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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending April 18, 2004

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Poor week for Field Work: There were 2 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 51 percent adequate and 49 percent surplus due to the large amount of rain across the state during the last week. However, 36 percent of the spring tillage has been completed, which is ahead of 17% the previous year, and 35% for 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: The winter wheat crop was rated as 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 60 percent good and 11 percent excellent, which is all slightly improved over last week. Barley headed reached 6% last week, which is ahead of last year and the 5 year average of 2%. Oats planted is currently at 23% complete, and also at 5% emerged. Potato planting has begun and reached 6% by the end of last week, which is close to last year at 3% and the 5 year average at 5% complete. Weather didn't slow the green house planting of tobacco which came in at 60% complete. Alfalfa stand last week was rated as 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 50 percent good and 10 percent was excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 57 percent good and 15 percent was excellent.

Livestock: The cool temperatures and persistent rainfall has 6 percent of pasture land in Pennsylvania was rated very poor, 8 percent was rated poor, 35 percent was rated fair, 41 percent was rated good and 10 percent was rated excellent.

U.S. As of April 11, 2004: Above-normal temperatures and dry conditions prevailed across the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, northern Great Plains, and western Corn Belt, encouraging small grain seedings. Light to moderate precipitation improved winter wheat condition in the central and southern Rockies and southern Great Plains. The eastern Corn Belt, Atlantic Coast States, and Ohio and Tennessee River Valleys were mostly dry, with below-normal temperatures. Temperatures were near normal and rainfall was

moderate to heavy in the Mississippi Delta and adjacent areas of the Southeast.

Winter Wheat: Five percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop was headed, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. In California, where warm, dry weather has persisted throughout March and early April, heading was 2 weeks ahead of normal. Heading had not begun in the Corn Belt, northern and central Great Plains, and Rocky Mountains. Condition of the crop was unchanged nationwide but declined in the Pacific Northwest and improved in the Rockies.

Corn: Planting was 6 percent complete, compared with 4 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Rapid progress in the Southeast included Tennessee growers having planted 58 percent of their crop, 35 points ahead of their normal pace, and Kentucky and North Carolina producers progressing ahead of their 5-year averages by 27 and 14 points, respectively. Texas growers led the Nation, with 62 percent of their crop planted. Progress was ahead of normal in most States, though planting had not begun in the northern Great Plains and northern Corn Belt.

Sorghum: Seventeen percent of the sorghum crop was planted, 3 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Progress was limited to the southern Great Plains and Mississippi Delta. Texas producers had planted 45 percent of their crop, 6 points ahead of normal, while planting advanced to 26 percent complete in Louisiana and 20 percent in Arkansas.

Small Grains: The Nation's spring wheat crop was 16 percent planted, 5 points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Producers had planted 22 percent of the barley crop, compared with 10 percent last year and 9 percent for the 5-year average. Oat seedings, at 27 percent, were 13 points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of normal. In Washington, planting of spring wheat and barley continued to advance rapidly and finished the week at 80 and 71 percent complete, respectively. Oat growers in Iowa planted 50 percent of their expected acreage during the week to bring the total to 64 percent planted.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 18, 2004

