



## Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service

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# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 23, 2004

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

**Poor week for field work:** There were only 2 days suitable for field work due to the rainy and wet conditions across the state during the last week. Soil moisture increased and was rated as 3 percent short, 55 percent adequate and 42 percent surplus. 90 percent of the spring tillage has been completed, which is ahead of 84 percent the previous year, and 89 percent for the five year average. Principal farm activities included spring tillage, planting of spring crops, cutting the first hay crop, spreading fertilizer, spreading manure, repairing fences and machinery, and turning livestock out to pasture for the summer.

**Crops:** The corn crop in Pennsylvania is currently 73 percent planted, which is ahead of last year at 58 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 74 percent. Corn emergence, at 56 percent complete, is ahead of both last year and the 5-year averages. These averages were at 37 percent in 2003, and at 49 percent for the 5-year average. Corn emerged is at an average height of 6 inches across the state, and is rated at 1% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 55% good, and 30% excellent. Winter wheat reached 73% headed progress during the last week, compared to 47% last year and 56% for a five year average. The winter wheat crop was rated as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 56 percent good and 19 percent excellent, which is slightly improved over last week. Barley headed reached 96% last week, which is greater than last year's average of 82% and ahead of the 5 year average of 88%. Oats planted is currently at 94% complete, compared to last year and the five year averages of 93% and 95%, respectively. Oats is also at 72% emerged, which is behind last year at 83% last year and 85% for a 5 year average. Oats condition is looking good with 1% very poor, 4% poor, 36% fair, 49% good and 10% excellent. Soybeans are at 37 percent planted, compared to 20 percent in 2003 and 37 percent over the last 5 years. Soybeans emerged are 18 percent, which is ahead of last year at 4 percent and the 5-year average of 16 percent. Potato planting has reached 80% complete by the end of last week, which is ahead of last year and the five year average at 60% and 77% respectively. This week tobacco transplanted was at 43% complete compared to 6% last year and at 19% as a five year average. Alfalfa first cutting is now at 23 percent complete, compared to 12 percent last year and 27 percent for a 5-year average. Alfalfa stand last week was rated at 3 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 54 percent good and 20 percent excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 57 percent good and 15 percent excellent. The quality of the hay made so far was 15% very poor, 21% poor, 33% fair, 22% good, and 9% excellent. Peach condition is looking good this early with 2% rated poor, 3% rated fair, 80% at good and 15% at excellent. Apple condition also looking good this spring with 15% fair, 78% good, and 7% excellent.

**Livestock:** The weather conditions and warm temperatures has pasture land in Pennsylvania rated at 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 52 percent good and 25 percent

excellent. Livestock are beginning to be turned out onto pasture for the summer.

**U.S. As of May 16, 2004:** Above-normal temperatures prevailed across the eastern half of the Nation, as well as in the Southwest and some areas of the central and southern Great Plains. In the Northeast, Middle Atlantic, Ohio Valley, and eastern Corn Belt, temperatures averaged 6 to 12 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, encouraging emergence of summer crops. Minimum temperatures fell below freezing across the northern Rockies and northern Great Plains, as well as in parts of the central and southern Rockies, central Great Plains, and Intermountain Region, raising concerns of frost damage to heading winter wheat and emerging corn. Snow was reported in the northernmost areas of the Great Plains, with as much as 8 inches in parts of North Dakota. Heavy rainfall in the Mississippi Delta and western Gulf Coast hampered fieldwork and flooded fields and pastures, with some locations in Louisiana receiving up to 12 inches of precipitation. Dry conditions persisted in the southern Atlantic Coast States, with only light precipitation. Precipitation was moderate in the Corn Belt and eastern Great Plains, causing minor fieldwork delays. Light to moderate, widely scattered precipitation fell across the High Plains, northern and central Rockies, and Pacific Northwest, providing relief from dry conditions in some areas. The Southwest remained mostly dry.

