

EVANSVILLEPHILHARMONIC.ORG/EPYO/ALUMNI



Image Description: Violin section from first year of EPYO in 1993

Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Alumni

ALUMNI CONCERT

The EPYO is thrilled to invite former members of the youth orchestra to join the '23-'24 students on stage at the Victory Theatre for their 30th Anniversary Alumni Concert on Saturday, November 18th. Head to [this form](#) to sign up and get your music for the concert. Participating alumni must be registered through this form by November 4th to participate. Rehearsal will be the same day as the performance to make it easy for our members visiting from out of town.

The rehearsal and performance will be on Saturday, November 18th. Rehearsal will run from during the day and the performance begins at 7:00 p.m

Alumni performers should register [HERE](https://forms.office.com/r/UxxypiRXPQ) [https://forms.office.com/r/UxxypiRXPQ] by November 4th to receive their music and make arrangements to perform.

Alumni reception details TBA.

Can't attend but want to support the future of the orchestra? Use this button to [make a donation](#) [Link donation page <https://evansvillephilharmonic.org/donate/>] to support this group.

HISTORY OF THE EVANSVILLE PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1993, the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, or EPYO, has been an establishment in the Evansville music education community for 30 years. This group has performed all across the country and even in Japan and will soon travel to Washington D.C. in the spring of 2024. The last EPYO trip was over 20 years ago.



Cellist Jenny Miles, from left, violinists Rachel Lackey and Mary Ochsner and violist Diane

Schroeder performed at Thursday's Christmas luncheon of the Evansville Philharmonic

gorgeous bodies, I found myself thinking I wouldn't ever eat again. But I think I'll have lunch."
Lynn Lowe was still basking in the glow of the September trip to a Mexican spa she took with Debra Talley, Frieda Henneberger and Peggy Schwentker. "We had such a fabulous time, we've decided to make it an annual trip," she said.

Philharmonic Music Director Alfred Savia greeted guild members and told of the enthusiastic response to the Philharmonic Youth Concerts, sponsored by the guild and supervised by guild members. A dining-room bulletin board held notes of appreciation from children who have attended the concerts during the past year.

One little boy wrote a thank-you note that Savia has on his desk. It ends with, "See you around, big guy!"

From a young lady came a thank-you note attesting to the fact she had enjoyed the concert that offered excerpts from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" that included a Mendelssohn wedding march. Hearing it, without doubt, inspired the young lady to express the desire for the Philharmonic Orchestra to play for her wedding.

After lunch, members of the guild and their guests were entertained by representatives of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

Because her daughter, Susan, was ailing, Diane Schroeder was a more than able substitute on viola. Mrs. Schroeder also plays viola in the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra.

Joining Mrs. Schroeder in the program of holiday season music were violinists Rachel Lackey and Mary Ochsner and cellist Jenny Miles, all Harrison High School students.

Evansville Philharmonic Guild President Carolyn Colton and her board of directors were hostesses Thursday at a Christmas luncheon for guild members and their guests at the Petroleum Club.

As guests sipped champagne punch during the social hour, there was much talk about the spectacular Ebony Fashion Fair, staged Wednesday night in Vanderburgh Auditorium.

"I thought it was terrific," Judy Morton told the eight women at her table, all guests of Genevieve Bootz. "I was so inspired I just wanted to go home and sew something."

Mary Kennard regretted that she didn't insist upon her husband, Gene, accompanying her to the show. "I know Gene would have loved it, just as all the men there did," she said. "And after seeing those beautiful models with their

Youth Orchestra makes its debut a memorable one

Prior to the final piece in Saturday night's Philharmonic Youth Orchestra debut concert, conductor Robert Moody turned to the capacity audience of nearly 500 and said, "These are the musicians of the 21st century."

The orchestra of players from area middle and high schools then launched into an exuberant performance of selections from "West Side Story," which was written by Leonard Bernstein.

Bernstein would have been proud.

Most of his considerable career was directed at making the youth of this country aware of and involved in orchestral music, and those who are participating in the newly formed orchestra are shining examples of how that legacy has been passed on to new generations.

The hour-long concert, "Tribute to the American Spirit," was mounted in the Methodist Temple sanctuary, which afforded the players some grand acoustics that added not only clarity but also energy to the playlist.

