



Ed Heal of The Free Press

Enough already, says Medina-area farmer Don Darling as he peers at the soggy 35-hectare field in which he plans to sow corn. Like other area farmers who have weathered a cold, rainy May, he is hoping the rain will dry up and allow his fields to be planted.

Area farmers just slip, slidin' away

By Gord Wainman
of The Free Press

Cold, rainy weather in May has angered many an urban golfer but his country cousin has much more at stake than recreation — farmers' pocketbooks are threatened by deep, clinging mud, which has made seeding of 1983 crops nearly impossible for many.

Bad weather has plagued farm-

ers all May — that first crucial month of the field crop planting season — so much so that three major commodity spokesmen said Monday they are more than concerned.

Wet weather last weekend and unsettled forecasts for this week are forcing a number of anxious farmers to scramble planting decisions on a day-to-day basis, said Ken Patterson of Kerwood, chairman of the Ontario Grain Corn Council. The first week of June is

crucial to farmers whose planting intentions have been thrown awry — many will be forced to sow crops they originally didn't intend to, he said.

"Farmers haven't been able to move (because of the mud). And with the rain we've had, it could be three or four days until some farmers can get on to the fields," Patterson said.

"We could end up with crop shortages," said an anxious Otis McGre-

gor, manager of the Ontario Soybean Growers' Marketing Board in Chatham. Not only have many producers been unable to get their crops in because they can't get heavy equipment into the muddy fields, but cold, wet weather has forced some to replant.

Charles Broadwell, manager of the Ontario Bean Producers' Marketing Board in London, said he expects some farmers — prevented from sowing corn and soybeans — will turn to white beans. His board had expected a considerable acreage cut this year because 1982 was a surplus-bean, low-price year.

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