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - April 18, 2004 | | | | | GDD Base 40F Total |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|--------------------------|-------|------|--------------|-----|--------------------|
| | Temperature | | | | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 75 | 29 | 48 | 2 | 1.05 | 2 | 2.17 | 0.22 | 8 | 30 | 23 | 72 |
| Franklin | 77 | 29 | 46 | 0 | 1.51 | 4 | 3.50 | 1.40 | 9 | 16 | 9 | 68 |
| Meadville | 74 | 31 | 47 | 3 | 0.74 | 2 | 1.62 | -0.36 | 8 | 21 | 18 | 58 |
| Mercer | 76 | 20 | 44 | -4 | 1.23 | 3 | 2.29 | 0.24 | 8 | 15 | 9 | 39 |
| Springboro | 75 | 28 | 45 | -2 | 1.10 | 2 | 2.47 | 0.59 | 8 | 19 | 10 | 54 |
| Warren | 75 | 28 | 45 | 0 | 1.69 | 2 | 3.27 | 1.17 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 55 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 71 | 25 | 44 | 2 | 1.74 | 3 | 2.74 | 0.76 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 40 |
| Emporium | 77 | 26 | 45 | 2 | 2.11 | 3 | 2.87 | 0.88 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 60 |
| Kane | 71 | 20 | 38 | -5 | 1.86 | 2 | 2.45 | 0.29 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 19 |
| Laporte | 73 | 29 | 43 | -4 | 1.56 | 3 | 2.03 | 0.11 | 9 | 10 | -3 | 45 |
| Lock Haven | 80 | 29 | 47 | -2 | 1.32 | 2 | 2.60 | 0.80 | 7 | 12 | -1 | 104 |
| Port Allegany | 73 | 25 | 43 | -2 | 1.71 | 2 | 2.23 | 0.39 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 35 |
| Renovo | 79 | 29 | 47 | -2 | 1.59 | 2 | 2.56 | 0.76 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 83 |
| Ridgway | 75 | 24 | 43 | -2 | 2.23 | 2 | 3.05 | 1.06 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 33 |
| Stevenson Dam | 78 | 29 | 46 | 3 | 1.61 | 2 | 2.34 | 0.35 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 75 |
| Towanda | 80 | 25 | 44 | -3 | 1.39 | 2 | 2.27 | 0.58 | 8 | 13 | 1 | 63 |
| Wellsboro | 74 | 26 | 42 | -1 | 1.60 | 2 | 2.41 | 1.06 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 37 |
| Williamsport | 80 | 29 | 48 | -2 | 1.55 | 3 | 2.24 | 0.32 | 7 | 19 | -7 | 123 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 77 | 24 | 44 | -2 | 1.20 | 3 | 1.92 | -0.09 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 43 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 77 | 28 | 49 | 1 | 1.58 | 2 | 1.65 | -0.07 | 5 | 20 | 6 | 101 |
| Susquehanna | 77 | 29 | 46 | 3 | 0.65 | 1 | 1.27 | -0.87 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 72 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 78 | 29 | 45 | -3 | 1.71 | 3 | 2.70 | 0.83 | 9 | 10 | -4 | 61 |
| New Castle | 79 | 28 | 47 | 0 | 1.28 | 4 | 2.91 | 1.11 | 10 | 16 | 11 | 76 |
| Slippery Rock | 78 | 30 | 48 | 3 | 1.46 | 4 | 3.13 | 1.28 | 9 | 20 | 16 | 92 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 76 | 29 | 46 | -4 | 1.06 | 3 | 3.48 | 1.63 | 8 | 21 | -3 | 80 |
| DuBois | 74 | 30 | 45 | -2 | 1.89 | 4 | 2.71 | 0.73 | 10 | 21 | 16 | 61 |