But energy was not in short supply. The young musicians were rife with excitement as the audience took their seats. When Moody, who is also assistant conductor for the Evansville Philharmonic, took the podium, looks of anticipation and pride crossed faces throughout the orchestra.

The opening selection was Aaron Copland's "An Outdoor Overture," a sweeping piece that allowed each of the individual sections of the orchestra brief moments to shine. Written specifically for a youth orchestra, the piece featured a stirring trumpet solo and some fine woodwind work.

Another of Copland's works, "Variations on a Shaker Melody," was appropriately gentle yet in-

CONCERT REVIEW

By Sherry Crawford
Courier correspondent

spiring, reflecting the simple lifestyle of the Shakers.

A piece by William J. McDaniel, a native Kentuckian from near Lexington, allowed the orchestra to experiment with unusual and colorful passages. Less melodious than earlier selections, the point of the piece lay in the impressions it left of images of the Tri-State.

Though some of the audience could not see them, slides of the Evansville area were shown as the orchestra wove an intricate musical backdrop. McDaniel took a bow for the composition at its end.

Having worked through a strong and emotional interpretation of Bach and Stokowski's "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Sleepers Wake!)," the orchestra fairly soared through "West Side Story." The piece, which featured bits of songs such as "Maria," "Tonight" and "One Hand, One Heart," was bright and powerful.

While some passages in the selections suffered a bit from some tentative entrances and exits, and while some moments of imprecision were apparent, the overall effort was exciting.

These young people have the one thing that makes instrumental music of any kind inspirational — passion. More than once Moody seemed to be almost holding them back in their eagerness to create good music. And create it they did.

Congratulations to the Youth Orchestra, Robert Moody, the Evansville Philharmonic and to the community that is the beneficiary of this fine group.



Developing musicians

Philharmonic Youth Orchestra celebrates first season

By Sandra Knipe
Entertainment reporter

"You gotta think, guys, you gotta think," Robert Moody reminded members of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra at the last full rehearsal before the final concert of their first season.

It was a repeated refrain muttered by a conductor in the typical throes of pre-concert jitters. Not only do the young players — 60 of them from 25 different schools in Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois — have to think, they have to think as one.

"I think we have our brains together now," Moody said before announcing the 2 1/2-hour rehearsal's one five-minute break.

The Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra — whose members represent some of the most gifted music students in the Tri-State — has come "eons and eons" from its first rehearsal last September, Moody said later, while his young musicians, some of whom commute from as much as an hour and a half away, packed up their instruments.

Moody expects them to prove it at the final concert of their first season as an orchestra at 8 p.m. tomorrow at Bosse High School's newly-renovated auditorium.

"There is an amazing difference from that first rehearsal. We played some things from 'West Side Story,' and I left at the end of the day thinking, 'What have we done? What have we done?'

"What have we gotten ourselves into?" I remember telling them that they were part of a completely unique organization — that in the late 20th century it was a very rare opportunity to be able to create something that hadn't existed before — a private, public, parochial school youth orchestra where you didn't have to live in a particular county. I told them it would take a lot of work and a lot of commitment."

For players such as Christy Couch of Owensville, Ind., that commitment includes a 45-minute drive straight from



Photos by Randy Greenwell

At top, Conductor Robert Moody leads the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra in a rehearsal. Above, stage lights are reflected in French horns played by Amy Haynes (left) and Julie Hansen.

school to weekly rehearsals in Evansville. Two orchestra members from Illinois travel even farther for the chance to be charter members of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

"It's exciting, because it's the best from all over the Tri-State. You get to meet a lot of people, and you get to play a lot of great pieces of music," said Couch, a 16-year-old junior at Gibson Southern High School in Fort Branch and a trombonist in the Youth Orchestra.

It's the beginning instrumental music teachers — not the famous conductors of great orchestras who should be



Conductor Robert Moody

making the big bucks, according to Moody, who also is assistant conductor of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and music director of the Evansville Philharmonic Chorus.

"You have to be conductor, teacher, parent, psychiatrist and coach," he said.

"On the flip side, it's the most exciting kind of conducting. These students

had never played Rossini before. Last week a bass trombonist had said he wouldn't be able to make this rehearsal. After that rehearsal, when everyone was completely

focused and everything was clicking along, he came up to me and said, 'I'm going to miss my other obligation. When we're doing this level of playing, I want to be here.'"

Moody said the Youth Orchestra has had a wide base of support from both the community and its parent organization, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, whose players sit in on rehearsals and serve as coaches for their particular sections.

