



**Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service**

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

*Marc Tosiano, State Statistician*

*A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture*

717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass

## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending April 11, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 12, 2004, 4 pm

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

**Average week for Field Work:** There were 3 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 61 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus. However, 25 percent of the spring tillage has been completed, which is the same as the five year average. Principal farm activities included spring tillage, planting of spring crops, spreading fertilizer, spreading manure, pruning fruit trees, repairing fences and machinery, caring for livestock and preparing and filing taxes.

**Crops:** Much of the State saw some rain last week which slowed field work. The winter wheat crop was rated as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 61 percent good and 6 percent excellent, which is all slightly improved over last week. Oats planted is currently at 15% complete. Alfalfa stand last week was rated as 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 51 percent good and 6 percent was excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated 2 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 43 percent good and 13 percent was excellent.

**Livestock:** The cool temperatures and persistent rainfall has 8 percent of pasture land in Pennsylvania was rated very poor, 7 percent was rated poor, 39 percent was rated fair, 37 percent was rated good and 9 percent was rated excellent.

**U.S. As of April 4, 2004:** Temperatures averaged below normal across the Southeast and Mississippi Delta, despite reaching above 80 degrees Fahrenheit across most of those regions early in the week. Elsewhere in the Nation, temperatures averaged above normal, with parts of the northern Great Plains, northern Rocky Mountains, and Great Basin exceeding the average temperature by over 6 degrees Fahrenheit. Across the Southwest, widespread, locally heavy rainfall eased drought conditions. The southern Great Plains received more beneficial rain, but only light, widely-scattered rain fell in the northern and central Great Plains, where soil moisture remains a concern. Precipitation was light across the western Corn Belt, but moderate in the

eastern part of the region. In the Ohio Valley, persistent rainfall prevented fieldwork. Most of the Southeast and Mississippi Delta experienced light rainfall, but not enough to hamper fieldwork. Precipitation was widespread across the Northeast and heavy enough to cause localized flooding in New England. Coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest received only light rainfall, while the crop-producing areas farther inland remained dry. Winter Wheat: The Nation's winter wheat crop condition was rated at 7 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Conditions deteriorated over the winter in parts of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains due to cold, dry conditions and spotty snow cover. In the Pacific Northwest, where snow cover was more constant and precipitation was heavier, conditions improved considerably. In Kansas, 27 percent of the crop was jointed, while 7 percent of the Texas crop had reached the heading stage. Sorghum: Planting progress, at 14 percent, was 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal. Texas producers had planted 38 percent of their crop, 6 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. In Louisiana, ideal planting conditions allowed progress to advance to 15 percent, 14 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Outside of the southern Great Plains and Mississippi Delta, planting had not begun. Small Grains: The barley crop was 10 percent planted, compared with 6 percent last year and 5 percent for the 5-year average. Seven percent of the oat crop was planted, 1 percentage point ahead of last year but 2 points behind normal. Spring wheat seedings, at 6 percent, were 2 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. In Idaho and Washington, dry weather allowed barley and spring wheat planting to advance well ahead of the normal pace. Wet conditions and cold soil temperatures delayed oat planting in the central Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, while most Great Plains growers were ahead of normal.

