsoil

moisture supplies were rated by reporters as 40 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and seven percent surplus. In the northern region, moisture was rated 50 percent short and 50 percent adequate. Reporters from the central region estimated moisture supplies as 18 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and nine percent surplus. Moisture supplies were rated in the south as 55 percent short, 36 percent adequate and nine percent surplus.

Corn averaged 31 inches in height statewide, 12 inches taller than last year at this time. Overall crop condition was rated by reporters as one percent poor, 12 percent fair, 44 percent good and 43 percent excellent.

At the end of the week, 97 percent of the soybean crop was planted. Last year at this time 95 percent was planted, and the five-year average is 95 percent. The overall soybean crop condition was rated

by reporters as one percent very poor, six percent poor, 20 percent fair, 51 percent good and 22 percent excellent. The northern region reported soybean planting virtually complete. The central and southern regions reported 99 and 94 percent complete respectively.

Wheat growers around the state reported 12 percent of the crop headed, 32 percent, turning yellow, 45 percent ripe and 11 percent harvested. Last year at this time, the crop was reported as 26 percent headed, 45 percent turning yellow, 26 percent ripe and two percent harvested. The overall condition of the crop was rated as one percent poor, 20 percent fair, 54 percent good and 25 percent excellent. Harvesting continues in the southern region.

Across the Commonwealth, 17 percent of the barley crop was reported turning yellow, 26 percent ripe, and 57 percent harvested. Last year at this time, 12 percent of

the crop was reported headed, 24 percent turning yellow, 26 percent ripe, and 38 percent harvested. The northern region reporters estimated 52 percent turning yellow, 37 percent ripe and 11 percent harvested. In the central region 14 percent of the crop was reported turning yellow, 42 percent ripe, and 44 percent harvested. Southern region reporters estimated eight percent ripe, and 92 percent harvested.

By the end of the week, reporters throughout the state estimated oat development as 56 percent headed, 35 percent turning yellow, eight

percent ripe and one percent harvested. Last year, 60 percent of the crop was headed and 19 percent turning yellow. Northern region reporters indicated 94 percent headed and six percent turning yellow. Central region reporters indicated 76 percent headed and 24 percent turning yellow. Southern region reporters estimated 16 percent headed, and 63 percent turning yellow, 20 percent ripe and one percent harvested. The condition of the crop was rated by reporters as one percent poor, 12 percent fair, 50 percent good and 37 percent excellent.

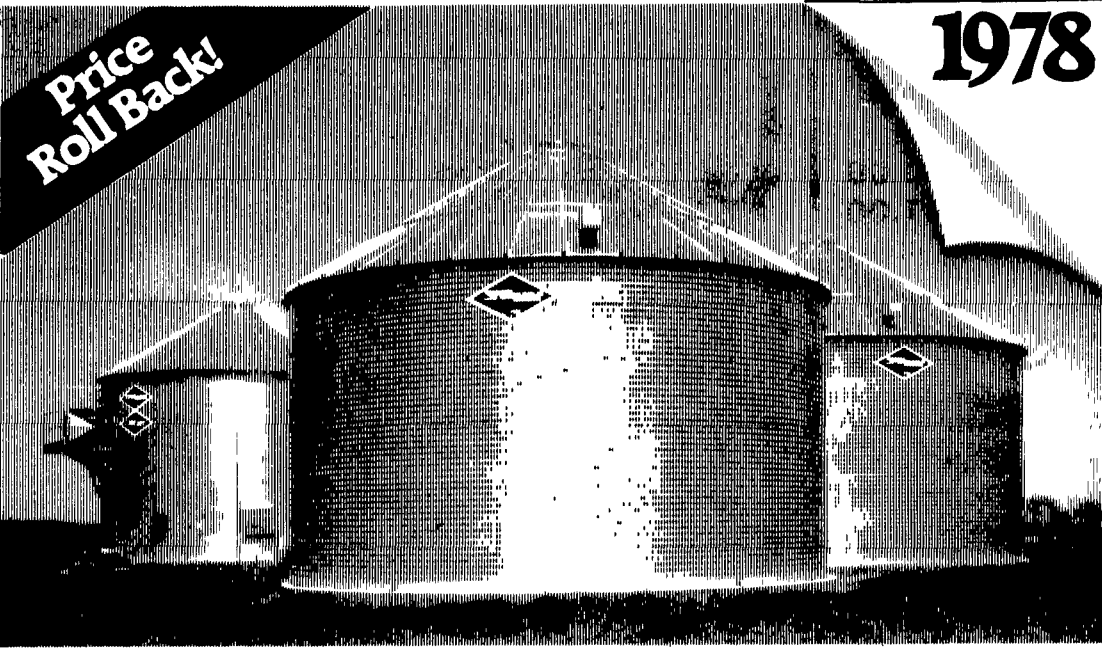
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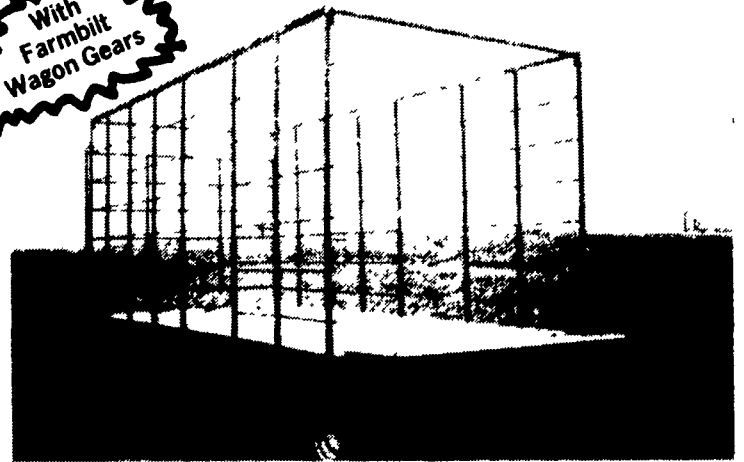
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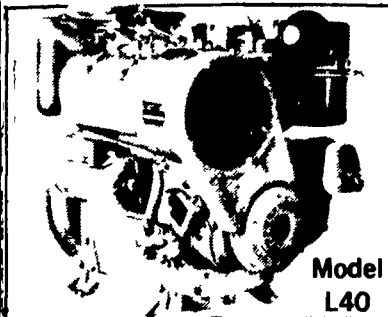
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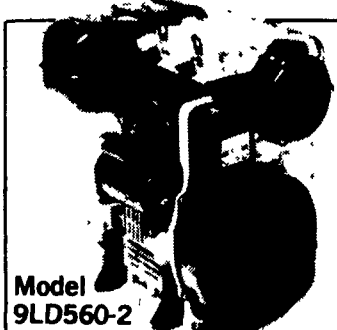
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