

Corn up, hay looks good as conditions improve

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mented that his corn was planted on schedule and looked good. His biggest concern was his wheat.

"My wheat's just not so good," he related. "It's not as tall, and it won't give as much straw. Winter was awfully hard on it."

From Chester County,

another farmer echoed the concern about the wheat.

"My wheat's shorter than usual because of the dry period earlier this year," he explained. "But I'm hoping to have nice grain. Often when the wheat is shorter, the grain is nicer."

Chester County farmers estimate around 2/3 of the corn is planted and some is as high as four inches already. With two to three nice days, the rest of the corn will be planted and the farmers will turn to cutting hay.

"It's perfect hay, beautiful alfalfa," one stated. "I haven't seen any cut yet, but it will start shortly."

There are a few reports in Chester County of field corn rotting.

"In a few spots, the corn was just planted too deep," the farmers agreed. "Water laid in the fields and the corn just rotted. Some varieties of corn were worse than others." They estimated about five per cent of the corn was hurt in this way.

There was also some



A soon to be familiar sight is the baling of the hay as farmers intend to start cutting shortly, weather cooperating.

report of erosion from the fields but this too seemed to be minimal in the farming reports. Especially among those who commented on the conservation practices they used such as contour strips and terraces, the gullies seemed to be few and minor.

A Lebanon County farmer stated that more or less all the corn was planted and he had seen quite a lot around three inches high.

"I've heard a few reports of some corn rotting, but I haven't seen any," was his

reply. "And that rain did wonders for the hay. I've seen one person starting to cut his hay, and that was last week. So it got caught in the rain."

One York County farmer estimated that about 50 to 75 per cent of the corn is in that county.

"We had a nice day on Thursday," was his comment. "It's not bad in the fields now but it had been wet. I imagine the rest of the corn will be put in shortly." He added that the moisture content in the soil now was good, real good.

Another farmer from that county commented on the hay. "It looks pretty good over here," he said. "I've seen lots of good hay and a few farmers are starting to cut the alfalfa now."

Finally, from Berks

County the comment was that around 75 per cent of the corn is planted with the rest going in the ground shortly. There were no reports of hay cut yet, but some farmers thought that it too would be done shortly.

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