

Corn planting started

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County related that at the beginning of the week, conditions were "super dry". He stated that the rain was very badly needed, but thought that most farmers were now on schedule in their fieldwork, having been pushing very hard in the last three to four weeks. With the rain arriving, he thought farmers would give a big push to get their corn into the ground very quickly.

Norman Laffey, from the Cochranville area in Chester County, stated that conditions there too had been dry. He had about one third of his 200 acres of corn planted, and was glad to see the rain come.

From the Berks County area a farmer located near Myerstown, stated that the rain was a welcome sight. He hadn't planted any corn yet but stated that hopefully by the end of next week he would have it all in the ground.

The same farmer related that he had had some trouble getting fertilizer in the last month.

"I had to wait four days for my fertilizer to come," he noted. "And I didn't get any lime this year, I would have had to wait two weeks for that. So now I'll just put that on in the Fall."

The farmer went on to explain that he feels that he is still about a week and a half behind in his work, and

feels that most of his neighbors are at the same spot. But they expect to catch up shortly and be on schedule within the next two weeks.

A farmer from the Ephrata area in Lancaster County stated that condition were good now. "They had been a little dry", he too commented, "but I think this rain will do the trick." He has one half of his corn planted and noted that although Spring may have made him start work a little late, he was in good shape now.

And near Mount Joy, in Lancaster County, Paul Newcomer, who is in the 79th year of farming, and now farming with his son, stated that with the rain, the ground was wonderful. Earlier he admitted that it had been a little dusty, but he explained that he had been able to plow early and that there was moisture in his soil. He noted that about half of his corn was planted.

Fertilizer companies seemed to be breathing a little easier too this past week.

Bill Brubaker, representing the Organic Plant Food Co., Lancaster, stated that the demand for fertilizer is beginning to ease off, with the big push behind. He stated that his company had been working day and night for the past month, but that after all the worry, the

Spring hadn't been that terribly unusual after all.

"Potash was a little critical for a short time", he explained, "but it wasn't as bad as it could have been. From here on out, things should just ease off."

Thinking of the fields and their conditions, he stated that he thinks there is a good bit of corn in the ground even though before the rain he too found the soil dry in the top several inches.

"Everyone's planting corn!" Jim Bowersox of the Chemgro Fertilizer Company stated. "Right now the basic push is for the corn starter, but the crisis situation is over. And we haven't turned one customer away."

For awhile, he went on to explain, they had been

Barbecue set on Sunday

ARENDSVILLE — The Adams County Poultry Association will be holding their semi-annual public chicken barbecue dinner to be held in connection with Apple Blossom on Sunday, May 7.

The association will be serving barbecued chicken dinners from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville. The cost will be \$3.75 for full course dinner featuring a half of chicken and \$3. for a full course dinner with a quarter of chicken.

temporarily making adjustments, in getting their fertilizer out to people but now that the plowdown was slowing down, problems were easing.

He had heard some stories of some other companies having to truck fertilizer in from as far away as Ohio but repeated that that was all in the past now and conditions were more favorable now.

One explanation a farmer gave that the fertilizer situation wasn't as bad as it could have been was because of the situation in the mid-west. Because that region is behind in their fieldwork due to wet conditions, more fertilizer became available in the east. As one farmer put it, "If the Midwest would have been on schedule this Spring, we would have had more problems than we did."

So, the rain that continued to fall on the fields Friday was a welcome sight to farmers planting their corn.

It helped settle the dust and put some moisture back into the soil.

"As soon as the rain is done," one farmer put it, "there's going to be an

awfully lot of farmers, out getting their corn in the ground. And then things are going to look pretty good. That is, if nothing else happens."

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