

# Lancaster Farming

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## Farmers Work Around Spring Weather



**BIRD-IN-HAND** (Lancaster Co.)—Above, Gene Bare, left, and Bob Musser fill the fertilizer boxes on the corn planter Tuesday before rain in the middle of the week interrupted field work again. The corn planting operation on Bare's farm north of Bird-in-Hand was a no-till operation on soybean stubble. Bare said the savings of time and fuel from not plowing and cultivating the land was tremendous, and the yields in no-till planted fields in past years have been good.

Musser, who runs the custom planter with Merle Groff, said planting started late last week, but many fields still had wet spots from the spring rains. Many lime trucks and manure spreaders got stuck in

the mud this spring and farmers complain about being three weeks behind on their work schedule. But for Bare, corn planting this year was within a day of the starting date last year.

At right, John Groff makes an early cutting of rye for the silos on his family farm south of Salunga. The wet weather makes the grass grow but keeps many planting operations at bay.

Below, Myron Rohrer, Landville Road, Manheim, works the ground as field work began in earnest early this week. After the mid-week rains, the weather person now promises dry, sunny days into next week.

The Pennsylvania Crop

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## Legislature Approves Nutrient Management, Governor Will Sign

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Nutrient management is here. On Wednesday morning, the state Senate approved House Bill 100, a proposal for nutrient management, ending the years-old struggle in the state Legislature and among special interest groups to create a program to ensure that those who apply nutrients to the earth are doing so in a responsible and non-polluting manner.

The 25-page law (reprinted with this article) outlines a program whereby high-density livestock producers must create and implement a plan for managing the manure produced by their operation. The number of operations to be affected is estimated to be small, relative to the number of farms in the state.

The law was requested by those seeking to fulfill a promise made by Gov. Robert Casey that Pennsylvania would reduce its nutrient load into the Chesapeake Bay by 40 percent, by 2000.

Agriculture had been selected as a first target for seeking tighter controls because it is included among that class of suspected applicators of excessive nitrogen and other nutrients, and because it is an obvious applicator of nutrients.

However, human manure, is also highly suspect as a non-point source of excessive nutrients, because of the number of on-lot septic systems and drainage fields, and the number of people as compared to livestock. The proposed law directs that all nutrient sources be researched and solutions found.

Also, the law effectively preempts local nutrient management ordinances, which were beginning to be passed in different sub-county municipalities and which threatened to create a statewide hodgepodge of rules, depending on political boundaries and bent.

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## New 4-H Center Will Link All County Roundups, Other Activities

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GUTHRIESVILLE (Chester Co.) — An attempt to bring together all the various Chester County 4-H shows and attract the attention of those wanting to learn more about 4-H is beginning to crystallize.

That crystallization is taking place with plans to construct a new center, called the Romano 4-H

Center of Chester County, along Rt. 322 north of Guthriesville and just south of Honey Brook.

The estate and heirs of Fiorre A. Romano of West Brandywine Township have recently donated 15 acres of land and have allowed the Chester County 4-H Center an option to purchase an additional five acres to create a 20-acre site for activities.

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