

Crop conditions good

HARRISBURG — Picking of snap beans and sweet corn highlighted activities for the week ending August 4, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The Service noted that, in the state's orchards, 11 percent of the apple crop was reported to be harvested, while 32 percent of the peach crop was harvested.

Statewide, five days were rated suitable for fieldwork. Overall crop conditions remained fair to mostly good. Activities for the week included harvesting hay, haylage, snap beans, sweet corn, potatoes and tomatoes; combining wheat and oats; baling straw, spraying alfalfa; and fall plowing.

Across the state, 58 percent of the corn crop was in the silk stage and nine percent in the dough stage. Overall crop condition was reported as one percent very poor, three percent poor, 12 percent fair, 39 percent good and 45 percent excellent. Northern area reporters indicated one percent of the crop very poor, five percent poor, 19 percent fair, 44 percent good and 31 percent excellent. Central region reporters estimated one percent very poor, one percent poor, 10

percent fair, 25 percent good and 63 percent excellent. Southern region reporters indicate two percent very poor, four percent poor, nine percent fair, 47 percent good and 38 percent excellent.

The wheat crop across the state was reported to be 89 percent harvested, 77 percent was harvested at this time last year. Northern area reporters indicated 76 percent harvested, central and southern area reporters estimated 92 and 95 percent harvested respectively.

The barley crop was reported as 98 percent harvested statewide. Northern reporters estimated 94 percent, central area reporters indicated harvesting virtually complete, and southern area reporters estimated 98 percent of the harvest completed.

Oat harvesting was reported as 56 percent complete throughout the state. In the northern section 24 percent of the harvest was complete, in the central area 63 percent of the crop was harvested, and in

the southern region 66 percent of the crop was harvested.

The potato harvest got underway as 16 percent of the crop was reported harvested statewide. North, central and southern reporters indicate 18 percent, 25 percent and 14 percent of the crop harvested respectively.

Second cutting of alfalfa was estimated as 89 percent complete, 30 percent greater than last year's level. The third cutting of alfalfa was reported to be 28 percent harvested compared with six

percent in 1984. The second cutting of clover was estimated as 33 percent complete, one percent greater than last year's level. The quality of hay made was considered poor by nine percent of our reporters, fair by 31 percent and excellent by 60 percent of our reporters. The amount of feed being obtained from pastures was rated below average by 22 percent of the reporters, average by 69 percent and above average by nine percent of the reporters.

USDA readies parity-based dairy supports, anticipating expiration of present law

WASHINGTON — In compliance with current law, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is publishing a proposal to increase the support price of milk to 75 percent of parity effective October 1, 1985.

While the proposal will not be implemented if new price support legislation is enacted effective October 1, 1985, it is necessary to publish the proposal, since current law requires that price support for

milk be established, as of October 1, 1985, at a level between 75 and 90 percent of parity.

A support price of 75 percent of parity as of October 1, 1985, is projected to be \$16.22 per hundredweight for manufacturing milk of national average milkfat content (3.67 percent), an increase of \$4.62 from the present level of \$11.60 per hundredweight.

Public comment is requested on the level of price support as well as

the continuation of the present policies of:

—establishing manufacturing margins (make allowances) at \$1.22 per hundredweight for milk used to manufacture butter and nonfat dry milk and \$1.37 per hundredweight for milk used to manufacture cheese;

—establishing the purchase price for block cheese with the purchase price for barrel cheese being established at 4.25 cents per

pound below the purchase price for block cheese;

—using a single nationwide support purchase price for butter; —allocating a value of 10 cents per hundredweight of milk used to manufacture cheese to whey solids-not-fat in calculating the support purchase price for cheese; and,

—limiting the low moisture premium for cheese purchases by providing that no additional premium is paid for moisture of less than 34 percent.

In addition, it is proposed that any increase in the support price for milk which may be adopted effective October 1, 1985, be allocated, when determining butter and nonfat dry milk purchase prices, two-thirds to butter and one-third to nonfat dry milk. It is also proposed that the present Commodity Credit Corporation sales policy with respect to dairy products be continued.



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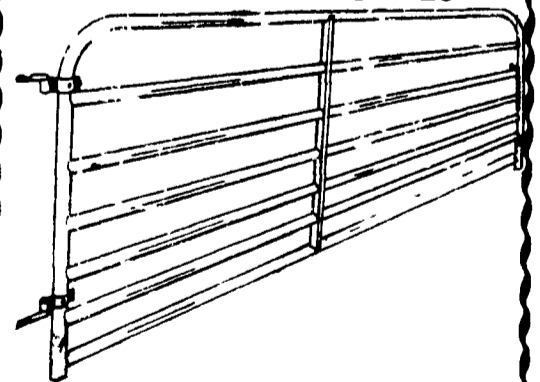
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