

FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 16

**EXCELLENT WEEK FOR FIELDWORK:** Hot and dry conditions continue to plague crop production across most of the Commonwealth. Little relief occurred over the past week. A front passed through the state at midweek, delivering rain in varying amounts. Respondents to our survey indicated that 6 days were suitable for field work. Activities for the week included repairing fence; hauling manure; harvesting hay, haylage, small grains and vegetables; maintaining machinery; spring planting; and caring for livestock.

**SOIL MOISTURE:** By week's end, topsoil moisture was rated short by 91 percent of our respondents and 9 percent rated it adequate. In the northern region, 90 percent rated it short and 10 percent rated it adequate. In the central region, 91 percent of our respondents rated soil moisture short and 9 percent rated it adequate. In the southern region, 93 percent of our respondents rated soil moisture short and 7 percent rated it as adequate.

**CORN:** The corn crop throughout the commonwealth was 98 percent planted by week's end. Last year at this time, 91 percent was planted with a five-year average of 92 percent. Planting completion by region were northern region-95 percent; central region-97 percent; and southern region-100 percent. The condition of the corn crop was rated as 10 percent excellent, 38 percent good, 33 percent fair, 16 percent poor, and 3 percent very poor.

**SOYBEANS:** Pennsylvania's soybean planting was 88 percent complete by week's end. As of this date last year, 72 percent was planted, and the five-year average was 72 percent. Planting was 92 percent completed in the northern region, 88 percent complete in the central region, and 85 percent completed in the southern region. Last week's soybean condition was rated 6 percent excellent, 38 percent good, 38 percent fair, 14 percent poor, and 4 percent very poor.

**OATS:** Ninety-one percent of the Commonwealth's oats was in the heading stage, 8 percent was in the turning yellow stage, and 1 percent was ripe. Last year at this time, 6 percent of the oats crop was in the boot stage and 94 percent of the crop was in the heading or headed stage. Oats condition was rated 9 percent excellent, 36 percent good, 34 percent fair, 17 percent poor, and 4 percent very poor.

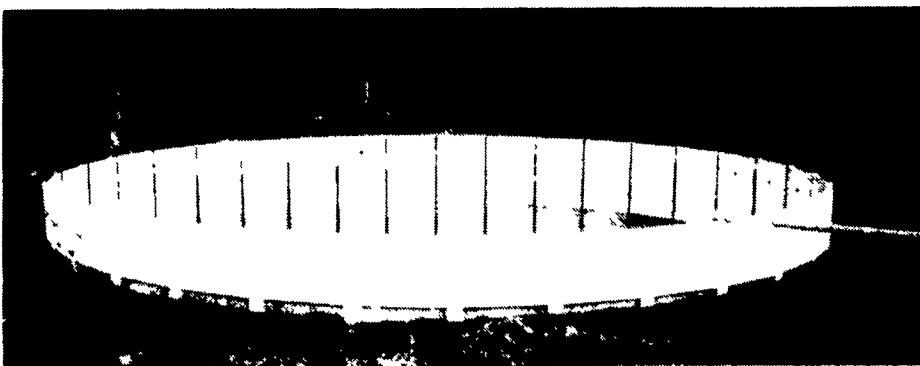
**BARLEY AND WHEAT:** Pennsylvania barley was 21 percent heading, 33 percent turning yellow, 26 percent ripe, and 20 percent harvested. At this time last year, the State's barley was 1 percent boot, 48 percent heading, 46 percent turning yellow, and 5 percent ripe. Wheat progress was 48 percent heading, 46 percent turning yellow, 4 percent ripe and 2 percent harvested. Last year's progress was 1, 86, and 13 percent, boot, headed and ripe, respectively. The wheat crop was rated 12 percent excellent, 52 percent good, 30 percent fair, 5 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor.

**TOBACCO:** Eighty-six percent of the State's tobacco had been transplanted by the end of the week, according to our respondents. Last year at this time, 65 percent of the State's tobacco had been transplanted. The five-year average was 64 percent.

**FRUIT:** Pennsylvania peach condition was rated 27 percent above average, 60 percent average, and 13 percent below average. The State's apple crop was rated 17 percent above average, 76 percent average, and 7 percent below average.

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## Black, White Show At Plainfield

**NAZARETH** (Northampton Co.) — The Northampton County extension service recently announced plans for summer dairy shows within the county.

A Holstein-only Black and White Show at Plainfield Fair is scheduled for July 25 at 10 a.m.

A youth show is scheduled for 10 a.m., on July 26 and a 4-H round up is set for August 3, also at 10 a.m.

Additionally, the Blue Valley Youth Show is marked for August 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The Black and White Show carries a \$3 entry fee, per animal. Deadline for entry is July 12. Those who wish to enter animals after July 12 can only do so by paying a \$5 per animal entry fee.

4-H and FFA exhibitors who will be showing in the black and white show must also pay a \$3 entry fee per animal.

Health regulations apply. All exhibitors are to be governed by the "General Rules to Exhibitors" which is published in the Plainfield Farmers Fair book.

Also, the show committee reserve the right to assign barn space.

There are no entry fees for any of the youth shows (unless in the black and white) or the 4-H round up.

Animals showing in the black

and white show must arrive no later than 9 p.m. July 24, except that animals that are milking can arrive by 9 a.m. on show day as long as prior arrangements with management have been made.

Show cattle in milk will be released from the fair grounds to go home after the shows on Thursday or Friday. All animals not milking must stay at the fair grounds until released by the fair committee at 10 p.m. July 27.

Specifics for the Blue Valley Youth Dairy Show are similar to the Black and White, in that governing rules are contained in the general rules, this time published in the Blue Valley Farm Show book.

Also, there is a dress code: All exhibitors must show in white uniform, or a green and white uniform.

Cows entered in the Blue Valley must arrive by 7 p.m. on August 21. All non-milking animals must be at the grounds between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on August 20. Also, all animals will be released after the show.

Checks for entry fees to the black and white show should be made payable to the Northampton County Holstein Association.

For more information, or clarification, call Greg Solt at (215) 746-1970.

## Improved Production

(Continued from Page A28)

taken into the field as regular fertilizer.

### Best bedding

"I think it's some of the best bedding there is," said Landis. "It really absorbs good. We use it for the calves, too."

Landis enjoys farming, but like many dairy farmers, has to face the lower milk price news everyday. "Right now, the money is the discouraging part," he said. "With all the money we spent and then the milk prices being down the way they are, it's not fair. The

money and everything that we have invested and what we get back and the work we have to do."

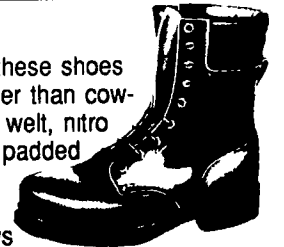
Landis said the price offered now for milk is equivalent in value to what dairy farmers were getting 17 years ago.

"Well, when you were getting that, you weren't paying for everything that you are now," he said. "Gas was maybe 40 cents a gallon. Equipment — my goodness! — one of my tractors, for a 96-horsepower tractor, (back then) I paid \$7,000. Now, for that, you'd pay about \$50,000."

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