President’s Message

As I sit down to write the May President’s message, I am feeling less optimistic than I did last month. I am very thankful for the rain we have been receiving, but I feel like too much of a good thing may not be such a good thing. It would be nice to put the brakes on the rain for a little bit.

Hopefully everyone got their apple thinning done with good weather. I got all the thinners on, and things look good overall. Fuji’s are a little light, but that is to be expected given the large crop last year. Everything else appears to look like the thinners are doing a good job. I have heard reports that some growers are having heavy drop.

We have begun to thin peaches and I am happy our crop looks full despite having some cracking on our donut peaches. We have begun to pick strawberries, but again we would appreciate a little dryer weather and sunshine. The crop is ripening a little slower than expected. We have some rot, but that is to be expected given the amount of moisture we have received. We have a nice crop out there, though. Our cherry crop is also looking very promising again. If only the rain would stop for a few weeks. Ha! Overall, things are looking good.

I hope everyone attended a twilight meeting and gained some insightful knowledge. My wife and I attended the meeting at Kauffman’s Fruit Farm in Lancaster. Thank you, Clair, for hosting all of us, and many thanks to everyone who spoke.

I do not have much to report this month with SHAP since most of our meetings are scheduled for next week. I want to thank everyone who supports our association. For those who are not involved, it is never too late! I encourage everyone to plan to help at the PA Farm Show in 2025, and to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention in 2025 as well. It seems like a long way off, but there is always plenty to do. There are some of us working year-round to make our association thrive. I will continue to remind you all to volunteer and help keep this association going.

We have a great association! Thanks to all of you for the hard work.

Until next time, have a very blessed month.

Corey McCleaf  
SHAP President