



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending April 29, 2007

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

Fair week for Field Work: Spring continued to make its presence during the week, as temperatures were above normal. Although there were clear skies along with the warm air, very few places were able to do much fieldwork. Because of the rain received in the previous weeks, the ground is still very wet. Farmers are still concerned about falling behind on field work and crop damage due to the cool weather. Crops such as wheat, rye, and hay have been showing good growth. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spreading manure and fertilizer, checking and servicing tillage and planting equipment, spreading lime, preparing the ground for no till planting, hauling manure, spring plowing, spraying alfalfa for weeds, cleaning barnyards, and planting oats.

reported as follows: very poor 5%, poor 6%, fair 36%, good 39%, and excellent 14%.

U.S. as of April 24, 2007: Below-normal temperatures prevailed in much of the West. Heavy precipitation fell throughout the central and northern Atlantic Coast regions with flooding occurring in some areas of the Northeast. Meanwhile, in the Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt, above-normal temperatures prevailed with average temperatures ranging 3 to 9 degrees F above normal. Significant precipitation was limited mostly to northern areas of the region. Favorable weather also promoted a limited return to Midwestern fieldwork, particularly in the southwestern Corn Belt, however, many fields remain too cold and wet to support spring planting. Crop development and fieldwork has been aided with rebounding temperatures in the South, however, concerns still exist from the freeze damage in April.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 30, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	61	38

Corn: Planting advanced 7 percentage points during the week to 11 percent complete by week's end, behind last year and the normal pace of 22 percent. In the Corn Belt, planting lagged well behind last year and the 5-year average, with farmers in Iowa and Illinois having 8 and 13 percent of their intended corn acreage sown, respectively. Planting had begun in all States except Minnesota and North Dakota, with progress in all States, except Colorado, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin running behind normal.

Crops: The state's oat crop continues to progress slower than normal. Forty-four percent of the oats in the state have now been planted. This is 43 percentage points lower than the previous year and 28 percentage points lower than the five year average. Eighty-three percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition. This is 8 percentage points higher than the previous week, and can be attributed to the warmer weather conditions throughout the week. Seventy-one percent of the alfalfa is in good or excellent condition. Sixty-three 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. Eighty-seven percent of the cherries have now entered the pink stage, which is 13 points lower than this time last year. On the other hand this year's cherries are 13 percentage points ahead of the five year average. Also, 62 percent of the cherries are in full bloom. This is substantially lower than this time last year which was 99 percent. Eighty-eight percent of the peaches have entered the pink stage. This is 11 percentage points lower than this time last year but 10 points higher than the 5-year average. Sixty-four percent of the peaches are now in full bloom, which is 33 points lower than last year, and 4 percentage points lower than the 5-year average. Forty-one percent of the apples have entered the pink stage, which is 56 percentage points lower than last year and 29 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.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 16 percent, 8 percentage points behind last year, but 1 point ahead of normal. The crop in Arkansas and California advanced 29 and 15 percentage points, respectively, during the week, with both States well ahead of their 5-year average. In North Carolina, 31 percent of the crop was heading, 32 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind average. Heading also gained momentum in Oklahoma and Texas where 45 and 39 percent of the acreage was heading, respectively. Freezing temperatures early in the month continues to hamper the progress of the crop in some States, however, winter wheat conditions changed little from the previous week in most States.

Small Grains: Barley planting, at 27 percent complete, was 11 points ahead of last year, and 1 point above the 5-year average. Seeding was most advanced in Washington and Idaho, at 79 and 65 percent planted, respectively, with both States well ahead of last year and normal. Thirteen percent of the crop had emerged, 11 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of average. Oat growers had planted 45 percent of their acreage, compared with 63 percent last year and 61 percent for the 5-year average. With the exception of Texas, all States were behind normal, however, significant progress was made during the week. Thirty percent of the crop had emerged, 5 points behind last year and 7 points behind normal. With the crop being planted behind normal, emergence also trailed behind in nearly all States.

