

PMMB Visits Farms

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ted was in the form of short notes about the crop and forage conditions found on farms they visited in 37 counties.

Though conditions have been reported to vary within each county, and from farm to farm, their findings offer a glimpse at what kind of drought damage they found during the several-day first hand look.

In the report's cover letter to the board, which was signed by the both men, they said, "We feel we have received sufficient information to give our best estimates of the potential yield and what we feel the production might be at maturity.

"Rainfall from now until harvest will help soybeans and grasses. However, corn is setting ear now, and this will determine total yield. We must also take into consideration that many farmers have not been able to pay back the money they borrowed during the 1988 drought."

The report basically consists of quickly jotted notes by both men:

Chester County

My home county — We had one and one half inches of rain at the very critical time of pollination and setting of the ear. The corn in this area has a potential yield of 120 bushels in a good year, with a reduction of yield this year of about 15 percent.

Lancaster County

Similar to Chester County — corn showed much drought damage. Stalks were approximately 5 feet tall, ears about 6 inches long and not fully filled out. If corn is used for silage the potential yield would be 25 tons per acre with an estimate of 10 this year. Many dairy farms in this area will use all the crop for silage, having to buy their grain needs. Silage tonage potential in this area would be 25 tons in a normal year with about 8 tons per acre this year.

Lebanon County

Corn shorter, soil red, the pastures gone, the alfalfa dry and 4 inches tall. The corn's potential at 90 bushels — yield this year 20 bushels.

Dauphin County

Corn stalks were short and no ears appeared. Poultry in this area will not eat fodder and their very small yield of corn will be about 7 to 10 bushels. Some beef and dairy farmers are chopping green alfalfa for feed now, therefore, there will not be any haylage left to feed next winter.

Perry County

Not many dairy farmers to buy corn for silage, crop farmers do not know what they will do with this corn. Soybeans are doing fairly well, but beginning to show signs of lack of water.

Juniata County

More of the same conditions, they had a rain shower several days earlier, but we saw no signs of it as we passed through.

Mifflin County

We saw several fields of corn that yielded 50 to 60 bushels and next to it were crops that would yield approximately 25 bushels. This corn had been planted early.

Huntingdon County

We spent the first night here. The prison farm's corn was dark

green but short; it looked like half a crop. The oats looked like they would yield about one-third or 30 bushels. Second cutting alfalfa was short — some areas had good rain which might help to a degree.

Blair County

Approximately the same conditions. Yield might be 45 bushels.

Cambria County

Fields appeared a little greener. Oats would yield 65 bushels, corn 75 bushels. Yields would be reduced by 10 to 15 percent of normal.

Indiana County

Cabbage looked good; corn looked normal and appeared to be in the 85-90 bushel range. Blueberries looked good and were being picked.

Armstrong County

Yields about the same as Indiana County. Fields looked greener due to gas wells in the middle of them.

Butler County

Near normal yields. Alfalfa second cutting looked good, but not yet harvested.

Mercer County

Grove City Area. Crops appeared nearly normal, but were starting to show lack of water.

Venango and Crawford counties

Corn was growing nearly normal, but starting to need water in this critical time of pollination and ear setting. Around Meadville (Crawford County) crops began to show signs of stress conditions. Around Titusville — the grass was gone — one farmer said he was feeding next winter's stored feed to 1,000 head of 400-800 pound beef cattle. Corn might yield about a half crop.

Clarion and Jefferson counties

Looked like about half a crop of corn. A few showers could make or break the crop.

Clearfield County

It had been raining here, crops with more rain could make 50 to 60 bushel with a potential of 90 bushel in a normal year.

Centre County

Showed a definite lack of rain; some corn suffering; soybeans did not germinate well. Some fields showed a total loss of the corn crop — no ears emerging at all.

Clinton County

Travelling Route 64 from Centre County into Clinton County all appeared lost. There are not many dairy or beef farmers to use this corn for silage. Corn plants look like pineapple plants.

Union County

Starting to show stress conditions — yield approximately half a crop if it rains.