**Corn:** Planting advanced to 92 percent complete, 19 percentage points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of normal. Emergence, at 63 percent, was 26 points ahead of last year and 19 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting neared completion across the central and southern Great Plains and western Corn Belt. Colorado growers progressed the most, planting 32 percent of their crop. The planting pace was ahead of normal in all States. Meanwhile, emergence progressed rapidly in the western Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains, with 42 percent of the crop emerging in Minnesota and over 35 percent emerging in Iowa and Nebraska. **Soybeans:** Growers had planted 54 percent of the Nation's soybean crop, compared with 23 percent last year and 36 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence, at 19 percent, was 12 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Planting continued to progress rapidly as growers completed corn seedings. One-fourth or more of the crop was planted during the week in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Ohio, with the pace only slightly slower in Illinois and South Dakota. Emergence was ahead of normal in most States, particularly in the central Corn Belt and Mississippi Delta. **Winter Wheat:** Sixty-nine percent of the crop had advanced to the heading stage or beyond, 6 points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Heading was nearly complete in Arkansas, California, and Oklahoma. The crop showed rapid development from the central Corn Belt westward through the central Great Plains, with over one-third of Indiana's and Nebraska's crop reaching the heading stage. Heading had not begun in the northern Rocky Mountain Region.

### Weather Data For Week Ending May 23, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 23, 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	84	44	65	7	2.85	5	8.57	2.85	30	396	203	751
Franklin	84	45	66	9	4.18	6	10.50	4.22	35	387	196	761
Meadville	81	44	65	8	2.45	5	7.40	1.34	31	359	197	704
Mercer	79	36	62	4	3.25	4	7.35	1.27	23	312	113	643
Springboro	83	42	64	6	5.60	5	12.47	7.00	35	345	140	681
Warren	83	46	65	7	3.69	6	12.51	6.11	34	367	187	725
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	77	37	62	9	1.44	6	8.76	2.49	33	341	229	674
Emporium	82	48	65	10	2.57	6	8.78	2.12	31	399	268	771
Kane	75	35	59	5	2.84	6	9.52	2.92	26	193	85	473
Laporte	82	47	63	5	1.13	6	9.21	3.00	34	338	138	678
Lock Haven	85	53	68	9	2.84	6	10.62	4.83	25	463	237	900
Port Allegany	81	46	64	8	1.59	6	9.11	3.29	29	340	198	666
Renovo	84	51	67	9	1.90	6	7.47	1.68	26	449	223	856
Ridgway	80	44	63	8	4.24	6	11.21	4.55	25	333	202	662
Stevenson Dam	83	51	66	11	1.96	6	8.91	2.25	29	418	287	808
Towanda	84	46	67	8	0.33	4	7.17	1.72	28	410	204	791
Wellsboro	77	44	62	8	1.22	6	9.79	5.04	30	320	206	653
Williamsport	84	53	69	8	1.75	6	7.69	1.64	33	494	212	941
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	81	45	64	8	0.15	2	6.90	0.51	25	330	187	672
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	50	67	8	0.43	6	6.21	0.56	24	449	204	865
Susquehanna	82	46	66	11	0.51	3	6.47	-0.12	25	400	272	793
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	83	45	66	8	2.94	6	8.90	2.71	30	401	184	775
New Castle	85	45	68	9	3.28	5	8.91	3.33	26	432	222	817
Slippery Rock	83	45	67	10	4.20	6	10.05	4.24	34	430	243	825
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	81	52	67	7	1.95	6	8.87	3.04	28	462	202	853
DuBois	78	41	65	7	5.38	7	11.26	5.00	37	417	224	781
Lewistown	83	56	68	7	0.75	4	7.99	2.01	27	481	175	918
Middletown	86	62	71	9	0.57	4	7.69	1.27	24	573	220	1,047
Prince Gallitzi	82	48	66	10	3.79	6	12.03	4.29	27	401	230	762
Selinsgrove	85	55	68	9	1.14	6	8.79	2.79	29	453	198	878
State College	82	56	67	7	1.76	5	7.72	2.18	25	472	229	878
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	86	56	70	9	0.18	2	5.63	-1.06	24	495	196	951
Lehighton	82	55	67	6	0.33	4	8.41	1.84	25	441	157	869
Matamoras	81	43	65	5	0.17	2	6.23	-0.97	24	349	114	732
Tobyhanna	83	46	65	11	0.60	5	10.18	2.67	29	349	242	710
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	51	68	9	3.74	6	8.70	2.32	27	547	283	971
Derry	82	50	67	7	2.98	6	11.41	5.17	32	463	239	865
Myersdale	80	50	65	7	2.94	5	9.91	2.73	23	358	142	708
Mount Pleasant	83	47	66	10	3.34	5	9.38	2.18	20	457	280	850
Pittsburgh Intl	85	50	70	9	3.54	6	9.22	3.43	26	555	268	977
Rector	85	51	67	10	3.31	6	12.37	5.17	37	464	287	869
Waynesburg	83	48	67	8	3.38	5	8.36	1.96	25	468	224	867
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	86	58	70	7	1.09	5	9.27	3.14	28	530	178	974
Everett	86	52	66	7	1.61	5	9.12	3.04	26	388	144	744
Hanover	85	61	71	8	1.90	5	9.50	3.37	23	551	199	999
Shippensburg	85	59	71	8	1.46	6	9.11	3.18	24	567	201	1,012
South Mountain	81	56	67	7	1.75	3	11.20	5.37	21	441	188	828
York	84	59	70	7	1.07	5	9.62	3.30	26	536	173	991
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	90	54	72	11	0.56	4	6.84	0.08	25	569	292	1,048
Hamburg	86	55	70	10	0.11	3	5.79	-1.73	26	500	276	955
Hopewell	86	57	70	6	0.74	4	8.79	1.92	31	501	124	958
Lancaster	85	60	70	9	0.65	4	8.46	2.18	28	535	233	1,000
Neshaminy Falls	90	58	71	10	0.38	3	9.02	1.64	23	540	246	1,011
New Holland	87	58	70	9	0.88	4	7.11	0.83	27	529	227	980
Philadelphia	87	61	72	9	1.74	4	9.30	2.89	24	619	236	1,115
Philadelphia NE	87	58	72	8	0.42	4	8.99	2.58	24	599	206	1,082
Reading	86	57	71	10	0.24	3	5.65	-1.41	26	545	262	1,014
Valley Forge Na	92	56	71	8	0.66	4	8.01	1.14	22	534	157	993
Willow Grove	86	59	71	10	0.33	2	5.91	-1.47	23	565	271	1,043

