



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending May 20, 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."*

**Good week for Field Work:** Farmers were very busy throughout Pennsylvania, while trying to catch up on several farm activities. Eighty-eight percent of the spring plowing is now complete. Warmer weather and sunny skies allowed better days during the planting season, as well as the emergence and growth of several crops. A few showers during the middle of the week prevented the soil from becoming too dry. Alfalfa weevils have made their presence, stripping several fields. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spreading manure, fertilizer, and lime, preparing the ground for no till planting, hauling manure, spring plowing, cleaning barnyards, fixing fences, shearing sheep, cutting hay, and planting corn, potatoes, soybeans and oats.

**Livestock:** Even after the brief showers, pasture soils had no problem drying out. Many farmers were pleased with the grass growth. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 2%, poor 3%, fair 29%, good 48%, and excellent 18%.

**U.S. as of May 6, 2007:** Warm, mostly dry weather in the West continued to promote field activities and crop development, with only a few delays in scattered areas. Moderate to heavy precipitation across the western Corn Belt slowed fieldwork, as soils remained too moist for planting. However, crop development advanced across most of the northern and eastern Corn Belt, as favorable weather prevailed. Elsewhere, drought conditions in the Southeast continued to be a concern. Limited rainfall and windy weather in the region have contributed to the stressing of pastures and summer crops, in addition to the threat of further wildfire activity.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 20, 2007**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	21	76	2

**Corn:** Seventy-eight percent of the crop was planted by week's end, 5 percentage points behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. Planting progressed rapidly under favorable conditions in parts of the Corn Belt, advancing 50 points in Ohio and 36 points in Indiana. Emergence advanced to 39 percent, compared with 41 percent last year and 36 percent for the 5-year average. The crop rapidly emerged throughout much of the Corn Belt, with Minnesota's crop advancing 40 points and Illinois' crop advancing 34 points during the week.

**Crops:** Seventy-four percent of the state's corn crop has been planted. This is 7 percentage points behind this time last year, but 5 points above the five-year average. The planted crop is 12 percentage points farther along than the previous week. Pennsylvania's corn crop is now 34 percent emerged, right along with the five-year average. Conditions are showing that 71 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-three percent of the state's soybeans have been planted. This is 10 percentage points higher than the 5-year average and 3 points above this time last year. Ninety-four percent of the oats in the state have now been planted. Oats planted is ahead of the five-year average by 1 percentage point. Sixty-seven percent of the planted oats have emerged, 23 points behind this time last year and 13 points behind the five-year average. Eighty-six percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition, 1 percentage point higher than the previous week. Forty percent of the wheat is now in the heading stage, only 11 percentage points behind the five-year average. Barley headed increased significantly to 89 percent. Despite the amazing progress, barley headed is still behind this time last year by 10 percentage points. Seventy-two percent of the potato crop has been planted. This is 6 points behind last year, and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. One hundred percent of tobacco has been planted. Ten percent of the tobacco crop has been transplanted. Sixty-eight percent of the alfalfa standing is in good or excellent condition. Sixty-seven percent of timothy hay standing is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-three percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 21 percent of the first cutting of alfalfa is complete.

**Soybeans:** Thirty-two percent of the crop had been planted, 1 point ahead of last year and the normal pace. Planting progressed ahead of normal in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Ohio due to favorable weather conditions. Ohio growers seeded 50 percent of their intended acreage during the week, while planting advanced 37 points in Illinois, 31 points in Minnesota, and 29 points in Indiana. Emergence, at 6 percent, was 2 points behind last year and the 5-year average.

**Winter Wheat:** Heading advanced to 51 percent, compared with 62 percent last year and 57 percent for the 5-year average. Meanwhile, heading was just getting underway in Ohio. Condition ratings showed little change from the previous week.

**Small Grains:** Barley planting, at 87 percent complete, was 13 points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of the 5-year average. Seeding progressed rapidly in Minnesota and North Dakota, where growers had planted 32 and 29 percent of the crop during the week, respectively.

Oat growers had planted 94 percent of their acreage, compared with 93 percent last year and 90 percent for the 5-year average. Warm, sunny conditions aided crop development in North Dakota, where planting advanced 30 points to 81 percent complete, 16 points ahead of normal. Seventy-one percent of the crop had emerged, 5 points behind last year and 2 points behind normal.