| Lewistown | 81 | 30 | 47 | -4 | 1.61 | 4 | 3.88 | 2.18 | 9 | 13 | -18 | 107 |
| Middletown | 80 | 32 | 49 | -3 | 1.94 | 3 | 3.71 | 1.85 | 9 | 25 | -15 | 149 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 77 | 26 | 45 | -1 | 2.23 | 3 | 4.95 | 2.43 | 8 | 14 | 8 | 59 |
| Selinsgrove | 81 | 29 | 47 | -3 | 1.91 | 3 | 3.30 | 1.43 | 9 | 12 | -10 | 94 |
| State College | 79 | 31 | 46 | -2 | 1.15 | 2 | 2.94 | 1.23 | 7 | 14 | 1 | 85 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 78 | 33 | 50 | 1 | 1.82 | 4 | 2.26 | 0.22 | 10 | 21 | -5 | 138 |
| Lehighton | 78 | 30 | 48 | -2 | 1.22 | 4 | 2.05 | 0.19 | 8 | 13 | -7 | 104 |
| Matamoras | 77 | 27 | 47 | -2 | 1.61 | 3 | 2.36 | 0.06 | 6 | 11 | -4 | 69 |
| Tobyhanna | 76 | 28 | 46 | 3 | 2.30 | 3 | 2.55 | 0.16 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 48 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 77 | 35 | 49 | 1 | 2.25 | 2 | 3.35 | 1.50 | 8 | 32 | 9 | 120 |
| Derry | 79 | 30 | 47 | -1 | 2.87 | 4 | 5.43 | 3.52 | 11 | 19 | 12 | 95 |
| Myersdale | 75 | 26 | 42 | -6 | 1.62 | 3 | 3.77 | 1.43 | 9 | 5 | -6 | 42 |
| Mount Pleasant | 78 | 26 | 46 | 0 | 2.52 | 2 | 4.28 | 1.83 | 7 | 14 | 9 | 80 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 79 | 33 | 50 | 1 | 1.85 | 3 | 3.03 | 1.15 | 9 | 31 | 4 | 119 |
| Rector | 78 | 27 | 46 | 0 | 3.16 | 5 | 5.91 | 3.46 | 15 | 16 | 11 | 89 |
| Waynesburg | 80 | 29 | 46 | -3 | 2.13 | 3 | 3.62 | 1.59 | 10 | 18 | -1 | 90 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 80 | 32 | 48 | -4 | 2.41 | 5 | 4.36 | 2.38 | 11 | 18 | -22 | 116 |
| Everett | 78 | 25 | 42 | -7 | 1.71 | 3 | 3.85 | 1.89 | 9 | 6 | -11 | 39 |
| Hanover | 80 | 28 | 47 | -5 | 1.91 | 3 | 3.61 | 1.63 | 9 | 20 | -20 | 120 |
| Shippensburg | 83 | 31 | 48 | -5 | 2.23 | 3 | 3.83 | 1.91 | 7 | 29 | -13 | 126 |
| South Mountain | 77 | 28 | 45 | -5 | 2.23 | 4 | 4.49 | 2.64 | 9 | 13 | -8 | 67 |
| York | 80 | 27 | 48 | -4 | 1.85 | 4 | 3.36 | 1.20 | 10 | 19 | -22 | 128 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 81 | 31 | 51 | 3 | 1.58 | 4 | 2.42 | 0.26 | 10 | 22 | 0 | 154 |
| Hamburg | 79 | 31 | 50 | 2 | 1.40 | 3 | 2.25 | 0.05 | 9 | 20 | 8 | 130 |
| Hopewell | 78 | 33 | 49 | -4 | 2.19 | 4 | 3.58 | 1.42 | 10 | 15 | -28 | 126 |
| Lancaster | 79 | 33 | 50 | -1 | 1.45 | 4 | 2.98 | 0.98 | 10 | 24 | -3 | 143 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 76 | 34 | 51 | 2 | 4.09 | 4 | 5.37 | 3.03 | 9 | 19 | -7 | 142 |
| New Holland | 76 | 33 | 49 | -2 | 0.99 | 4 | 2.63 | 0.63 | 10 | 21 | -6 | 130 |
| Philadelphia | 75 | 39 | 52 | 0 | 2.61 | 4 | 4.31 | 2.15 | 10 | 40 | -6 | 178 |
| Philadelphia NE | 76 | 36 | 53 | 1 | 3.81 | 4 | 5.29 | 3.13 | 10 | 39 | -7 | 175 |
| Reading | 79 | 33 | 50 | 2 | 1.15 | 4 | 2.26 | 0.03 | 10 | 24 | 4 | 147 |
| Valley Forge Na | 78 | 30 | 50 | -3 | 2.18 | 4 | 3.79 | 1.63 | 8 | 18 | -25 | 128 |
| Willow Grove | 75 | 38 | 52 | 2 | 1.58 | 4 | 2.70 | 0.36 | 10 | 36 | 10 | 167 |

