



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 15, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Poor week for Field Work: Last week the weather left many people asking if winter was really over. The entire state of Pennsylvania saw a major decrease in temperature. At the beginning of the week the weather looked promising for fieldwork, but as the week progressed fieldwork seemed out of the question. With a combination of wet, windy days and cold nights, many fields were unworkable. So far 19 percent of the spring plowing has been completed. Overall, 2 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spreading manure and fertilizer, checking and servicing tillage and planting equipment, chopping corn stalks, hauling manure, repairing fences, spring plowing, spraying alfalfa for weeds, cleaning barnyards, and planting oats.

points lower than the five year average. Although the weather hasn't been great for the fruit trees, it will take a few weeks to assess if any damage has been done.

Livestock: The cold and wet weather this week wasn't good for the pasture conditions. The weather has put a limitation on pasture activity for livestock. Many farmers have reported an increase in calf mortality, which has become a major concern. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 10%, poor 26%, fair 42%, good 19%, and excellent 3%.

U.S. as of April 8, 2007: Winter returned to most of the country east of the Rocky Mountains during the week. Unseasonably cold temperatures spread across the Great Plains through the upper and into the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley, where the previous week's weather was unseasonably warm. Weekly average temperatures were as much as 10 to 15 degrees F below normal across the northern Plains. The cold weather, along with rain caused soggy field conditions throughout much of the Corn Belt. This limited field work opportunities to 1 or 2 days across the northern third of the country.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 15, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	34	65

Crops: The state's oat crop is slowly but surely making some progress. Twelve percent of the oats in the state have now been planted. This is 37 percent lower than the previous year and 20 percent lower than the five year average. Fifty-five percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition. This is 12 percent lower than the previous week, and can be attributed to the poor weather conditions last week. Sixty-six percent of the alfalfa is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-four percent of timothy hay is in good or excellent condition. Many of the state's cherry and peach producers are concerned how the weather is going to affect the outcome of this year's crop. Thirty-four percent of the cherries have now entered the pink stage, which is 53 percent lower than this time last year. On the other hand this year's cherries are 2 percent ahead of the five year average. Also, 5 percent of the cherries are in full bloom. This is substantially lower than this time last year which was 79 percent. Forty-two percent of the peaches have entered the pink stage. This is 47 percent lower than this time last year but 3 percent higher than the 5-year average. Sixteen percent of the peaches are now in full bloom, which is 61 percent lower than last year, and 6 percent lower than the 5-year average. Ten percent of the apples have entered the pink stage, which is 1 point higher than last year and 4

Corn: Three percent of the intended corn acreage was planted by week's end, the same as last year but 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average. In the Corn Belt, only Missouri farmers had made any significant planting progress with 12 percent of their crop in the ground, slightly behind last year and average. Winter Wheat: Six percent of the winter wheat crop had advanced to the heading stage, slightly ahead of the 4 percent last year and the 3 percent average. Heading was well-underway in the southern Great Plains. The effects of the cold snap over much of the eastern two-thirds of the country were reflected in a slight decline in winter wheat condition ratings. Still, 64 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 71 percent last week and 41 percent last year.

