



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending April 1, 2007

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Fair week for Field Work:** This week was pretty wet for most farmers in the state. Cool nights and scattered showers covered many counties this week. Despite the moist conditions, operators are still getting some spring plowing done. So far 9 percent of the spring plowing has been completed. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spreading manure and fertilizer, checking and servicing machinery, attending farm auctions, spring plowing, cleaning barnyards, constructing sod waterways and cropland terraces, planting some sweet corn under plastic, and planting oats.

**Livestock:** Many operators still have their livestock on hay, but a few have turned their livestock out onto the field. The weather has really put a limitation on pasture activity for livestock, but with some warmer temperatures the pastures should be in better condition soon. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 7%, poor 16%, fair 48%, good 28%, and excellent 1%.

**U.S. as of March 25, 2007:** Temperatures averaged above normal once again this week over most of the Nation, except in the Northeast where averages were near to slightly below normal. Record-setting temperatures in many areas across the western two-thirds of the country resulted in weekly averages 10 to 15 degrees F above normal from the Great Plains through the Corn Belt, and up to 20 degrees F above normal over portions of Kansas and Oklahoma. Significant precipitation continued in the Pacific Northwest, while further east storms yielded 1 to 4 inch accumulations northeastward into the Corn Belt, the Ohio Valley, and the Great Lakes region. The record warmth was generally favorable for spring fieldwork and promoted rapid development of winter wheat, which also benefited from the rains. In much of the Southeast, warm, dry weather allowed spring planting to advance well-ahead of schedule, but unfavorably dry conditions increased stress on emerging crops and pastures.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 1, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	47	51

**Crops:** The state has received a large portion of precipitation this year. The ground is very wet, which is keeping many operators from tending to their fields. Sixty-eight percent of alfalfa is in good or excellent condition. Sixty-four percent of timothy hay is in good or excellent condition.

## Weather Data For Week Ending April 1, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 1, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	79	30	50	10	0.01	1	0.00	-0.10	0	1	1	11
Franklin	78	29	53	14	0.23	2	0.00	-0.11	0	2	2	12
Meadville	75	33	54	16	0.00	0	0.00	-0.11	0	7	7	17
Mercer	77	32	54	15	0.87	1	0.00	-0.12	0	5	5	15
Springboro	77	30	51	12	0.01	1	0.01	-0.08	1	1	1	11
Warren	74	28	51	13	0.23	2	0.00	-0.11	0	2	2	12
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	73	22	50	15	0.06	1	0.00	-0.11	0	1	1	11
Emporium	79	25	51	14	0.00	0	0.00	-0.11	0	1	1	11
Kane	74	21	48	13	0.00	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	10
Laporte	73	26	44	4	0.14	2	0.09	-0.01	1	0	0	3
Lock Haven	83	26	49	8	0.00	0	0.00	-0.10	0	2	2	12
Port Allegany	75	21	48	12	0.29	1	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	9
Renovo	81	27	51	10	0.00	0	0.00	-0.10	0	3	3	13
Ridgway	75	22	49	12	0.13	1	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	10
Stevenson Dam	79	26	51	14	0.00	0	0.00	-0.11	0	1	1	11
Towanda	74	22	44	5	0.02	2	0.01	-0.08	1	0	0	3
Wellsboro	76	24	46	11	0.44	1	0.00	-0.07	0	0	0	6
Williamsport	84	27	52	9	0.02	2	0.01	-0.09	1	2	2	12
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	71	23	42	4	0.27	1	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	1
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	76	25	48	7	0.00	0	0.00	-0.09	0	0	0	10
Susquehanna	66	24	43	8	0.34	1	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	3
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	77	28	54	12	0.05	1	0.00	-0.11	0	5	5	15
New Castle	78	29	54	15	0.08	1	0.00	-0.10	0	5	5	15
Slippery Rock	77	31	56	16	0.01	1	0.00	-0.11	0	8	8	18
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	78	28	53	11	0.19	1	0.00	-0.11	0	3	3	13
DuBois	78	27	54	15	0.28	1	0.00	-0.11	0	4	4	14
Lewistown	82	28	51	8	0.00	0	0.00	-0.09	0	2	1	12
Middletown	82	33	53	8	0.00	0	0.00	-0.10	0	3	2	13
Prince Gallitzi	76	21	51	11	0.02	1	0.00	-0.14	0	0	0	9
Selinsgrove	82	27	50	8	0.01	1	0.01	-0.09	1	1	1	11
State College	79	31	53	12	0.07	1	0.00	-0.10	0	1	1	11
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	80	26	50	7	0.01	1	0.01	-0.10	1	0	0	7
Lehighton	76	28	48	5	0.11	2	0.01	-0.09	1	0	0	6
Matamoras	70	27	44	4	0.13	1	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	4
Mt_Pocono	70	27	45	9	0.01	1	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	5
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	36	59	17	0.19	1	0.00	-0.10	0	11	10	21
Derry	78	29	52	11	0.19	1	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	8
Myersdale	75	23	50	9	0.30	1	0.00	-0.13	0	0	0	6
Mount Pleasant	78	26	54	14	1.02	4	0.02	-0.11	1	2	2	12
Pittsburgh Intl	78	33	58	14	0.31	2	0.02	-0.09	1	9	8	19
Connellsville	80	34	58	14	0.16	2	0.01	-0.11	1	6	5	16
Waynesburg	79	28	55	13	0.06	2	0.05	-0.07	1	3	3	13
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	80	31	52	7	0.00	0	0.00	-0.11	0	2	1	12
Everett	77	23	49	8	0.00	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	7
Hanover	79	27	51	6	0.04	1	0.00	-0.11	0	0	-1	10
Harrisburg_AP	83	29	53	7	0.00	0	0.00	-0.10	0	3	2	13
South Mountain	76	26	49	7	0.12	2	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	10
York	82	24	51	5	0.01	1	0.00	-0.11	0	3	2	13
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	80	30	50	6	0.02	1	0.02	-0.09	1	0	0	8
Hamburg	83	33	51	9	0.25	2	0.01	-0.10	1	0	0	9
West_Chester	83	26	50	5	0.00	0	0.00	-0.12	0	2	1	12
Lancaster	80	29	51	7	0.00	0	0.00	-0.11	0	1	0	11
Neshaminy Falls	81	28	49	5	0.00	0	0.00	-0.13	0	0	-1	5
New Holland	81	32	51	7	0.00	0	0.00	-0.11	0	1	0	11
Philadelphia	82	37	54	8	0.00	0	0.00	-0.12	0	2	1	12
Philadelphia NE	83	37	53	7	0.00	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	9
Reading	83	29	52	9	0.00	0	0.00	-0.12	0	2	2	12
Valley Forge Na	82	24	50	5	0.00	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	9
Willow Grove	82	34	51	7	0.00	0	0.00	-0.13	0	0	-1	7