### Weather Data For Week Ending April 11, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 11, 2004					GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	53	23	38	-7	0.11	2	1.12	-0.06	6	0	0	14
Franklin	54	23	38	-7	0.73	2	1.99	0.73	5	0	0	22
Meadville	51	21	37	-7	0.14	2	0.88	-0.33	6	0	0	9
Mercer	56	13	35	-10	0.08	1	1.06	-0.22	5	0	0	2
Springboro	52	21	36	-8	0.08	2	1.37	0.26	6	0	-2	11
Warren	55	20	36	-7	0.08	2	1.58	0.32	6	0	0	15
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	51	16	34	-7	0.14	1	1.00	-0.21	5	0	0	6
Emporium	59	20	37	-4	0.07	2	0.76	-0.45	6	0	0	23
Kane	49	13	29	-11	0.00	0	0.59	-0.73	4	0	0	2
Laporte	55	16	35	-9	0.06	2	0.47	-0.68	6	0	-4	11
Lock Haven	67	25	42	-4	0.13	1	1.28	0.18	5	0	-4	53
Port Allegany	53	17	34	-9	0.11	2	0.52	-0.58	6	0	0	7
Renovo	63	24	41	-6	0.12	1	0.97	-0.13	5	0	-4	33
Ridgway	54	18	35	-7	0.00	0	0.82	-0.39	4	0	0	9
Stevenson Dam	60	23	39	-3	0.02	1	0.73	-0.48	4	0	0	33
Towanda	60	23	39	-6	0.08	2	0.88	-0.11	6	0	-4	30
Wellsboro	56	16	36	-5	0.06	2	0.81	0.02	6	0	0	9
Williamsport	66	24	43	-5	0.08	1	0.69	-0.46	4	0	-11	62
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	56	21	38	-6	0.00	0	0.72	-0.47	3	0	0	12
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	59	22	40	-6	0.01	1	0.07	-0.95	3	0	-4	38
Susquehanna	57	20	38	-3	0.10	2	0.62	-0.68	5	0	0	29
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	56	22	39	-8	0.06	2	0.99	-0.15	6	0	-5	22
New Castle	57	23	40	-5	0.27	2	1.63	0.53	6	0	0	28
Slippery Rock	57	23	40	-4	0.16	2	1.67	0.52	5	0	0	33
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	62	22	41	-6	0.32	1	2.42	1.27	5	0	-11	34
DuBois	55	19	37	-7	0.13	2	0.82	-0.39	6	0	0	16
Lewistown	68	27	43	-6	0.37	1	2.27	1.27	5	0	-14	53
Middletown	70	29	47	-4	0.23	2	1.77	0.67	6	8	-10	83
Prince Gallitzi	61	21	39	-6	0.33	1	2.72	1.18	5	0	0	27
Selinsgrove	67	26	42	-5	0.57	2	1.39	0.29	6	0	-10	46
State College	62	23	41	-5	0.42	1	1.79	0.74	5	0	-4	38
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	67	27	44	-4	0.31	2	0.44	-0.77	6	0	-11	64
Lehighton	65	26	42	-6	0.19	1	0.83	-0.27	4	0	-8	49
Matamoras	60	24	40	-7	0.00	0	0.75	-0.64	3	0	-5	20
Tobyhanna	56	14	36	-5	0.02	1	0.25	-1.17	4	0	0	5
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	62	23	44	-4	0.06	2	1.10	0.00	6	3	-8	55
Derry	66	22	42	-3	0.61	3	2.56	1.42	7	1	1	46
Myersdale	62	20	38	-8	0.44	2	2.15	0.72	6	0	-3	16
Mount Pleasant	64	20	41	-4	0.44	1	1.76	0.29	5	0	0	36
Pittsburgh Intl	61	24	43	-5	0.33	2	1.18	0.00	6	1	-11	50
Rector	65	22	41	-3	0.78	6	2.75	1.28	10	0	0	44
Waynesburg	67	23	43	-4	0.30	3	1.49	0.25	7	2	-7	44
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	69	27	45	-5	0.28	2	1.95	0.74	6	4	-14	58
Everett	62	22	39	-7	0.40	2	2.14	0.95	6	0	-7	18
Hanover	71	26	46	-5	0.26	2	1.70	0.49	6	6	-12	67
Shippensburg	70	26	46	-5	0.18	1	1.60	0.45	4	8	-11	68
South Mountain	66	22	41	-7	0.24	1	2.26	1.11	5	0	-9	31
York	71	24	45	-5	0.25	2	1.51	0.19	6	5	-13	69
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	68	27	45	-3	0.34	2	0.84	-0.45	6	3	-6	74
Hamburg	70	28	45	-2	0.34	2	0.85	-0.47	6	3	0	61
Hopewell	68	28	44	-6	0.42	2	1.39	0.07	6	2	-18	59
Lancaster	70	27	46	-3	0.27	2	1.53	0.32	6	8	-4	75
Neshaminy Falls	70	28	45	-4	0.47	2	1.28	-0.15	5	4	-7	65
New Holland	70	27	45	-4	0.57	2	1.64	0.43	6	8	-4	65
Philadelphia	70	31	48	-3	0.51	2	1.70	0.38	6	15	-7	91
Philadelphia NE	69	29	48	-3	0.53	2	1.48	0.16	6	11	-11	85
Reading	69	28	46	-2	0.51	2	1.11	-0.21	6	4	-4	72
Valley Forge Na	72	28	44	-7	0.67	2	1.61	0.29	4	4	-16	59
Willow Grove	67	30	48	-1	0.41	2	1.12	-0.31	6	10	-1	84