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.**

**Cambria County, Dolly Little (FSA)** – Heavy rains caused some erosion problems, especially in the recently planted crop fields. Some wheat fields have drowned out.

**Centre County, Dick Decker** – Rain showers each day, 1.75 inches in my rain gauge. Little field work possible. Wind and wet conditions prevented spraying of corn.

**Crawford County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** – Off and on rain showers through the week with heavy downpours during the weekend. Hardly any field activity this week due to wet conditions. There has been quite a bit of soil erosion from recently planted fields.

**Franklin County, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** – Wet Week. On average 2 inches of rain, no severe storms or excess rainfall at any time. Very limited field work this week. Planted crops are growing well and wheat is all heading with large heads. Early Barley varieties are starting to show color. Very poor week for hay. Strawberries should begin this week and anticipate a very good crop.

**Fulton County, Ann Marie Meyer** – A wet, cloudy week for field work. hay cut the previous week was damaged due to heavy rains. sunshine by Saturday helped to dry things out and begin field work again.

**Huntington County, Marina Kemper** – We had at least ½ of an inch of rain every day this week. Too wet to do anything. This is more and more looking like last year all over again. What neighbors that got their corn planted, it is turning yellow from too much water, and has stopped growing. At least 80% of my neighbors have yet to plant corn or even chop hay, must less bail any. We sure hope we get a break in this rain soon!!!