Small Grains: Barley seeding advanced 8 points to 15 percent complete, 10 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Thirty-one percent of the Nation's oat crop had been planted, 2 points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Spring planting was underway in all States except Minnesota and North Dakota.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 15, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 15, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	49	26	36	-9	0.44	4	1.27	-0.34	8	17	14	62
Franklin	53	21	35	-11	0.93	3	2.44	0.71	9	19	16	63
Meadville	50	26	36	-8	0.79	7	1.19	-0.46	11	28	28	74
Mercer	51	23	35	-11	1.23	4	3.17	1.44	9	27	25	71
Springboro	49	20	34	-12	0.64	7	2.09	0.56	14	15	10	57
Warren	49	22	33	-11	1.21	4	2.04	0.31	10	11	11	51
North Central												
Bradford Region	45	17	31	-11	1.07	5	1.66	0.01	10	10	10	42
Emporium	51	22	35	-8	1.17	3	1.74	0.09	9	10	10	51
Kane	49	14	31	-11	1.71	5	2.47	0.67	11	2	2	32
Laporte	47	19	32	-14	1.29	4	2.07	0.49	11	5	-2	28
Lock Haven	54	24	36	-11	1.00	3	1.60	0.10	7	17	10	57
Port Allegany	49	22	33	-11	0.95	5	1.75	0.25	9	4	4	37
Renovo	53	26	37	-10	1.54	3	1.98	0.48	5	17	10	60
Ridgway	49	16	32	-11	1.54	4	2.10	0.45	10	5	5	41
Stevenson Dam	51	22	34	-9	1.38	3	1.88	0.23	8	13	13	48
Towanda	55	22	36	-11	0.91	4	1.34	-0.04	9	4	-3	32
Wellsboro	49	19	32	-10	1.23	3	1.67	0.57	7	5	5	35
Williamsport	54	25	40	-9	1.37	3	1.93	0.35	7	17	0	69
Northeast												
Hawley	52	19	35	-9	1.03	3	1.99	0.36	5	6	6	31
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	54	26	38	-9	0.99	4	1.40	-0.01	8	10	3	56
Susquehanna	52	21	35	-8	1.01	4	1.62	-0.15	8	1	1	26
West Central												
Butler	53	23	36	-11	1.06	4	2.27	0.72	10	26	18	73
New Castle	54	24	37	-8	0.58	3	1.44	-0.06	8	30	29	81
Slippery Rock	55	23	36	-9	1.14	5	1.99	0.43	11	33	33	82
Central												
Altoona/Blair	47	25	37	-11	1.63	3	2.17	0.61	6	23	7	66
DuBois	50	21	34	-11	1.15	7	1.65	0.00	11	18	17	58
Lewistown	53	25	38	-11	1.62	3	2.14	0.75	6	21	0	63
Middletown	56	29	42	-9	2.35	3	2.45	0.93	6	19	-9	78
Prince Gallitzi	48	20	34	-12	1.54	5	2.44	0.34	10	13	11	52
Selingsgrove	53	24	37	-11	1.21	3	1.76	0.23	8	13	-1	52
State College	51	25	38	-10	1.41	3	2.12	0.70	6	19	12	62
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	55	24	41	-8	1.84	3	2.75	1.08	7	13	-4	63
Lehighnton	55	24	39	-10	1.71	3	2.27	0.75	6	9	-3	48
Matamoras	55	21	36	-11	0.99	3	1.72	-0.18	5	4	-4	34
Mt_Pocono	48	20	34	-9	1.48	3	2.21	0.26	7	3	3	29
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	54	29	40	-9	1.47	3	2.16	0.65	8	50	34	109
Derry	52	23	37	-10	2.23	3	3.93	2.35	6	21	18	65
Myersdale	52	20	33	-14	1.83	3	2.62	0.67	8	10	4	46
Mount Pleasant	54	24	38	-8	1.34	3	2.64	0.62	8	24	23	79
Pittsburgh Intl	54	25	39	-10	1.16	4	2.67	1.08	8	45	26	100
Connellsville	55	25	40	-10	1.73	5	2.33	0.47	11	32	12	91
Waynesburg	59	23	38	-10	1.55	4	2.38	0.69	10	29	17	83
South Central												
Biglerville	53	26	40	-11	2.08	2	2.26	0.61	4	21	-7	77
Everett	50	22	37	-11	2.01	3	2.79	1.17	5	14	4	56
Hanover	55	24	39	-12	2.24	3	2.45	0.80	6	19	-9	70
Harrisburg_AP	55	27	42	-9	2.13	2	2.17	0.65	5	21	-7	81
South Mountain	52	23	37	-11	2.90	3	3.15	1.59	6	17	4	57
York	55	21	40	-11	2.28	2	2.52	0.73	5	20	-8	78
Southeast												
Green Lane	55	26	41	-9	2.51	3	3.24	1.48	6	11	-3	61
Hamburg	56	27	42	-6	2.57	2	3.61	1.82	6	13	7	66
West_Chester	57	22	40	-11	2.78	3	3.54	1.69	6	18	-8	70
Lancaster	54	24	41	-9	2.04	2	2.42	0.77	5	14	-5	69
Neshaminy Falls	54	25	39	-10	2.44	3	3.54	1.59	5	11	-7	50
New Holland	55	26	41	-9	1.91	3	2.40	0.75	6	13	-6	65
Philadelphia	56	30	44	-8	2.55	3	3.90	2.10	6	19	-13	93
Philadelphia NE	57	28	44	-8	2.74	3	3.76	1.96	6	16	-16	87
Reading	55	26	41	-8	1.97	3	2.34	0.51	6	19	7	75
Valley Forge Na	55	21	40	-11	1.87	3	2.93	1.13	6	11	-19	68
Willow Grove	55	28	42	-8	2.15	3	2.15	0.20	3	13	-5	67