Northumberland County

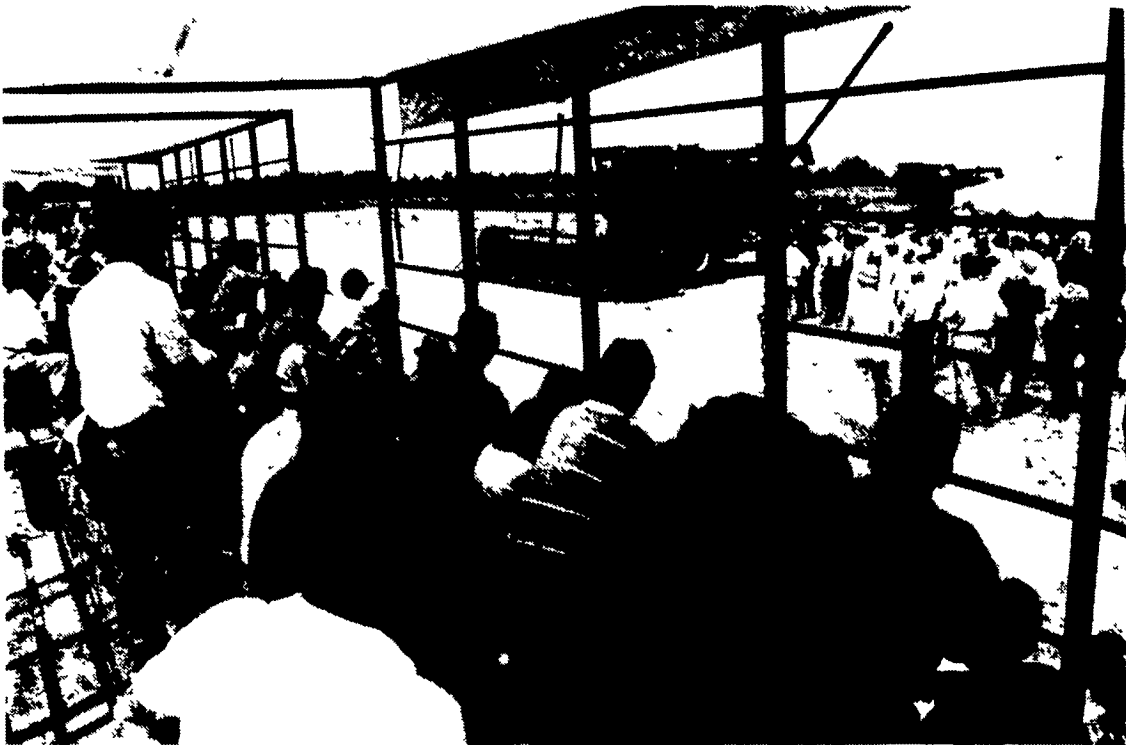
Hundreds of acres of corn only three to five feet tall. Soybeans average six inches in height — should be two feet tall. Much of the seed never germinated.

Montour and Columbia counties

Conditions were not good. Some of the area may get one-third to half a yield.

Luzerne County

Same as Montour and Columbia



A large crowd of farmers watch a new combine demonstrated at the C. B. Hooper and Son field day along Route 301 just into Maryland at the Delaware state line.

Hooper Field Day Shows Case IH Equipment In Action

MIDDLETOWN, DE — Across the fields of the Coleman farm, a little whirlwind moved lazily, floating pieces of corn fodder into a circular pattern.

The whirlwind was caused by \$1,500,000 worth of working tractors and other tillage and harvesting equipment showing off at a field demonstration sponsored by C. B. Hooper and Son, the Case IH dealer with headquarters at Inter-course and Middletown.

The demonstration day was held along Route 301, six miles south of town, just over the state line into Maryland.

Along with a full line of Case IH tractors, a number of new type machines were working. For example, a combine with a corn

head that shreds the corn stalks at the same time the corn is harvested. No additional chopping of the stalks is necessary before no-til or grain drilling operations.

An eight bottom plow with 18-inch boards that switches plowing angle from the tractor seat to accommodate the return trip through the field was working.

A new packer that has no center bearings was shown.

The new Case IH combine with a lateral floating "flex" head platform follows the field contours.

A tool to break up the hard pan and not disturb the top of the ground was demonstrated. Charles Hooper, owner, said this tool meets the requirements of the soil conservation programs to leave 30

percent of the residue on top of the ground. Not a sub-soiler, the machine acts more like a split-tiller.

Hooper said business has been good this year. He noted that the new management at the Case IH company has agricultural background and said they will direct the company in favor of agriculture. Hooper also said that with the company's programs farmers have incentives to purchase equipment now.

"We have less farmers," Hooper said. "But we have more farmers who cover 1,000 acres or more. They farm more acres with less equipment to justify the cost of the equipment."

New Feed Laboratory Opens

LITTLESTOWN (Adams Co.) — Myers Analytical Laboratory has scheduled an open house to showcase their new testing laboratory and other recently completed facilities on Thurs., Sept. 5, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Featured speaker is Dr. Marshall E. McCullough, a leading ruminant nutrition consultant.

"We recently completed the new testing laboratory and felt the time was right to have an open house," said Ginger Myers, who runs the laboratory. Included were renovations to a barn in which 22 tie stalls were removed and a new laboratory was installed in the spring this year.

The Myers Analytical Laboratory, which employs four full-time, can perform 300-400 samples per week on forage, soils, and water, and routinely analyzes the nutri-

tional values of livestock feed.

The tour begins at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday with a hog roast luncheon at noon.

McCullough, professor emeritus of animal nutrition at the Experiment Station of the University of Georgia, has written the book, "Optimum Feeding of Dairy Cattle," which introduced optimum rations, or total mixed rations (TMR), for dairy cows. He writes regularly for "Hoard's Dairyman" magazine and "Farmshine" newspaper.

McCullough will speak at 12:30 p.m. on the topic, "Planning for the Feeding of Dairy Cows Under Drought Conditions."

"We feel extremely fortunate to have Dr. McCullough speak out our open house," said Myers. Reservations are requested by contacting Myers at (717) 359-4216.

York Fair To Feature Ag In Space

JOYCE BUYP

York Co. Correspondent

YORK (York Co.)— Imagine stalking corn borers in the back forty from your office desk, or tracking down a wandering Bossie and her calf via your computer screen.

Science fiction, you say? Then stop by "NASA's Link to Agriculture," a display at the York Fair depicting how tomorrow's agriculture problems can be solved

with today's space-satellite technology.

"NASA's Link to Agriculture" is a sight and sound, question, answer and handout program scheduled for a four-day run at the York Fair. The York visit is one of only two being made to Pennsylvania fairs by the traveling education-public information display on satellite computer imagery.

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