### Weather Data For Week Ending May 20, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 20, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	86	37	55	-3	0.47	2	3.57	-1.80	20	200	45	532
Franklin	85	35	54	-4	1.16	3	6.95	1.06	24	223	69	575
Meadville	84	37	54	-3	0.71	3	3.44	-2.21	24	241	113	583
Mercer	85	34	54	-4	1.09	3	6.55	0.87	22	233	72	577
Springboro	85	32	51	-7	0.90	4	5.86	0.71	30	164	-2	477
Warren	85	33	53	-5	0.94	3	6.14	0.16	23	169	26	496
North Central												
Bradford Region	82	26	52	-2	0.64	4	5.31	-0.52	26	141	53	419
Emporium	85	31	53	-2	0.41	2	5.82	-0.35	22	169	66	511
Kane	83	28	49	-4	0.62	3	6.41	0.25	25	92	8	369
Laporte	82	35	52	-6	1.04	1	6.36	0.60	24	140	-23	441
Lock Haven	89	35	56	-3	0.46	2	5.54	0.17	18	243	58	597
Port Allegany	84	30	52	-4	0.25	3	4.93	-0.47	23	127	14	416
Renovo	89	34	56	-3	0.42	3	5.85	0.48	19	241	56	594
Ridgway	83	29	51	-5	0.62	3	5.93	-0.24	23	120	17	434
Stevenson Dam	86	33	54	-1	0.19	2	4.99	-1.18	20	189	86	528
Towanda	89	30	53	-5	0.37	1	4.72	-0.38	23	147	-21	454
Wellsboro	83	29	51	-3	0.33	1	4.91	0.55	18	134	44	418
Williamsport	90	34	59	-1	0.44	3	4.42	-1.21	21	292	57	670
Northeast												
Hawley	86	30	55	-1	0.24	3	6.90	0.93	18	144	31	462
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	35	58	-2	0.46	1	5.53	0.27	20	255	54	612
Susquehanna	85	32	54	-2	0.53	3	5.91	-0.27	22	150	50	466
West Central												
Butler	83	34	53	-5	0.89	4	4.84	-0.90	21	227	49	577
New Castle	86	35	55	-4	0.70	4	3.70	-1.50	19	259	90	620
Slippery Rock	86	35	55	-3	0.82	4	4.87	-0.54	23	265	115	621
Central												
Altoona/Blair	84	39	58	-2	0.40	3	4.11	-1.35	18	295	79	647
DuBois	81	33	55	-3	0.95	3	5.71	-0.11	24	234	79	573
Lewistown	88	37	58	-4	0.19	1	5.42	-0.09	16	278	20	642
Middletown	86	41	63	1	0.31	1	4.05	-1.91	13	368	69	757
Prince Gallitzi	83	30	53	-4	0.38	2	5.12	-2.16	21	183	45	508
Selinsgrove	90	36	56	-4	0.33	1	4.60	-0.98	18	222	11	577
State College	86	40	58	-2	0.27	2	4.82	-0.34	18	301	103	659
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	87	34	60	-1	1.02	3	7.40	1.16	19	299	51	669
Lehighton	85	36	58	-3	0.44	3	6.13	0.04	21	235	0	593
Matamoras	87	32	55	-4	0.35	3	7.52	0.76	20	178	-15	520
Mt_Pocono	83	32	55	3	0.27	4	7.22	0.19	24	180	97	492
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	39	58	-1	1.14	5	5.56	-0.36	21	393	173	771
Derry	85	37	56	-3	1.01	3	8.17	2.34	17	269	87	619
Myersdale	79	30	50	-9	1.52	4	4.95	-1.80	21	138	-38	443
Mount Pleasant	83	33	55	-2	1.16	5	5.79	-0.98	22	252	110	613
Pittsburgh Intl	84	38	58	-3	0.97	5	5.66	0.24	20	355	114	728
Connellsville	82	37	56	-5	1.64	5	5.65	-0.88	24	313	60	686
Waynesburg	84	34	55	-5	0.77	4	4.76	-1.24	22	268	67	634
South Central												
Biglerville	87	40	60	-3	0.72	3	5.09	-0.67	14	327	29	709
Everett	82	34	53	-7	0.68	2	5.32	-0.41	16	183	-18	525
Hanover	84	35	59	-4	0.34	2	4.96	-0.80	15	310	12	683
Harrisburg_AP	88	38	61	-2	0.08	1	3.15	-2.81	12	352	48	744
South Mountain	83	36	56	-4	0.86	3	5.88	0.42	17	231	21	575
York	83	35	60	-4	0.32	3	5.40	-0.55	18	301	-6	681
Southeast												
Green Lane	84	39	60	0	0.57	3	8.89	2.54	20	303	73	674
Hamburg	87	38	61	3	0.44	2	8.37	1.42	16	332	150	709
West_Chester	83	36	59	-3	0.89	2	10.41	3.75	14	293	3	660
Lancaster	85	40	61	0	0.75	1	6.17	0.30	14	319	67	698
Neshaminy Falls	83	38	59	-3	0.64	2	11.97	5.02	17	260	15	617
New Holland	86	41	61	0	0.56	2	6.80	0.93	15	345	93	717
Philadelphia	85	48	64	0	1.09	2	10.53	4.48	14	416	83	818
Philadelphia NE	86	44	63	0	0.57	2	11.31	5.26	17	402	69	804
Reading	88	38	62	2	0.25	2	5.24	-1.37	16	348	115	730
Valley Forge Na	84	34	61	-3	0.56	4	9.45	2.99	20	297	-22	676
Willow Grove	83	43	61	2	0.79	3	9.25	2.30	18	346	101	723

