



FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 15

This is the last report in the 1992 series of the Weekly Crop and Weather Roundup. Because of the lateness of the season, collection of data on the remaining crop activities will be continued for a few weeks and the results can be obtained from PDA. We thank those respondents who supplied information to make this release possible. The Weekly Crop and Weather Roundup will resume next spring.

FAIR WEEK FOR FIELDWORK: This past week started cool and ended cool. A strong cold front swept through the state Thursday and Friday bringing all the weekly rain and the highest temperature. Temperature and precipitation were both above normal for the week. According to our survey, there were four days suitable for fieldwork. Activities included hauling manure; maintaining machinery; cutting and baling hay; making corn silage; fall plowing; harvesting soybeans, grain corn, and fruit; planting wheat; fixing fences; and caring for livestock.

SOIL MOISTURE: By week's end, topsoil moisture was rated adequate by 71 percent of our respondents and surplus by 29 percent. Fifty percent of our respondents in the northern region rated soil moisture as adequate, and 50 percent rated it surplus. In the central region, 80 percent of our reporters rated soil moisture as adequate and 20 percent rated it surplus. In the southern region, 69 percent rated it adequate and 31 percent rated it surplus.

CORN: Ninety-three percent of the corn was mature compared to 100 percent last year and the five-year average of 100 percent. Forty-five percent of the corn had been harvested by the end of the week. This compares to 84 percent last year and the five-year average of 66 percent. The corn crop for the state was rated 26 percent excellent, 51 percent good, 18 percent fair, 4 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Corn silage harvest was virtually complete.

SOYBEANS: Soybean harvest was 65 percent complete. Last year it was 81 percent complete. Soybean condition at the end of the week was rated 5 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 20 percent excellent.

WHEAT: Wheat planting was essentially complete, the same as last year.

POTATOES: Pennsylvania potato harvest was virtually complete by week's end, the same as last year.

FALL PLOWING: Ninety percent of fall plowing was complete. Last year it was 93 percent complete.

FRUIT: Apple and grape harvest was virtually complete by week's end. A year ago they were complete.

HAY AND PASTURE: By week's end, the third cutting of alfalfa was virtually complete. The fourth cutting was 89 percent complete compared to 91 percent last year. The quality of hay made was rated good by 44 percent of our reporters, fair by 44 percent, and poor by 12 percent. The quality of feed being obtained from pastures was rated good by 22 percent of our reporters, fair by 44 percent, poor by 15 percent, and very poor by 19 percent.

Polish Scientist Studies

(Continued from Page C12)

Technology in Lublin, Poland, Tomasz M. Gruszecki is visiting Penn State's department of dairy and animal science until the end of November. He wants to learn more about the reproductive ability of sheep and the meat quality of lamb products. To that end, Gruszecki is attending undergraduate classes at University Park, and will visit two sheep farms in Centre Region and several Pennsylvania lamb packing plants.

"I have enjoyed attending classes here," says Gruszecki. "The experience of listening is important since I am usually teaching. Your lectures offer more give and take between teachers and students—more open discussion." Gruszecki sits in on meat science, taught by Professor Edward Mills, and Professor Clair Engle's Sheep Production.

Gruszecki says Penn State is rich in equipment and laboratories. He is especially impressed with the ability to bridge the gap

between agricultural scientists and farmers. The main contact with producers in Poland is through breed associations.

Gruszecki will also spend time with Donald Evans, assistant director of Penn State Cooperative Extension, learning how we get research information out to producers. They are working together to initiate a program for teaching Polish youth about private enterprise.

Gruszecki's visit to the United States, including Brown University, South Dakota State, and Penn State, is funded by the International Research Exchange Program (IREX). Engle believes that programs such as this cultivate a dialogue for learning more about our respective agricultural bases. "This ultimately will provide better agriculture for all peoples of the world," he says.

Anyone wishing to reach Gruszecki during his stay here can contact him through Ed Mills (814-863-0669) or Clair Engle (814-863-3669).

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