**Indiana County, Kevin Fry** - Lots of rain this week, almost 4 inches of it. We needed a little, got a lot, I guess that's the way it works sometimes. Corn that has been planted is growing quickly with the hot weather. Found leafhoppers on 5/21 in Westmoreland County, keep an eye on alfalfa regrowth and new seedings.

**Lackawanna County, John Esslinger (Ag Agt)** – Vegetable crops that are planted are progressing ahead of normal. Planting has been delayed but not excessively.

**Montgomery County, Andrew Frankenfield (Ag Agt)** – "Hazy, hot and humid with a chance of thunderstorms" that sums up the week. Corn and soybeans were planted around showers during mid-week, tough week to make hay. Timothy is beginning to head and the orchard grass has yet to be made. It was not easy to spray all the corn prior to emergence.

**Perry County, David L. Swartz (Ag Agt)** – Heavy and frequent thunderstorms have produced over 3 inches of rain this past week, (1.5 inches in one 20 minute storm) effectively stopping fieldwork for the week. The above normal temperatures and abundant moisture have pushed the maturity on hay crops, but they have not been harvested due to the wet weather. Quality will be an issue with the first crop of alfalfa.

**Potter County, David Stratton (FSA)** – Extremely wet week. Very little field work completed. If it rains any more the ducks will be leaving.

**Snyder County, William C. Sheaffer** - As a result of very heavy rains near the end of the previous week coupled with thunderstorms and showers nearly everyday since, there were very few activities attempted except for the spreading of manure and fertilizers. The lack of sunshine along with the heavy rainfall is causing the Oats to turn yellow in many of the poorly drained areas. Some of the corn fields that were sprayed pre-emerge are showing some weed growth that will need to be sprayed a second time unless conditions improve. Not a very good week.

**Susquehanna County, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** – Lots of corn being planted between T-storms and rain showers. Some areas reporting heavy rains and some areas reporting no rain. Haylage making is gearing up some farmers are done while others are just beginning.

**Tioga County, Linda Carmichael** – Daily scattered rain showers continued all week.

**Tioga County, Pamela Barnes** – Just starting to dry out. Boom we get hit again. Two to three inches in 2 days. Hay starting to go backwards fast do to the hot humid weather.

**Westmoreland County, John Lohr (FSA)** – Summer-like temperatures are continuing with some rainfall each day. Heavy downpours from the storms will make most fields too wet to work until the middle of next week. The warm, wet conditions are making for excellent early-season crop growth. Producers are now waiting for the next dry period to get first-cutting hay harvested and the balance of their crops planted.

**York County, Wayne Kurtz (FSA)** – Scattered thunderstorms with heavy downpours and cloudy, humid conditions provided a mixed bag of factors for various crop progress. Above normal temperatures continue. Barley is turning and wheat is fully headed almost countywide. Corn planting continues with some producers completed and soybean planting is under full steam. This is where soil conditions permit. Hay harvest is stalled because of lack of sun. High temps have strawberry harvest beginning 7 days early.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 23, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	90	84	89
Corn, planted	73	58	74
Corn, emerged	56	37	49
Barley, heading or headed	96	82	88
Wheat, heading or headed	73	47	56
Oats, planted	94	93	95
Oats, emerged	72	83	85
Soybeans, planted	37	20	37
Soybeans, emerged	18	4	16
Potatoes, planted	80	60	77
Tohacco, transplanted	43	6	19
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	23	12	27
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	11	4	7

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 23, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	1	13	55	30
Wheat	1	3	21	56	19
Oats	1	4	36	49	10
Soybeans	1	1	17	60	21
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	3	4	19	54	20
Timothy clover stand	1	3	24	57	15
Quality of hay made	15	21	33	22	9
Pasture	1	2	20	52	25
Peaches	0	2	3	80	15
Apples	0	0	15	78	7

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