

● **Wet Spring**

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Elizabethtown vicinity farmer, adding, "and there's none up yet."

Although some fields were expected to be passable by Friday morning, he said, the ground generally is still not really fit.

Although they usually like to get their corn planting underway by May 10th in that area, the dairyman said that if they can get started pretty soon now there will still be plenty of time to get a crop out.

NEW HOLLAND AREA

Some muslin-covered tobacco seedbeds in the New Holland area were uncovered for the first time this week. Plants are reported small, about dime-sized.

Between the late plants and the increasing work-schedule pressure, a New Holland steer feeder noted there wouldn't be much tobacco planted in his area during May.

Tobacco plants at the state field research farm near Landisville were also reported to be nearly two weeks behind. But research agronomist Hen-

ry Engle told this reporter that leaves were half-dollar-size in some of the beds that had been covered with a combination of plastic and muslin. This double covering represents a new experiment this year and promises to stand up better than the plastic covered arches under the windy conditions often experienced in that area. Engle added that the plastic was being removed this week so that the plants won't be burned, but the muslin covering will be left on.

Back in the New Holland area, it was reported that some of the farmers using horses began planting corn Thursday; others were generally waiting until Friday to get started.

LITITZ-MANHEIM AREA

Potato planting in the Lititz-Manheim vicinity was reported 85 percent completed by one large grower. He noted that the few plants that are up look good, but that the whole crop is about two weeks behind schedule.

One crop farmer who said he usually has his entire corn crop planted by this time reported only 50 acres completed. He anticipates rapid completion of

the job if the clear weather holds, however.

Following a plow-plant system which usually enables him to get his planting done earlier than most, he generally has a good part of his corn crop in by the last week in April. Not this year.

QUARRYVILLE AREA

A dairyman-crop farmer in the Quarryville section said he only had five acres of corn planted before the rains came about May 6th. The ground is drying off in good shape in his area, he noted. He expects to have his corn all planted by about the middle of next week.

The rain has pushed a lot of growth on some early tomato plants. These look good on one Quarryville farm, the owner said. The cool weather hasn't helped too much though

SUMMARY

While the season is slow, late, cold, and wet so far, there is apparently no need for undue concern about making a corn crop this year. According to associate county agent Arnold G. Lueck, if the weather breaks now, there will still be time to grow out full-season corn varieties.

It is felt that weeds may get an extra good start this spring, but most farmers seem to use herbicides after planting. Those that don't, probably should consider trying it this year. The general estimate is that the small percentage of the county's corn crop that was planted before the rains will not be substantially ahead of corn planted in the next week. Net loss due to weather mostly time.

The high cost of living has not affected its popularity, yet.

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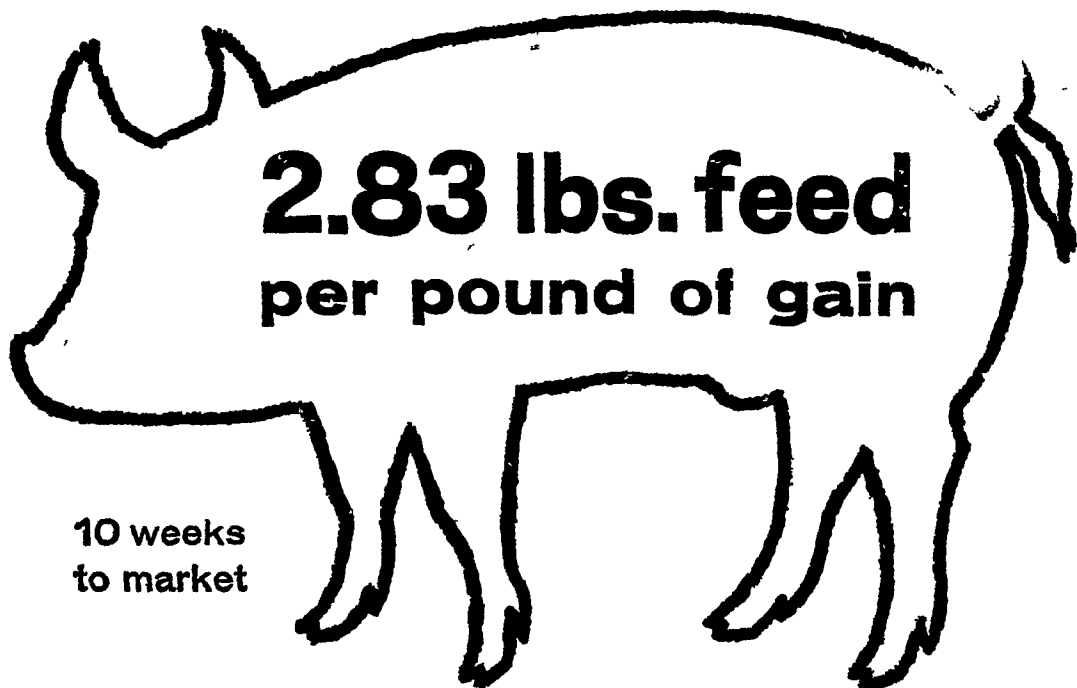
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