



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

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending May 18, 2003

Poor week for Field Work: There were 2 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 7 percent short, 62 percent adequate and 31 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included planting corn, soybeans, vegetables and oats; making haylage and rylage; cutting hay; spraying herbicides; spreading manure; spreading lime and fertilizer; caring for livestock; building and fixing fences; and repairing equipment.

Crops: Pennsylvania experienced continued rains and below average temperatures, limiting the amount of field work and planting farmers were able to accomplish. Despite the weather, spring plowing advanced to 84 percent complete, on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. One crop that farmers continued to plant was corn, with 55 percent planted, the same as 2002 but 7 percent behind the five-year average. Thirty percent of corn has emerged, 4 percent ahead of 2002 but 1 percent behind the five-year average. Corn height was measured at 2 inches. The corn crop improved slightly over last week, with 2 percent rated poor, 20 percent fair, 42 percent good and 36 percent excellent. Oat planting advanced to 89 percent complete, slightly ahead of 2002 but slightly behind the five-year average. The percent of oats emerged advanced to 77 percent, on pace with last year and the five-year average. The oat condition improved as well, with 1 percent rated poor, 23 percent fair, 61 percent good and 15 percent excellent. The percent of soybeans planted did not increase, remaining at 13 percent complete, 3 percent behind last year 12 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of winter wheat headed held steady at 15 percent, 43 percent behind last year and 31 percent behind the five-year average. The winter wheat condition improved slightly, with 1 percent rated very poor, 3 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 50 percent good and 27 percent excellent. Seventy-seven percent of barley reached the headed stage, 7 percent behind 2002 and 8 percent behind the five-year average. The condition of both alfalfa and timothy clover improved compared to last week. The alfalfa stand was rated as 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 54 percent good and 33 percent excellent. Timothy clover stand was rated as 2 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 51 percent good and 23 percent excellent.

Livestock: With continued rains, pasture condition continued to improve. Two percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 4 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 51 percent good and 27 percent excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Weather conditions thus far have proved favorable for fruit tree growth. Peach tree condition was rated 99 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Ninety-six percent of cherry trees have reached the pink stage and 96 percent have reached the full bloom stage. Ninety-three percent of apple trees have reached the full bloom stage; apple tree condition was rated as 3 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 86 percent good and 2 percent excellent. Potatoes planted progressed to 40 percent complete, 18 percent behind 2002 and 23 percent behind the five-year average.

U.S. As Of May 11, 2003: Highlights: Tornado activity was reported across a wide area that included the central Great Plains, Midwest, Southeast, lower Great Lakes Region, and Tennessee and Ohio Valleys. Subsoil moisture conditions remained very dry in the central and northern Rockies, despite some localized heavy showers. Rain slowed planting progress much of the week in the central and northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley. The Southeast was mixed, as some areas received heavy showers and others little to no precipitation. Farther north, Pennsylvania had scattered, heavy rains that limited planting progress. Corn: Planting was 64 percent complete, 4 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 3 points behind the 5-year average. The crop was 24 percent emerged, 4 points ahead of last year but 5 points behind the 5-year average. Heavy showers across most of the Corn Belt slowed planting progress during the week. States in the eastern Corn Belt remain ahead of their 5-year average pace. Above-normal temperatures and adequate topsoil moisture in the eastern Corn Belt and Atlantic Coastal Plains led fields to rapidly emerge during the week. Soybeans: Planting was 16 percent complete, equal to last year's pace but 10 points behind normal for this date. Heavy rainfall across the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Delta, Tennessee Valley, and Southeast limited planting progress to 5 points or less in most States. Winter Wheat: Fifty-six percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, 4 percentage points ahead of last year's pace, and 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above normal temperatures stimulated development in the central and southern Great Plains, central Corn Belt and along the Atlantic Coastal Plain and yielded double-digit increases in the percent headed during the week. Small grains: The barley crop was 63 percent seeded, compared with last year's 45 percent but equal to the 5-year average. The crop was 39 percent emerged, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. The oat crop was 79 percent seeded and 54 percent emerged. Planting was ahead of last year's pace of 67 percent seeded and emergence was 13 points ahead of last year's pace. Other States showed slow progress due to wet conditions. Emergence during the week was boosted by 23 percentage points in Pennsylvania.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 18, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
Spring plowing	84	81	85
Corn, planted	55	55	62
Corn, emerged	30	26	31
Corn, height	2	-	-
Barley, headed	77	84	85
Winter wheat, headed	15	58	46
Oats, planted	89	84	92
Oats, emerged	77	79	76
Soybeans, planting	13	16	25
Potatoes, planted	40	58	63
Cherries, pink stage	96	0	80
Cherries, full bloom	96	0	79
Apples, full bloom	93	0	77

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 18, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	2	20	42	36
Winter wheat	1	3	19	50	27
Oats	0	1	23	61	15
Alfalfa stand	1	2	10	54	33
Timothy clover stand	2	3	21	51	23
Pasture conditions	2	4	16	51	27
Peaches	0	0	0	99	1
Apples	3	1	8	86	2