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.  
 Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

## *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.**

---

**Crawford County, Ron McCorkle** - - The weekend brought dry weather which was a needed relief from all the mud. I saw a few farmers in the lower part of the county plowing, however the majority of the county is still to wet. Pastures are greening up but most farmers are waiting for a little more grass height along with firmer soil conditions before they turn their cows out. Beef producers are busy with spring calving and fence repairs. All the farmers are looking forward to warmer and drier conditions.

**Clinton County, Burell Whitworth** - - The weather has been quit cold. Thursday we had rain by 12:00 noon. There was winter precipitation on Sunday.

**Indiana County, Kevin Fry** - - Very little field activity this week. Wet weather shut down progress that was being made. On the bright side the week ended with a couple of nice drying days, so if the rain holds off farmers should be able to get back in the fields.

**Cambria County, Dolly Little** - - It is still too cold and wet for planting. Some spraying is getting done. Not much of anything else.

**Dauphin County, Mark Dietrich** - - There was a short window of good working conditions early last week, but subsequent rain and overcast conditions have limited fieldwork opportunities in recent days.

**Huntington County, Marina Kemper** - - Another week with 2 seasons, Monday the 5th we had 3 inches of snow!, and by Wednesday it felt like spring. Still too wet to do anything and they want snow & rain on Easter Sunday then rain the next 3 days. Everything is slowly greening up Spring will soon be here! On Wednesday the 7th, we had to make a trip to Adams Co. near Littlestown Pa. and we saw farmers planting corn? What a difference 150 miles makes in climate.

**Juniata County, Greg Hostetter** - - A few sunny days are allowing manure storage structures to be emptied. Field conditions are still fairly wet. Some oats has been planted between showers.

**Northumberland County, Viola Pflieger** - - The soil is drying nicely and have chisel plowed several fields. Have planted potatoes, peas, lettuce, radishes, and onions in my raised gardens. Noticed severe damage by the rabbits on fruits.

**Snyder/Juniata Counties, William C. Sheaffer** - - As a result of nearly 1 ½ inches of rainfall near the end of last week, the amount and type of field activities were limited. Chopping corn stalks, spreading manure and fertilizer, plowing, sowing oats and planting alfalfa were the main activities. The winter grain fields are greening up very nicely as well as the timothy and alfalfa fields.

**Westmoreland County, John Lohr** - - Cool and wet week. Many fields still too wet to work. Some progress again in manure hauling and tillage. Still not much oats planted. Cool-season grasses are greening up and showing some good early growth. Still waiting on the first good week for spring field work.

**Franklin County, Thomas Kerr** - - Cool week again but rainfall was light. Freezing weather on 5th and 6th did very little damage to the fruit crop. Work in the field continued with manure hauling, spring plowing and alfalfa seeding. Rainfall for the month is nearly normal, but most of the rain came on April 1.

**Fulton County, Ann Meyer** - - Cool weather continues to slow the progress of spring crops.

**Fulton County, Russ McLucas** - - I am seeing more broadleaves and winter annuals in older hay stands, and small grain seedings than normal.

**York County, Wayne Kurtz** - - Rains from last weekend prevented most field work, so most cropping activities are in a hold pattern.

**Bucks County, Fournier** - - Rain every couple of days is keeping everyone out of fields.

**Montgomery County, Andrew Frankenfield** - - By mid week some fields were dry enough to work for oats and grass seedings which was put on hold until late Friday because of light rain. The weeks activities included spraying wheat, hauling manure, topdressing hay fields and planting oats, grass, and alfalfa with the more rain in the forecast.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 11, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	25	8	25
Oats planted	15	10	19

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 11, 2004**

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	29	61	6
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	7	35	51	6
Timothy clover stand	0	2	42	43	13
Pasture	8	7	39	37	9

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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

**United States**  
**Department of Agriculture**

<b>PRESORTED</b> FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
--