

Ol' Hoosier Farmer — March 23, 1977

By Jim Jones

Th' calendar finally reached that magic day of March 20--the first day of Spring. How fittin' it should fall on th' Sabbath this year-- a day to give thanks fer. We been busy workin' on garden ideas an tryin' to make th' most of th' time allotted fer spring doins when th' weather gets fit. However, winter aln't done with us yet-- Prairie Farmer's predictin' another blizzard with below normal temperatures an' above-normal snowfall fer th' next few weeks. Since we don't know what normal is, we takes what comes.

Lou an' I went up to Henry County recently an' picked up a Troy tiller which brother Jon had located fer us. This machine is th' king of tillers so far as we has been able to learn an' we are anxious to git it into th' soil this spring an' see if we can make an improvement on the crops. The idea of workin' up a dust mulch to help hold moisture in is appealin' especially since another hot dry summer is predicted. So we will plant our rows a little wider apart an' probably space plants a little wider an see what happens. We have enough land to use which will give us a little room to spread out. In addition we raked all the leaves out to the orchard last fall an' now we will want to till them in an' help bring up the' organic matter there. We think there should be definite improvements in crops this year but as always, time will tell.

We hope to do a little custom tillin' this spring too if we has time an' with th' spring soil testin' we usually do we will be busy. But all that means more food an' less out of pocket spendin' so we are in favor of it all.

All this is in keepin' with th' remark of Thomas Jefferson, "Tillers of the Soil are the Chosen of the Lord", we sounded off on awhile back. We figger the Lord has given us th' soil an' its up to us to take th' best care of it we can, since we are gettin' the' benefit from it. All good farmers an' gardeners have a great responsibility to leave th' soll in better shape then it wuz when they got it. That takes a heap of doin.