Weather Data For Week Ending May 18, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - May 18, 03				GDD BASE 50F	GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION		GDD			
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	78	39	55	-2	0.85	5	4.32	-0.83	18	205	+67	510
Franklin_AG	78	38	53	-5	1.12	6	6.14	+0.49	29	204	+67	554
Meadville	76	40	53	-3	0.86	4	6.11	+0.71	18	195	+82	536
Mercer	77	28	51	-6	0.93	3	4.74	-0.70	17	188	+45	520
Springboro	76	35	54	-4	1.14	6	6.67	+1.72	25	183	+35	492
Warren	79	39	51	-6	1.46	6	5.40	-0.32	23	161	+34	480
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	76	33	48	-5	1.51	5	5.66	+0.09	24	153	+76	440
Emporium	82	37	52	-3	1.13	6	5.50	-0.37	27	190	+99	540
Kane	76	31	45	-8	1.33	6	4.94	-0.96	22	61	-13	285
Laporte	69	39	49	-8	1.12	6	4.75	-0.75	26	119	-28	400
Lock_Haven	84	41	55	-4	0.97	5	4.57	-0.56	26	238	+72	609
Port_Alegany	78	35	50	-5	1.06	5	4.18	-0.98	19	126	+27	419
Renovo	82	39	53	-5	1.19	4	4.92	-0.21	26	218	+52	584
Ridgway	79	37	51	-4	1.01	4	5.14	-0.73	23	138	+47	458
Stevenson_Dam	82	38	52	-3	1.26	6	5.82	-0.05	29	174	+83	522
Towanda	74	38	52	-6	1.07	5	4.74	-0.14	28	134	-16	452
Well_sboro	76	37	49	-5	1.41	5	4.63	+0.49	20	122	+43	401
Williamsport_AP	77	38	55	-5	1.06	5	4.63	-0.74	24	250	+37	621
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	67	36	52	-4	0.07	1	3.07	-2.64	17	103	+4	418
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	74	41	54	-5	0.14	4	2.96	-2.06	23	236	+55	585
Susquehanna	73	36	53	-2	0.67	3	5.21	-0.71	20	154	+66	478
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	79	35	54	-4	0.79	6	5.08	-0.38	24	262	+102	642
New_Castle	80	37	56	-3	1.26	6	5.77	+0.80	21	278	+128	664
Slippery_Rock	79	37	55	-2	1.00	6	6.12	+0.95	21	273	+140	652
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blairstown	80	41	52	-7	1.71	5	5.09	-0.13	30	262	+66	619
DuBois	77	37	50	-8	0.99	5	5.68	+0.12	27	221	+83	556
Lewistown	86	45	56	-4	1.37	5	5.57	+0.34	23	281	+46	662
Middletown	79	46	57	-5	0.70	4	5.12	-0.56	24	300	+27	686
Prince_Galitzin	80	38	51	-5	1.27	6	6.07	-0.90	22	221	+98	552
Selinsgrove	79	40	54	-5	0.78	4	4.48	-0.84	27	210	+19	575
State_College_P	81	44	54	-6	0.78	6	4.80	-0.12	26	256	+78	620
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	73	38	55	-6	0.25	4	2.77	-3.19	23	241	+17	609
Lehighton	71	40	53	-7	0.44	5	3.02	-2.77	25	174	-39	521
Matamoras	69	37	52	-7	0.18	3	2.12	-4.36	19	116	-57	428
Tobyhanna	72	39	54	+2	0.69	4	4.44	-2.29	20	189	+116	537
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	43	56	-3	0.67	5	6.61	+0.97	24	396	+197	808
Derry	76	39	54	-5	0.75	4	6.19	+0.62	27	277	+115	642
Meyersdale	77	33	50	-8	1.32	4	8.10	+1.63	27	156	-2	474
Mount_Pleasant	81	36	56	+0	0.78	5	6.52	+0.03	28	291	+165	678
Pittsburgh_Intl	79	39	56	-3	0.53	6	5.67	+0.49	26	382	+163	789
Rector	82	33	56	-1	0.84	3	6.29	-0.20	23	287	+161	665
Waynesburg	80	36	57	-2	0.80	4	8.14	+2.40	25	317	+136	717
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	81	46	56	-6	2.29	6	7.54	+2.02	29	278	+6	663
Everett	84	41	54	-5	1.80	4	8.74	+3.25	30	245	+64	620
Hanover	81	43	56	-6	1.51	4	6.59	+1.07	24	284	+12	669
Shippensburg	84	44	56	-6	2.81	4	7.20	+1.89	25	300	+16	693
South_Mountain	78	42	53	-7	3.62	6	9.44	+4.22	28	202	+12	536
York_AP	81	43	57	-6	1.30	4	5.03	-0.68	25	293	+12	678
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	79	39	57	-3	0.43	2	3.76	-2.33	24	273	+65	657
Hamburg	76	42	56	-3	0.43	4	3.39	-3.23	22	248	+85	617
Hopewell	77	41	55	-8	0.32	3	3.74	-2.44	21	218	-73	574
Lancaster_AP	77	43	56	-5	0.58	3	4.38	-1.23	21	255	+27	633
Neshaminy_Falls	80	40	55	-6	0.30	1	3.83	-2.82	22	246	+24	620
New_Holland	76	45	56	-5	0.24	4	3.54	-2.07	21	251	+23	622
Philadelphia	82	45	60	-4	0.33	1	3.41	-2.40	18	367	+62	772
Philadelphia_NE	81	39	57	-7	0.37	1	4.38	-1.43	19	298	-7	685
Reading_AP	79	41	57	-4	0.25	1	3.17	-3.16	21	282	+72	656
Volley_Forge_Na	82	37	55	-8	0.50	3	4.01	-2.17	19	208	-83	571
Willow_Grove	78	38	55	-5	0.04	1	2.13	-4.52	17	276	+54	649

