

30 YEARS AGO

THIS WEEK

- Last week's one-day rain and scattered showers since then have failed to aid stunted corn in southeastern Pennsylvania and many farmers are chopping damaged crops for silage, the state Department of Agriculture reported Wednesday.

The department also said that the formal request for drought aid from Berks County has been received in Harrisburg, but that no action can be taken until the state

disaster committee meets. A meeting is scheduled for sometime the week of Sept. 16.

- A limited number of registered fall boars are to be offered at the bred gilt sale to be held Feb. 22 by the newly formed Lancaster County Swine Producers Assn.

The directors of the association in a meeting held Thursday night at the Farm Bureau Cooperative decided that 10 good registered fall boars of various breeds may be

offered.

- Basic studies are helping pinpoint location of blackhead parasites in turkeys. This should lead to timing of drugs to knock out the organisms when they are most vulnerable.

Much of the USDA work on this costly and serious disease is being carried on with a harmless strain of the blackhead parasite. Use of this strain has helped researchers to turn up other new and useful information on disease aspects that are obscure when the disease is severe.

- Rats have been shown to be carriers of atrophic rhinitis- a serious swine disease commonly

called "crooked snout," the U.S. Department of Agriculture says. Findings by scientists outside

USDA had previously indicated that cats and rabbits were carriers of atrophis rhinitis.



FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 30, 1987

FAIR WEEK FOR FIELDWORK: Four days were rated suitable for fieldwork. The major activities for the week were: harvesting oats, hay, haylage, grass silage, corn silage, fruit, potatoes and other vegetables; fall plowing; seeding alfalfa; early planting of wheat and barley; clipping pastures; machinery maintenance and caring for livestock.

SOIL MOISTURE: Topsoil moisture supplies were rated short by 58 percent of our reporters, adequate by 32 percent and surplus by 10 percent. In the northern region, 42 percent rated moisture supplies short, 33 percent adequate, and 25 percent surplus. In the central region, 61 percent rated soil moisture supplies short and 39 rated it adequate. Southern region reporters rated supplies as 80 percent short and 20 percent adequate.

CORN: By week's end, the corn acreage was estimated by our reporters as being 13 percent in the silk stage, 41 percent in the dough stage, 39 percent dented, and 7 percent mature. This compared to 13 percent in the silk stage, 52 percent in the dough stage, 30 percent in the dent stage, and 5 percent mature in 1986. The five year average was 19 percent silk, 52 percent dough, 27 dented and 2 percent mature. The corn crop's condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. The harvest of corn silage progressed to 15 percent complete compared to 13 percent in 1986 and 7 percent for the five year average.

SOYBEANS: Across the Commonwealth, soybean condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 37 percent good and 27 percent excellent.

OATS: The state's oat crop harvest was virtually complete, about the same as last year. A few fields remained to be harvested in the northern region.

POTATOES: The potato acreage is estimated to be 33 percent harvested compared to 45 percent harvested at this time last year.

TOBACCO: Southern region reporters estimated 50 percent of the tobacco was harvested, about the same as last year's progress.

FRUIT: Harvest of apples was estimated to be 28 percent complete which compares to 29 percent last year. The peach crop was 79 percent picked, 2 points behind last year's progress.

FALL PLANTING: Our reporters estimate that 10 percent of the wheat has been planted for harvest next year compared to 5 percent last year. Barley planting progressed to 8 percent complete, about the same as in 1986.

FALL PLOWING: Across the state, fall plowing was reported to be 33 percent complete, the same as last year.

HAY AND PASTURE: The second cutting of alfalfa was 95 percent complete, a year ago it was virtually complete. The third cutting of alfalfa was 55 percent complete compared to 71 percent last year. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 15 percent complete compared to 13 percent a year ago. The second cutting of clover-timothy was 80 percent harvested, 5 points behind last year's harvest. The quality of hay made during the week was rated good by 35 percent of our reporters, fair by 52 percent, and poor by 13 percent. The amount of feed being obtained from pastures was rated above average by 9 percent, average by 29 percent, and below average by 62 percent of our respondents.



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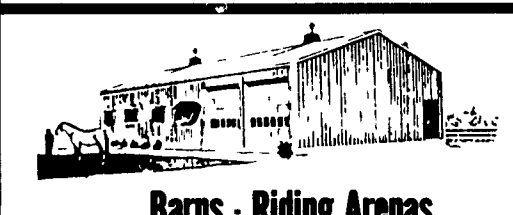
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