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.

Crawford County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - - Spring looks like it finally arrived in Crawford County. The past weekend was beautiful for working outdoors. Farmers were busy with fence mending, equipment repairs, and some were able to do field work. Pastures are greening up quickly. I expect to see more dairy herds outside grazing this week.

Erie County, Lew Steckler (NRCS) - - Fields have dried out considerably this past week. Many farmers doing primary tillage operations. Trucks can be seen spreading lime and fertilizer on fields that will be planted. Farmers also installing subsurface tile drains.

Warren County, Heather Wilcox - - Finally dried out some so that farmers can begin plowing their drier fields. Beautiful weekend.

Bradford County, John C George (NRCS) - - Best week for field work this spring. Soils are beginning to dry out and temperature and sunny conditions are facilitating the continued drying.

Tioga County, Pamela Barnes - - The weather is warming up. A rain storm early in the week dumped enough rain to slow down field work for the rest of the week. The sunshine and warmer weather are drying up excess moisture. Manure hauling, spring fertilizing and some plowing in the flats are being done. Windy conditions are drying out topsoil moisture.

Indiana County Kevin Fry, (Ext) - - Over 2.5 inches of rain on Monday and Tuesday put a stop to field work. Some really nice weather followed the rain and continued through the weekend. Things began to dry out by Saturday and many producers took advantage of it and worked in the fields through the weekend, doing some tillage, spreading fertilizer, and planting oats.

Centre County, D. Decker - - Over 2.5 inches of rain early in the week. Soil conditions ok for field work by Friday.

Huntington County, Marina Kemper - - Had 1/2 inch of snow Easter morning, then 2 inches of rain through Wednesday. Got our oats planted on Saturday, and will soon start getting ready to plant corn. Busy with calf starting to be born.

Snyder/Juniata Counties, William C. Sheaffer - - Heavy rainfall (2.3 inches) from Sunday thru Tuesday put a halt to many of the planned field activities.

Fayette County, Don Fretts (Ext) - - With near 3 inches of rain on Monday and Tuesday, the only day field work was able to start was Saturday on well drained fields.

Westmoreland County, Eric Oesterling (Ext) - - Warm weather and winds at the end of the week helped. Soil is still wet in many places though. Peaches approaching full bloom. Apples tight cluster to pre pink.

Westmoreland County, John Lohr (FSA) - - County had more than 3 inches of rain on Monday and Tuesday making it too wet to get into most fields until late in the week. Oats planting progress is well behind the normal. Corn planting will begin next week if fields dry enough. Several heavy frosts slowed grass growth. Temperatures on Saturday reached near 80 degrees.

Cumberland County, John Rowehl - - Very little planting got done due to heavy rain until Friday or Saturday. Wheat planted on time last fall is now in stage 6, beginning stage of stem elongation.

Franklin County, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - - Cool wet week to start ended with well above normal temperatures and sunny weather. Finished topdressing wheat and seeding alfalfa. Oats are nearly all planted. Spring plowing nearly complete. Fruit showing little effect of the recent cold weather. Peach and cherries near full bloom. Apples still several weeks off. Appears to be a normal season at this time.

York County, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) - - Rain early in the week kept field tillage at a stand still. A major shift in weather to above normal temps and sunny days at week's end provided the long hoped for drying conditions. This should allow for field work and planting to begin. Small grains have progressed quickly with spotty areas showing damage from freeze out and excess water.

Montgomery County, Andrew Frankenfield (Ext) - - Another wet week with reports of 1.5 - 2.5 inches of rain, followed by a very warm weekend. Very little field work was able to be done this week, the farmers on the shale ground were in the fields by weeks end. Activities included finishing taxes, hauling manure, topdressing small grains and hay fields, servicing equipment and fixing fences.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 18, 2004

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Spring plowing | 36 | 17 | 35 |
| Barley, heading or headed | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| Oats, planted | 23 | 26 | 29 |
| Oats, emerged | 5 | 6 | 12 |
| Potatoes, planted | 6 | 3 | 5 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 18, 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 | 8 | 20 | 60 | 11 |
| Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand | 2 | 8 | 30 | 50 | 10 |
| Timothy clover stand | 1 | 3 | 24 | 57 | 15 |
| Pasture | 6 | 8 | 35 | 41 | 10 |

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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