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evaporation in inches.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

"The weekend brought good weather and farmers were able to return to the fields. Dairy farmers are starting to fill silos or make baleage. Grain farmers are busy preparing fields for corn and beans."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Legume hay is ready to harvested. The rain last week was greatly needed and really helped the hay crop. If weather permits, producers are going to start harvesting. A light freeze on Wednesday. For the most part apple blossoms are set and the freeze may have caused some damage to the crop. Noticed some farmers fitting ground for planting this week."

- Thomas Tanner, Forrest County

"Continued wet weather held up field work for the most part until late Saturday or Sunday. Corn planting has been almost non-existent for the past two weeks, and the few who have got it planted haven't seen it emerge due to the cool wet conditions."

- Wes Ramsey, Warren County

"Rain has been good for the grass-based farmers. Rain has been bad for getting field work done, i.e., getting the rest of the crops planted and spraying corn that's already planted. Orchard grass hay is heading and the alfalfa is pushing buds. Some farmers will have to decide whether to make hay or plant corn and other crops soon."

- Burrell Whitworth, Clinton County

"Cool and wet, very good weather for grass and small grains. Have not been in field for two weeks, too wet. Building fence and A.I. breeding beef cows."

- Martin Whitmore, Clarion County

"Cold wet weather all week. It seems the rains don't want to stop. The county needs some dry days to finish the corn and potato planting. One full good week will finish the planting for the county. Some producers are running short on hay."

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

"Cool and wet week, Soil moisture on surface only allowed field work on two days."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"Got another 3½ inches of rain this week."

- Marina K., Huntington County

"Another wet week."

- David Stetler, Juniata County

"Again, another week with above normal moisture and below normal temperatures."

- Ken Soldano, Somerset County

"Cool temperatures this week slowed plant growth, however most crops are still doing well. Heavy downpours late last week caused moderate erosion damage to many conventionally tilled fields that were recently planted. Corn and soybean planting that was ahead of the normal schedule 10 days ago is now in need of some dry weather to avoid falling behind."

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Excessive rain slowed field practices."

- Steven Kerlin, Fulton County

"It's so wet here I suspect a fellow could get a helicopter stuck trying to spray."

- Russ McLucas, Fulton County

"What a difference a year makes! Last year planting was accelerated due to dry conditions. This year finds producers 2 weeks behind 2002's pace and a week behind normal. Below normal temperatures and sunshine has most grain crops in a slow growth or holding pattern. Once this changes, plant development and farm field work will shift into high gear! Prospects are for excellent yields on alfalfa and mixed hay if weather cooperates during harvest time."

- D.Wayne Kurtz, York County

Comments continued on next page.

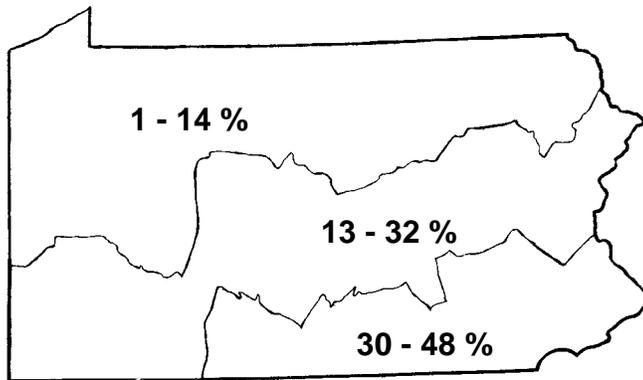
“Not a real good week for field work but many were able to spend some time planting corn and soybeans, making ryelage and some started cutting first cutting alfalfa. The alfalfa that was cut early and put into silage was of fairly good quality but much still remains on the ground getting wet. Corn has emerged looking good in that it is very uniform but a little on the yellow side. Tobacco transplants in beds and greenhouses are growing very slow. Barley is mostly headed and looking good with the exception of some lodging from winds.”

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

“Raining today. Only second significant rainfall since Palm Sunday. Lots of corn has emerged, some soybeans have sprouted. More crop farmers are switching to no-till to save time, soil, and moisture. Some farmers worked hard to make first cutting this week. All was harvested as high moisture baleage.”

- Axel Linde, Lancaster County

Corn Emerged Percent Completed



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