Philharmonic second violinist Bill Willis, whose gray beard was conspicuous in the string section, has been at every rehearsal.

The first reward for that work and commitment from both the players and their coaches came with the first concert in November at the Methodist Temple, when "we had 550 people hanging from the rafters in a hall meant to hold 500," Moody said.

For the final concert, Moody decided to look for a bigger hall. He spoke to Jack Schriber, supervisor of fine arts for the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corp., who told him about Bosse's new auditorium, which will hold 900.

"And here we are," Moody said after this week's rehearsal. "Just look at it. It's beautiful — acoustically too. It may be the best hall in town."

The conductor also discovered in the interim between the orchestra's first and last concerts that his musicians are capable of playing "more difficult music than I was giving them credit

for."

As a result, tomorrow's program is one that demands mature musicianship from its young players — beginning with Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" and including Mozart's overture to "The Magic Flute," Maurice Ravel's "Pavane for a Dead Princess," Gioacchino Rossini's overture to "The Barber of Seville," and the first and fourth movements from Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 2, as well as selections from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera."

Copland's "Fanfare" will showcase the orchestra's brass section, composed mostly of graduating seniors, which Moody said has "shown great leadership this year." Sibelius' composition will "knock you out of your seat," he warned.

The Youth Orchestra will double its concerts — from two to four — during the second season, which will include performances at "First Night," the community-wide New Year's Eve celebration of the arts, and as part of First Presbyterian Church's Sacred Arts Series.

Tickets for tomorrow's concert, sponsored by Schuttler Music, are \$5 and may be purchased at the door at Bosse High School.

"It should be a really exciting concert," Moody said. "It's the first full orchestral concert in this new hall, which is an event in itself, and it's the final gem in the crown of our first year."

Auditions for the second season of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra will be

Tuesday and Wednesday in the

auditorium of St. Benedict School, 530 S. Harlan Ave.

Auditions are open to Tri-State public, private and parochial music students who will be in grades 9-12 this fall. Younger musicians may audition if they submit written recommendations from their band or orchestra directors or private teachers.

For more information or to obtain an application, call the Philharmonic office at 425-5050. The application deadline is Monday.



Press photo by John Dunham

Composer Mason Bates, 17, listens to the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra rehearse.

Youth orchestra to premiere teen's work

By Sandra Knipe
Entertainment reporter

"The Bates!" announced Robert Moody, brandishing a score above the heads of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

The young orchestra had just finished rehearsing "the Rossini," Gioacchino Rossini's Overture to William Tell. Now their conductor was signaling that it was time to begin "the Bates," a new composition by a composer no older than the high school-age musicians who will perform it on Saturday.

The Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra will open its second season with the world premiere of Free Variations for Orchestra, the first orchestral piece by Mason Bates, 17, of Richmond, Va. The concert, by the orchestra which consists of 76 young musicians from 34 schools in Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois, will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1303 S. Green River Road.

Bates, a high school senior at St. Christopher's School in Richmond, rocked back in his chair and bit a fingernail as he listened to his peers play his work. Earlier he had confessed that he was "sort of nervous" about this first time meeting with the musicians playing his piece.

"For me, the most important thing is for the musicians to have fun playing it," he said. "Whether the work is good or bad, it would kill me if as a composer I heard someone say, 'God, I hate playing this music!'"

Bates, who said the most musical member of his family is his father who likes big band music, began playing the piano "for fun" in second grade. Soon, he was "writing little pieces for fun."

"There wasn't this intense pressure to make music since I was a fetus. I sort of discovered it myself," said Bates, who also is captain of the cross country track team, literary magazine editor and chairman of the honor council at St.

Christopher's. He has two big events this week — the premiere of his first orchestral composition and "a really important cross country meet."

The young composer became more serious about his "little pieces" when he encountered a new piano teacher, Hope Armstrong Erb, as a freshman at St. Christopher's. She introduced him to 20th-century composers such as Paul Hindemith and Francis Poulenc.

Midway through his sophomore year, he wrote his first "big piece," a piano sonata, which was entered in a competition. The prize was the opportunity to study composition with Dika Newlin at Virginia Commonwealth University, who has been his teacher for two years. The summer after his sophomore year, he met Moody, assistant conductor of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina, where Moody is choral director.