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.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Once again, Adams County, had a variety of weather conditions. Last weekend thru Wednesday the 11th overnight temperatures dipped very low for this time of the year. Some fruit growers reported temps being as low as 22 degrees on some nights which could have an affect on fruit crops. Some daytime temps didn't get out of the 30's, while this weekend we had 48 degrees during the day. An inch of rainfall was received on Wednesday night into Thursday morning and again Saturday night into Sunday morning 2.5 inches of rainfall was received in the county with a lot of flooding in the county. Not much went into the soil to replenish soil moisture level. Very windy conditions on the 15th, Sunday night, with wind gusts up to 45-50 mph.

Wheat and barley are looking better with the moisture we received. Now when the sun shines again it will make the wheat and barley grow in height. Some oats have been seeded. Manure and fertilizer were spread last week.

Tart cherries are in the water swell stage; this is one of the most critical stages. The cold temperatures and freezing may cause some damage to the buds. Peaches, plums and apricots are blooming we won't know if there's been any damage from the cold temperatures for another week or so. Apple buds are green. Some damage to the fruit buds can be a natural thinning process for the fruit. The temperatures varied in the county depending on your location: valley, hilltops etc.

For now it is a wait and see process for the fruit grower's crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - This was a cold week, but no snow in the area. Some field work was done in the early part of week, but over 2 inches rain and very cold weather halted most of the progress. Alfalfa is starting to show some growth. Some new seeding went in this week as well. It's still too early to tell the effects of the cold weather on the fruit crop. Sweet cherries, plums and apricots are the most vulnerable with from 50 - 100 per cent loss expected.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY, Albert Allison - None of the farmers around here are doing anything. Most of the crops that were planted last fall aren't growing very well, because is has been too cold.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - The several inches of rain over the weekend will make for a very late spring to get field work done.

CRAWFORD, Ron Mccorkle (NRCS) - This was another miserable week in Northwestern PA. We got some rain and snow, and the fields are really muddy. Pasture conditions are becoming worse each day during these wet conditions. Animal health is also a concern with spring calving in these conditions. Beef producers are experiencing an increase in calf mortality this year which is being attributed to the unusual spring weather.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - Some tillage work is being done along with manure spreading.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Reports of spring seeding and oats being planted. Field preparation for spring planting is going on. Trees are showing signs of budding. Snow and rain are still in the weather forecast.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - Farmers are behind in field operations due to the wet weather. Moderate acres of alfalfa have been seeded and there is lots of manure to haul out of storage structures before corn and beans can be planted.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - There wasn't much field work this week. We got 3.7 inches rain during the weekend. Good day for paperwork and finishing machinery maintenance. It was too cool and windy for spraying or planting corn, but the cool weather was nice for daffodils.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELL WHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - This week was cold and wet. There's been some severe soil erosion on some bare open ground. Cover crops or significant crop residue amounts helps to protect the soil during these types of storm events

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Some field work was done early in the week, topdressing, manure hauling and tillage. We got some rain Thursday morning and then the Nor'easter, total rain for the week is over 5 inches.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger - We received 1/2 inches of rain in the weekend. No snow. The fields were so wet that many people were unable to get on the fields. In neighboring townships a few farmers were plowing with horses this past week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Due to below normal temperatures and the heavy rainfall over the weekend, very little plant growth took place. During the week, there was continued planting of oats and alfalfa, with reports of a few acres of corn being planted. Plowing, spreading of manure and fertilizer, chopping of corn stalks, planting, and machinery repairs were the main activities. The barley and wheat are looking good, with very little evidence of winter kill.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - We've gotten some cold wet weather with some snow mixed in. Some manure spreading.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Field conditions continue to be very wet. The current cold weather will slow down the progress of the growth of both pastures and hay.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Cold and wet conditions continued this week with no opportunities to do any field work. Grass growth was set back with several morning temperatures in the 20's.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 15, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	19	61	38
Oats, planted	12	49	32
Peaches, in pink	42	89	39
Peaches, in full bloom or past	16	77	22
Cherries, in pink	34	87	32
Cherries, in full bloom or past	5	79	23
Apples, in pink	10	9	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 15, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	3	41	46	9
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	28	51	15
Timothy clover stand	1	5	20	59	15
Pasture	10	26	42	19	3

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