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney** - Adams County's weather conditions this past week have been a variety. Daytime temperatures ranged from 50-70 degrees and nighttime temperatures ranged from 28-40 degrees. Some days were sunny and others an overcast. Some thunderstorms were received late Sunday night/early Monday morning with some rainfall.

Wheat and barley seeded last fall are now getting greener and out of the dormancy stage. They are starting to grow in height with warmer/sunnier days. The wheat and barley drowned in some areas because the fields are too wet. Other fieldwork is starting to happen with manure spreading and fertilizer spreading. Another week of warm dry temperatures and the equipment will be moving more in the fields. Soil moisture level in general appears to be less than adequate.

Fruit crops continue to be pruned in the county.

Fruit information from Dr. Tara Baugher, Adams County Extension Educator. Cherries, plums and apricots buds are move advanced. Many peach varieties are close to pink stage of buds with apple varieties being 1/2" green stage of bud development.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier** – Soils are still too wet to get much field work done.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little** - It was a very nice week, a few acres of oats were planted on the higher ground. Activities this week included spring plowing, spreading manure, and planting oats.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - With the warmer weather and the wind, the fields dried out to a workable condition. Producers were cleaning barnyards and spreading manure. Equipment was being checked and serviced for the upcoming planting season. Weekend's auctions have been a great meeting and ideas swap between farmers waiting to bid on used equipment.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl** - Most field activity observed is fertilizing and manure spreading.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner** - The hay fields are turning green. Plenty of rain on Sunday. Some farmers are moving manure.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - Some fertilizer is starting to be run on.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr** -Spring activity is finally starting to move. Some pastures are starting to be grazed, even though there is not much growth yet. A few farmers have managed to plant some oats and alfalfa, but for the most part, activities have been spreading manure, getting equipment ready for planting and some spring plowing has begun. Some sweet corn under plastic has been planted. Conservation practices such as sod waterways and cropland terraces are being constructed.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** – With the snow finally gone, things are starting to dry out. Just a little fertilizer is being spread throughout hay fields. No spring planting is being done around here.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump** - Wet weather continues to effect plowing and planting. The fields are too wet to complete tillage operations.

**WESTMORELANDCOUNTY, John Lohr** - Very wet conditions continued this week. So far this spring almost no field work has been completed. With the warmer temperatures, the grass has just started to grow.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 1, 2007**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	9	33	15

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 1, 2007**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	7	25	58	10
Timothy clover stand	0	3	33	49	15
Pasture	7	16	48	28	1

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