A year ago, he received a call from Moody, who had showed Bates' work to his boss, Evansville Philharmonic Music Director Alfred Savia. Savia suggested that they commission Bates to write a piece for the Youth Orchestra.

"They told me I could write up to 20 minutes of music and said, 'Do whatever you want.' For a composer, that's a dream come true," said Bates, who spent several months studying scores and reading basic books on orchestral composition before sitting down to write.

He completed Free Variations for Orchestra, the first piece commissioned by the Evansville youth orchestra, last summer at the Tanglewood Music Institute, where he was one of nine young composers from the United States, Japan, Hungary, Germany and Great Britain at the prestigious summer music camp.

"I used to have this romantic idea that you sit down at the piano to write and whatever happens, happens. Now, it's more of a craft," he said.

General admission tickets for the concert, sponsored by Schuttler Music, are \$5 and may be purchased at the door.

Schnucks

The Friendliest Stores in Town

Super School Kids



by John Hamsley

I used to take tap dancing lessons. I played the tuba for only a short while in grade school. I sang so badly and couldn't carry a note to the next room that I was never allowed to sing anywhere. I use to play the piano by using a color coded music sheet that matched the color coded keys. All this musical talent untapped and going to waste.

Such is most certainly not the case with the girls of the Mark Cummins family and particularly Katie age 13 and an 8th grader at Perry Heights Middle School. Mark may try and take credit for the musical talent in this family and he may well deserve some but when talking with and listening to Charlotte Cummins play the harp and piano I am convinced mom has the lions share of responsibility for the musical skills.

Katie has excelled not only in music as I will explain later, but has also set herself apart in the class room. She is regularly on the "A" honor roll and is a student presently participating in the Horizons Program. Katie, as a result of her academic success is a member of Beta Club, the top honor society at Perry Heights.

Since Katie has been at Perry Heights she has been a member of the student council. Katie is presently a member of the school volleyball team and plays softball during the summer in a local west side league. For the last



year and a half Katie time has taken Karate and is presently is a brown belt and is attaining a black belt.

To say Katie is a musician does not begin to describe her. She plays the french horn and organ. I don't mention a few notes and strum. She plays the french horn and sings in the band and sings in the choir. Katie is a member of the Youth Philharmonic and is a member of the tri-state.

This past summer Katie spent approximately 200 camp days at Mapel Mount and spent a week in New

Harmony was funded through a scholarship she had earned at Mapel Mount and consisted of concentrated study and practicing music. Katie looks forward to returning to Mapel Mount next summer.

Katie regularly attends Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church where mom plays the organ. Obviously when Charlotte can't attend Katie steps in. She is a member of the church young people choir named the Crusaders. One of the reasons the Christmas boutique is a success every year is because Katie is

The Ferdinand News Thursday, September 29, 1994 Page 3

Amy Stetter debuts with Philharmonic

The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra opened their 1994-95 season with special 60th Anniversary Concerts on Sept. 24-25. Music aficionados from across the Tri-State packed Vanderburgh Auditorium in anticipation of this cultural event.

Patrons were not disappointed. According to a concert review in the Evansville Courier, the orchestra, led by Maestro Alfred Savia, was in top form.

The concert's first half paid tribute to tradition. Linking the future of the Philharmonic organization, Maestro Savia introduced 10 members of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, including Forest Park's own Amy Stetter making her debut on snare drums.

Stetter had been accepted into the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (EPYO) during auditions last spring. As part of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra organization, this 75 member orchestra includes the finest student musicians from the greater Evansville area, reaching to all counties of southwestern Indiana, western Kentucky and southeastern Illinois.

The Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra's 1994-95 performance season begins on Nov. 12. During the season, Stetter will have the opportunity to play a variety of percussion instruments under the tutelage of Maestro Savia and Robert Moody, music director and assistant conductor for the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition, Moody is assistant conductor for National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, CO.

Radio station WNIN-FM88 will re-broadcast the Evansville



Percussionist Amy Stetter

Philharmonic's season premiere this Sunday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.

Currently a senior, Stetter is a Marching Ranger percussionist and a member of the Pep Band. She is the daughter of Becky Hammond Stetter of Ferdinand and Jim Stetter of Schnellville.

She has received numerous awards, including Superior Rat-

ings at State Solo contests; Forest Park's Director's Award; is listed in Who's Who in American High School Bands and more.

