Hot Spell Helps State Farmers Get in Planting

Best Progress of Season Made Last Week; Corn, Oats, Potatoes Started

ALBANY, June 9 (A).—High temperatures helped New York farmers, still hampered by rain, to make the best progress of the season in the last week, the United States Department of Commerce said tonight.

A report for the week stated that a considerable acreage of oats was sown and a start made in planting corn and potatoes. In central New York, the report added, sowing of canning peas was completed and planting of the snap-bean crop started. In western New York tomato planting continued on the dryer soils.

With an abundance of moisture and warmer weather, vegetation advanced rapidly, the department noted. Most meadows and pastures are in “excellent condition,” the report continued, “although the hay crop is beginning to lodge badly in some sections.”

The department said it had reports that alfalfa was nearly ready to cut and, where possible to plant them, early potatoes and corn “looked good.” In some localities, however, small grains were not in the ground, and little plowing for corn had been done.

Despite considerable rain, the amount of sunshine “was adequate in most sections,” the department said.

Harvest Course to Open

A special summer course in which 200 students will integrate college studies with the harvesting of 100,000 bushels of peas and snap beans will start on Tuesday at Brooklyn College, Avenue H and Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn.

After intensive classroom lectures for a week the students will go by special train to the New York State Agricultural and Technical Institute at Morrisville, N. Y., where they will conduct their studies and hire out on piecework basis to neighboring farmers.

The course, under the direction of Dr. Ralph C. Benedict, professor of biology at Brooklyn College, is designed to permit students to advance in their college work and at the same time assist in producing vitally needed food crops. About two-thirds of the 200 students already enrolled in the course are young women.

Laboratory Work in Field

Studies which the students will pursue include farm biology, geology, rural sociology, military topography and navigation, in which much of the laboratory work can be done in the fields amid the peas and beans. Other studies such as English composition and literature, political science, sociology and mathematics also will be offered evenings at the institute, although they cannot not be closely co-related to farming activities. Regular college credit will be allowed for completing courses.

The student harvesting activities, which will last through Sept. 15, will be paid for on a piece work basis at prevailing farm wages.