

AGRICULTURE STICKS TO IT DESPITE RAIN

~~The woes of Kent fruit farmers, hit by untimely hail and gales, are little less than in other forms of agriculture. Not only this year's crop~~

Kent fruit growers, hit by untimely hail and gales, bemoan their fate no less than the general farmer. In some places not only this year's crop is ruined, next year's is threatened too, by permanent damage ^{to} of the trees.

Runner beans, all but stripped by hail, are a big loss to Kentish market gardeners. Fortunately the hail at its worst was in a fairly small area. But all right-minded men will learn with something like horror that ~~the~~ hops suffered even worse than ~~the~~ beans. We shall have to shut our eyes and hope for the best when we ask for a pint next year. Milk, on the other hand, has benefitted by the wet weather so far. It's meant plenty of good grass right through summer. In parts of the country ^{corn} ~~has~~ been harvested. Here in the East Grinstead area farmers have been comparatively fortunate.

yet The overall picture is gloomy. The harvest is more than three weeks behind, ^{is} Failing a run of sunny weather agriculture ~~is~~ in for a bad year. often because the land is so wet the combine harvesters can't work on it. Thankful indeed are farmers who aren't in that plight.