After graduation from Forest Park, Stetter plans to continue her music education at either Indiana University or Notre Dame, while pursuing a career in criminology or law.

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Several area high school musicians will play in the 1995 Indiana All-State Orchestra on Saturday at a concert at 8:15 p.m. EST in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

The students were selected through audition to perform in the orchestra.

The students are Susan Schroeder and Jason Zann, first violin; Sara Hard, viola; Kathryn Fischer, cello; and Emily Brumfield, clarinet, Harrison High School; Gretchen Green, second violin, Mount Vernon High School; Christina Kim, second violin, Christina Lipper, viola, Nathan Cox, cello, and Amanda Price, trumpet, Reitz High School.

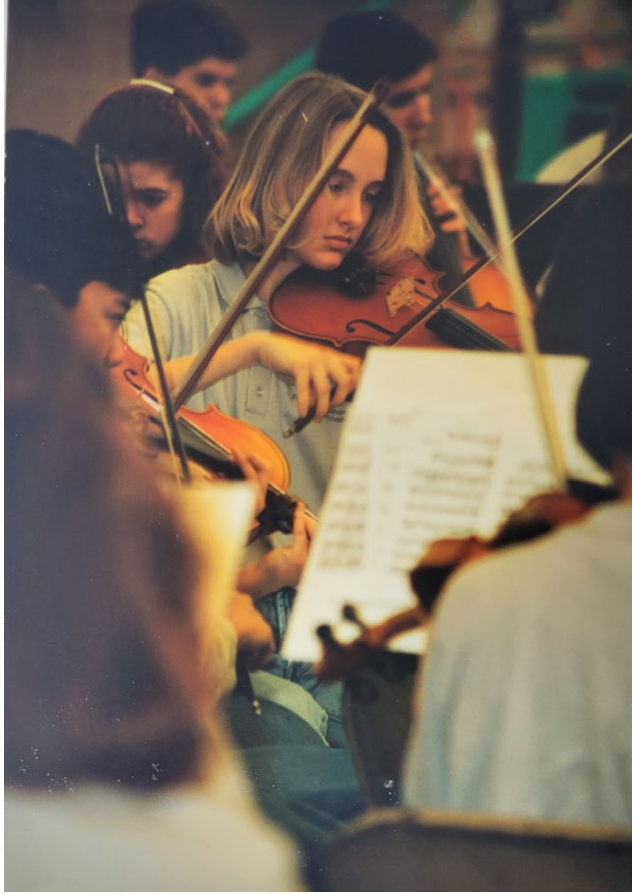
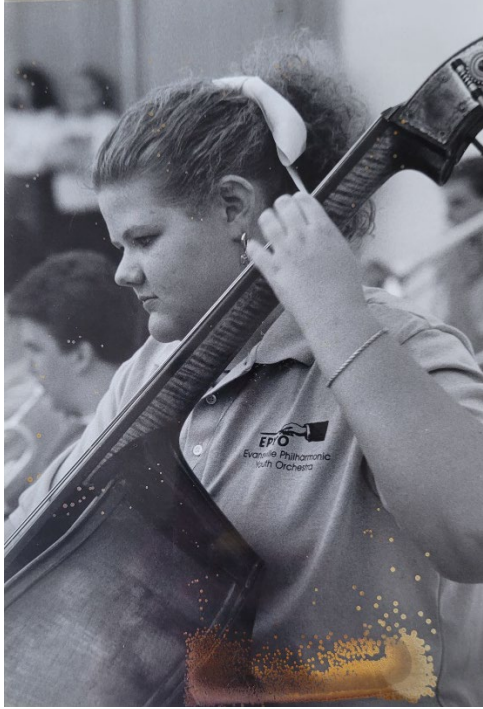
Christopher Stansberry, first violin, Gibson Southern High School; Maria Scherer, cello, and Adam Spaetti, double bass, North High School; Maria Feltner, flute, Jasper High School.

It's Something To Write Home About

The Ferdinand News

P.O. Box 38 — Ferdinand, IN 47532

367-2041







BRIEFS

Utility crews busy

Evansville city and utility department workers are being kept busy digging holes to repair cavens that occurred along storm and sanitary sewers after recent heavy rains.

Gary Alderson, the city's director of administrative services, said he wants to make sure the employees are doing the job properly and safely.

The Evansville Works Board approved Wednesday a request to hire a professional engineer from Purdue University to present two days of seminars on trenching and shoring training.