Livestock: The cold and wet weather from the previous weeks has still prevented pasture activity for livestock. Warmer temperatures did, however, enable growth for pastures. Overall pasture conditions were

Weather Data For Week Ending April 29, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 29, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	78	38	55	6	1.03	4	2.45	-0.69	14	61	31	195
Franklin	80	39	54	5	1.39	5	4.44	1.03	16	59	30	202
Meadville	78	41	54	6	0.88	5	2.58	-0.61	18	75	55	212
Mercer	78	37	54	5	1.15	5	4.71	1.44	15	69	40	206
Springboro	78	38	53	4	0.98	5	3.34	0.29	21	44	11	171
Warren	80	36	52	4	1.31	4	3.98	0.57	16	41	19	166
North Central												
Bradford Region	74	34	50	5	1.56	5	3.31	0.04	17	33	22	133
Emporium	81	35	53	6	1.66	4	3.77	0.47	16	44	30	179
Kane	76	29	49	4	1.65	5	4.63	1.12	18	16	6	116
Laporte	77	37	52	2	0.70	5	4.16	1.01	19	38	0	144
Lock Haven	85	38	55	5	1.08	4	2.75	-0.22	13	68	26	212
Port Allegany	77	35	51	3	1.25	4	3.52	0.48	16	27	10	133
Renovo	83	38	54	4	1.51	4	3.76	0.79	11	64	22	207
Ridgway	77	31	50	4	1.41	4	3.93	0.63	16	25	11	142
Stevenson Dam	81	37	54	7	1.48	5	3.83	0.53	15	54	40	183
Towanda	81	35	53	3	0.80	5	3.72	0.93	18	37	-1	153
Wellsboro	78	36	51	5	0.91	4	3.18	0.92	14	35	22	137
Williamsport	85	41	57	5	0.86	5	2.90	-0.22	14	81	17	249
Northeast												
Hawley	82	33	52	5	0.70	3	5.62	2.31	11	26	8	147
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	39	56	5	0.57	4	4.05	1.19	15	67	22	214
Susquehanna	82	35	53	7	0.70	4	4.61	1.12	15	35	20	152
West Central												
Butler	79	35	55	4	1.02	3	3.59	0.51	15	71	30	213
New Castle	82	37	56	6	0.87	3	2.46	-0.46	12	81	53	233
Slippery Rock	80	36	55	6	1.11	3	3.49	0.46	16	80	56	226
Central												
Altoona/Blair	79	44	56	5	0.53	4	2.85	-0.21	12	82	25	224
DuBois	76	40	53	4	1.65	5	3.59	0.37	18	68	41	200
Lewistown	84	39	56	3	0.71	4	3.20	0.36	12	80	5	234
Middletown	83	43	59	5	0.45	2	3.31	0.19	10	101	10	280
Prince Gallitzi	79	31	52	3	1.41	3	4.24	0.15	16	44	18	166
Selinsgrove	85	40	54	3	0.85	3	3.08	0.01	14	51	-4	196
State College	81	44	56	5	1.14	4	3.46	0.65	12	77	34	225
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	40	58	6	1.05	3	5.86	2.47	13	86	21	247
Lehighton	85	40	56	3	0.92	4	5.01	1.87	13	60	2	208
Matamoras	85	37	55	4	0.72	4	6.82	3.00	12	50	5	186
Mt_Pocono	79	38	54	9	0.88	5	6.44	2.53	16	45	34	161
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	46	59	7	1.39	4	3.91	0.81	15	134	76	302
Derry	80	40	57	7	1.73	5	6.83	3.69	13	79	45	219
Myersdale	76	30	52	3	0.55	3	3.30	-0.51	14	35	-3	155
Mount Pleasant	79	36	56	8	1.03	5	4.18	0.21	15	76	52	231
Pittsburgh Intl	78	45	58	5	1.47	4	4.26	1.22	14	116	49	279
Connellsville	82	40	58	5	0.98	4	3.91	0.23	18	95	25	259
Waynesburg	81	36	57	7	0.65	3	3.53	0.18	16	86	37	245
South Central												
Biglerville	83	44	59	4	0.45	3	2.95	-0.29	8	95	4	267
Everett	79	33	54	3	0.46	3	3.82	0.61	10	48	0	187
Hanover	84	40	59	5	1.08	4	3.98	0.74	11	91	0	256
Harrisburg_AP	84	41	59	4	0.18	2	2.55	-0.57	9	98	4	280
South Mountain	80	42	56	5	0.46	3	4.04	0.98	11	69	15	206
York	84	41	59	5	1.11	4	4.00	0.53	10	89	-5	261
Southeast												
Green Lane	84	45	59	6	1.36	3	7.46	3.89	13	84	25	245
Hamburg	86	44	58	8	0.89	3	7.18	3.52	11	90	50	257
West_Chester	85	41	58	4	1.55	3	8.24	4.55	11	87	0	246
Lancaster	83	44	59	6	0.92	4	5.06	1.75	11	91	23	260
Neshaminy Falls	83	40	58	5	2.11	3	10.92	7.07	12	75	8	223
New Holland	84	46	60	7	1.63	4	5.84	2.53	12	102	34	264
Philadelphia	83	47	62	7	1.49	2	9.05	5.55	11	122	18	314
Philadelphia NE	84	47	62	7	2.02	4	10.37	6.87	13	121	17	313
Reading	85	44	60	7	1.02	3	4.79	1.12	12	102	45	274
Valley Forge Na	84	41	59	4	1.08	3	8.44	4.87	14	85	-13	255
Willow Grove	84	45	61	8	2.05	3	7.98	4.13	11	108	41	275