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 Behney (FSA)** - Adams County had a nice week of weather. Rainfall was sparatic in the county with 0.5 inch on Wednesday afternoon and Friday evening and Sunday morning with only parts of the county getting any rainfall and not much accumulation. The county is still pretty dry and could use some nice steady rainfall so crops can get started. Daytime temps have been in the 60-70 with a few days hitting close to 80 degrees. Nighttime temps were in the 50's most of the week, but Thursday morning the temperature was only 40 degrees.

Corn and soybeans continue to be planted in the county. Alot of the corn is emerging and some soybeans are emerging. Alfalfa and small grains are being harvested for silage by the dairy producers. Dry hay isn't too far away from being started. Some of the hay is still short in height but a little rainfall could help.

Sweet corn and vegetables have been planted and looking good. Strawberries are starting to turn red and should be ready with in the next week depending on varieties. Fruit crops are looking good with fruit starting to be formed.

Overall a nice week of weather and conditions for crops.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Seasonal temperatures and mid week showers. Rainfall has been adequate and no big storms to damage the fruit. Fruit looks to be an average crop at this time. Hay made this week was very common with better quality made early in the week. Most are finishing up on the early full season corn and beans. Small grains seem to be very healthy.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - The week was good for field work. Most of the crops are planted. There are still some farmers planting corn and potatoes. The wheat looks good. The rain in the middle of the week was needed for the hay.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Another good week for field work. 1/2" rainfall in my gage. Hay making time is almost here.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Still good weather for wrapping up corn planting and starting on haylage. Farmers are getting their hay equipment serviced for the upcoming season.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig** - Timothy mite injury is evident in many untreated fields. The problem is compounded by extremely droughty conditions across the area. Showers have not provided any significant moisture additions. Corn and soybeans are developing very well. There are excellent stands in majority of fields. The insects are beginning to increase in occurrence. Weevil damage to remaining alfalfa first cutting is becoming more wide spread. Weed seedlings continue to break through many corn fields.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner** - The field equipment covered many acres this past week. Many farmers were able to finish planting small grains, some reporting many acres of corn, soybeans and potatoes planted. The hay crop is heading and needs harvested.

**LANCASTER, BURELL WHITWORTH JR** - The weather remained cool and damp. Lancaster County received brief showers several days, but nothing significant to slow the brisk field work. Planting crops and making haylage were the primary activities . Some small grain has lodged especially rye.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield** - Good progress made in the fields until Wednesday when the strong cold front came through and dropped 3/4" of rain. Corn is emerging nicely, still 30% or more to plant. Alfalfa has been or is being mowed, weevils are very active. Rye is being mowed for straw and wheat is beginning to head. It will likely be a busy week this week with good weather forecasted.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The alfalfa stands are being stressed with weevil activity and the timothy stands from a lack of moisture. The first cutting of hay appears to be below normal at this point. The corn has begun to emerge in spite of the cool night time temperatures. The wheat and barley are doing well. A good week for field activities.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - The last of the new seedings and small grains are in. Corn planting coming along at a fairly good rate. Some rye has been mowed to make ryelage. Could use a good soaking rain with all the wind it dries out. The first cutting hay looks to be short will know better when start to cut.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - After about a two-week dry period that allowed for planting to catch up, the area received about an inch of much-needed rain this week. Hay harvest is set to begin as soon as unsettled weather clears. Cold overnight temperatures with near-frost conditions have slowed crop growth.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 20, 2007**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	88	96	88
Corn, planted	74	81	69
Corn, emerged	34	51	39
Barley, heading or headed	89	96	87
Wheat, heading or headed	40	76	51
Oats, planted	94	99	93
Oats, emerged	67	90	80
Soybeans, planted	43	40	33
Soybeans, emerged	5	6	9
Tobacco beds, planted	100	100	100
Tobacco, transplanted	10	26	15
Potatoes, planted	72	78	68
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	21	24	18
Peaches, in full bloom or past	100	100	80
Cherries, in full bloom or past	100	100	79
Apples, in full bloom or past	100	100	79

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 20, 2007**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	0	29	59	12
Wheat	0	2	12	71	15
Oats	0	5	43	47	5
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	3	28	53	15
Timothy clover stand	0	2	31	58	9
Quality of hay made	0	1	26	26	47
Pasture	2	3	29	48	18

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