The cost of the seminars will be \$3,500 and about 100 workers will be attend the training sessions, he said.

Police camps offered

The Indiana State Police is accepting applications for its summer camps, offering students a chance to work with local, state and federal law enforcement officers.

Vincennes University will host the camp in Southwestern Indiana. Camp, which includes room and board, for high school students, June 23-28, \$170 per student; seventh- and eighth-grade, July 31-Aug. 3, \$95; and fifth- and sixth-graders, June 13-15 and July 11-13, \$75.

For more information, call 867-2079.

Food haul tops 1995

Letter carriers collected 95,196 pounds of canned and dry food from donors' doorsteps this month for area food pantries, said Phil Hoy, executive director of the Tri-State Food Bank.

Last year, 91,434 pounds were collected in the food drive.

On May 11, food was collected in Henderson, Ky., throughout Vanderburgh County and in the Indiana communities of Jasper, Huntington, Princeton, Mount Vernon and Oakland City.

CORRECTION

The last name of Vanderburgh Deputy Prosecutor Terrell Maurer was misspelled Tuesday in a story about an increase in felony drug crimes. Maurer prosecutes drug offenses.

INFO LINE

Audition time



Courier photo by LANE AUSTIN

Jenny Kearns tries to relax Wednesday as she prepares for her turn to audition for a chair in next season's Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. She was one of 30 high school students trying out for 15 orchestra spots at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Clock ticking as farmers try to get crops in

Planting called latest since '61

By DAVE HOSICK
Courier staff writer

Agricultural specialists in the Tri-State area say the weather in the next two weeks will be crucial in the success of this year's crop yield.

The recent floodings throughout the Midwest have caused farmers to delay planting corn and soybeans, especially near the Ohio and Wabash river valleys.

Ralph Gann, state statistician for the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service in Purdue, said the clock is ticking for farmers to get their crop planted.

"At this time, farmers in Indiana have the lowest amount of corn planted since this office first started taking records in 1961," Gann said. "June 20 will be the final cutoff date for farmers hoping to plant their crop, he said.

"After June 20, it is just not viable to plant corn anymore," Gann said. "The alternative is to plant a shorter season hybrid corn, yet it still needs to be planted shortly after June 10.

"Even soybeans planted after June 20 have questionable value," Gann added.

Gann said farmers have also suffered losses in harvesting hay and meadows in Southwestern Indiana.

Sam Wilson, program specialist for the Illinois Farm Service Agency in Springfield, said the floods have delayed the planting of corn in Southern Illinois. Yet the state's crops as a whole are in better condition than last year.

As of May 17, farmers have 56 percent of their fields planted compared to 37 percent at this time last year," Wilson said. "So we are OK right now across the state."

Wilson said central Illinois farmers have 80 percent of their crop planted but the southern section of the state is far behind that average.

Greg Hinson, county extension agent for agriculture in McLean County, Ky., said farmers there have not felt the effects of flooding. The Green River in the county reached 22 feet, 5 inches, seven inches under flood stage.

"If we can finish planting by June, we'll be in pretty good shape," Hinson said. "Farmers were pretty nervous for a while but it looks like we will have a pretty normal corn yield this year."

Mike Smith, Henderson County, Ky., extension agent for agriculture, agreed with Hinson that things are looking much better for Kentucky farmers.

"We have seen a shift in planting intentions to where farmers are planting beans and where they plant corn," Smith said. "But we feel a lot better about the planting situation this year."

Although the wet weather seems to be breaking, estimates suggest that farmers across the area will suffer a reduction in corn yield this year.

"If the water does not drop any faster than it has, farmers in this area can expect a 15 percent to 20 percent reduction in corn yield," said Dean Klaus, Farm Service Agency county executive director in Wabash County, Ill.

Klaus said this year's flood is one of the worst in Wabash County, with 4,500 acres in the county flooded. However, he said if it remains dry for the next two weeks, about 90 percent of the corn and 40 percent of the soybeans should be planted.

Wilson said the floods have caused an inconvenience for farmers but have not completely ruined their hope for a crop.

"If the weather will hold, producers should get most of their corn planted," Wilson said.

Smith anticipated a corn yield of about 80 percent of an average year.

"Luckily, the high price of corn right now will help ease some of the burden for the farmers, but they still need to make up their minds if they are going to plant corn or not," Gann said.