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) - Adams County had a nice week of weather. Daytime temperatures were 50-65 degrees and nighttime temperatures were 45-50 degrees. Some rainfall was received Thursday night into Friday with various amounts from 0.5 to 1.0 inch and again Friday evening some additional showers with not much accumulation. Two beautiful sunny days for the weekend helped to dry things off a little and field work should resume with spring field work to get crops planted.

Wheat and barley continue to progress with the sunny and warm temps helping it to grow. Hay is starting to also grow with the welcomed moisture and warm temps. Oats is looking good that has been planted. Corn planting has started in the county within the last week with more to come with ground conditions improving daily. Producers will soon be starting soybean plantings this week.

Fruit in Adams County is all in blossom or past blossom. Some growers will soon be seeing the cold temps from earlier in April damages in their fruit stages. Apples have really progressed this past week. The fruit growers are hoping that they will have some apple blossoms for their Annual Apple Blossom Festival to be held this coming weekend.

Some sweet corn has been planted. Strawberries are in bloom.

Overall Adams County had a nice week of weather for our crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Apples are near full bloom, cherries are past full bloom. The peaches across the county are past full bloom. Many farmers are starting to plant corn in the county.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - The county received ten inches of rain in over the past 2 weeks. This has brought all field work to a virtual standstill.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It has been too wet and too cold for any significant plantings. Just as it starts drying up the cold wet weather hits again.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Limited field work was completed during the week. The soil is too wet. Hopefully the weather will look better for next week. There was a total of 1-1/8" of rainfall in my gauge.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - The rain last week stopped most field work. Most of the farming activities that took place this week were machinery maintenance and fence repairing. Farmers are worried the weather is causing them to get behind schedule but the upcoming week looks to be a good week for catch up.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - Burning down no-till fields, some corn planting earlier in the week, tillage, spreading manure and fertilizer.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts - Weather cool and wet.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Many acres of small grains and spring seedings were planted. Wheat crop growth looks great. Small amount of acres planted last fall because of the weather conditions. Many farms have cleaned manure from pits and barns and applied to fields.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - More heavy rain delays field work. Great weather early in the week helped dry out some fields enough to burn down, top-dress, haul manure, do tillage and plant oats/grass. Very little if any corn has been planted in the county. Heavy thunderstorms in the central parts of the county dropped over 4 inches of rain Thursday night causing flash flooding and significant erosion in tilled fields.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleeger - We received .75 inches of rain this past weekend.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz - Cool, wet weather has delayed manure spreading from storage facilities, delayed pasture grass growth and delayed corn planting.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The wheat and barley are looking very good with very little evidence of winter kill. The early sown oats is beginning to emerge; however, it is too early to assess the stand. The main activities for the week were spreading manure, spraying, and plowing.

TIOGA COUNTY, Clair Zerby - Wheat across the county is looking good, and oats are starting to emerge.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump - A fruit producer in Washington County informed me that he has sustained heavy losses to his plum and peach crops. He report that the apples seem to be alright, but he has not been able to locate any one to provide bees for the orchard.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Wet conditions continued this week with just a small amount of progress made doing field work. Only small acreages of oats, sweet corn, and field corn have been planted. Temperatures have warmed allowing for better grass growth.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 29, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	43	81	66
Corn, planted	7	31	20
Wheat, heading or headed	12	12	8
Oats, planted	44	87	72
Oats, emerged	10	42	31
Tobacco beds, planted	50	93	97
Peaches, in pink	88	99	78
Peaches, in full bloom or past	64	97	68
Cherries, in pink	87	100	74
Cherries, in full bloom or past	62	99	63
Apples, in pink	41	97	70
Apples, in full bloom or past	20	79	56

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 29, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	2	15	68	15
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	24	57	14
Timothy clover stand	0	3	34	51	12
Pasture	5	6	36	39	14

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 National Agricultural Statistics Service
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 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

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