



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending May 25, 2003

**Poor week for Field Work:** There were 2 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 3 percent short, 47 percent adequate and 50 percent surplus. Principal farms 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. Spring plowing slowed to 84 percent complete, slightly behind 2002 and the five-year average. Corn planted advanced slightly to 59 percent but 19 percent behind the five-year average. Forty percent of corn has emerged, 7 percent behind 2002 and 13 percent behind the five-year average. Corn height was measured at 3 inches. The corn crop declined slightly over last week, with 9 percent rated as poor, 36 percent fair, 45 percent good and 10 percent excellent. Oat planting advanced to 95 percent complete. The percent of oats emerged advanced to 85 percent, on pace with last year and the five-year average. The oat crop condition declined slightly with 5 percent rated poor, 25 percent fair, 56 percent good and 14 percent excellent. The percent of soybeans planted increased, advancing to 23 percent complete, 9 percent behind last year and 19 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of winter wheat headed increased significantly to 60 percent, however still behind the five-year average. The winter wheat condition declined, with 1 percent rated very poor, 7 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 51 percent good and 18 percent excellent. Eighty-four percent of barley reached the headed stage, 6 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average. The condition of both alfalfa and timothy clover improved compared to last week. The alfalfa stand was rated as 5 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 52 percent good and 30 percent excellent. Timothy clover stand was rated as 3 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 58 percent good and 20 percent excellent. Fifteen percent of the first cutting of alfalfa was completed last week. The quality of hay made was rated as 4 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 27 percent good and 19 percent excellent.

**Livestock:** With continued rains, pasture condition continued to improve. Six percent of pasture land was rated as poor 16 percent fair, 56 percent good and 22 percent excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetables:** Weather conditions continue to be favorable for fruit tree growth. Peach tree condition was rated as 15 percent fair, 79 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Apple tree condition was rated as 17 percent fair, 77 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Potatoes planted progressed to 68 percent complete, 8 percent behind 2002 and 11 percent behind the five-year average.

**U.S. As Of May 18, 2003:** Highlights: Tornadoes and strong thunderstorms were reported in Texas, Oklahoma, and parts of the interior South. Heavy rains fell in a wide swath from eastern Kansas and Oklahoma, through Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, northern Georgia, and Tennessee. This precipitation slowed fieldwork and caused flooding in some locations. Warm daytime temperatures and dry weather favored crop development in the Pacific Northwest, despite widespread cloud cover and sporadic showers. Temperatures approached normal levels in California's Central Valley following a prolonged period of cool, damp weather. The warm, dry weather promoted rice and cotton planting and cotton emergence. Hot, dry weather increased irrigation demands in the Southwest as dry conditions dominated in a band from southern California to the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. Subsoil moisture conditions remained very dry in the central and northern Rockies, despite some scattered rain and snow showers. Scattered showers slowed planting progress in the central and northern Great Plains and upper

Mississippi Valley. Cool weather and scattered frosts in the northern Great Plains slowed winter wheat development and the emergence of small grains. Dry conditions and temperatures over 90 degrees F stressed crops in the southern Great Plains. Late-week storms alleviated dry topsoil conditions and benefitted emerging crops. Scattered showers and cool weather in the Great Lakes region slowed fieldwork and crop development. Warm days and mostly dry weather in the Corn Belt favored corn and soybean planting, although wet fields from the previous week's heavy rain hampered fieldwork in some areas, especially in Indiana and Ohio. Excessively wet conditions persisted in the northern Delta States, Tennessee Valley, and southern Ohio Valley. Farther north, cool conditions with limited shower activity allowed Pennsylvania, New York, and New England growers to make good progress. **Corn:** Planting was 77 percent complete, 7 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 4 points behind the 5-year average. The crop was 43 percent emerged, 11 points ahead of last year but 8 points behind the 5-year average. Continued wet fields and scattered showers across most of the Corn Belt slowed planting progress during the week as most States fell behind their 5-year average pace. Early-season progress allowed Ohio to remain 16 points ahead of normal despite saturated fields which halted fieldwork this week. In Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Minnesota, planting progressed 6 points or less during the week. With drier conditions, producers in Nebraska planted 31 percent of their crop, but remained 12 points behind their 5-year average pace. Colorado growers also took advantage of dry weather to plant 27 percent of their crop. Emergence gained momentum in most areas under generally cool, cloudy weather. However, emergence lagged behind the 5-year average in all of the Corn Belt States except Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio. **Soybeans:** Planting was 25 percent complete, 3 percentage points behind last year's pace and 19 points behind normal for this date. The crop was 9 percent emerged, 3 points ahead of last year but 9 points behind the 5-year average. Of the 18 major producing States, only Arkansas and Mississippi are equal to or ahead of their 5-year average planting pace. Planting progress was more than 1 week behind normal in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, and Nebraska. Heavy rainfall across the Delta, Tennessee Valley, and Southeast limited planting progress to 8 points or less in most States. With drier conditions, producers in Nebraska and Minnesota advanced 16 points during the week, but remained 24 and 15 points behind their 5-year average pace, respectively, due to wet conditions early in the season that slowed planting. Fields slowly began to emerge across the Corn Belt, with all States except Ohio behind normal progress. Emergence gained momentum in the Delta due to warm temperatures and adequate soil moisture, especially in Mississippi where 70 percent of the crop has emerged. **Winter Wheat:** Sixty-eight percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, 4 percentage points ahead of last year's pace and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Development accelerated 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. Heading was slightly ahead of normal in Kansas and Missouri. However, fields headed behind normal in the eastern Corn Belt, especially in Ohio. Fields also developed slower than normal due to cool temperatures across the northern Great Plains, where only a few fields were headed in Montana and South Dakota. The oat crop was 87 percent seeded and 70 percent emerged. Planting was ahead of last year's pace of 81 percent seeded and emergence was 17 points ahead of last year's pace. Planting was completed in Iowa and Ohio and virtually complete in Nebraska and South Dakota. Wisconsin's planting progress advanced 14 percentage points to 90 percent complete, 16 points ahead of last year but 2 points behind the normal pace. Other States showed slow progress due to wet conditions. About one-fifth of the crop emerged during the week in Ohio and Wisconsin. Emergence was only slightly slower during the week in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 25, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - May 25, 03				GDD BASE 40F TOT	
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F			
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	77	39	56	-4	1.76	3	6.08	+0.14	21	250	+47	621
Franklin_AG	74	37	54	-5	1.49	4	7.63	+1.11	33	235	+34	653
Meadville	74	36	54	-5	1.43	3	7.54	+1.24	21	226	+55	633
Mercer	73	33	52	-8	1.99	3	6.73	+0.40	20	200	-9	599
Springboro	76	32	52	-8	1.48	3	8.15	+2.48	28	206	-10	576
Warren	76	34	55	-4	1.21	3	6.61	-0.04	26	200	+10	586
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	72	31	53	-3	1.26	3	6.92	+0.40	27	183	+64	532
Emporium	76	36	56	-1	1.17	3	6.67	-0.25	30	232	+93	652
Kane	69	27	49	-7	1.58	3	6.52	-0.34	25	70	-44	346
Laporte	72	38	53	-6	1.04	4	5.79	-0.66	30	149	-61	496
Lock_Haven	76	38	57	-4	0.95	3	5.52	-0.50	29	285	+48	726
Port_Allegany	75	30	52	-5	0.92	2	5.10	-0.95	21	152	+2	503
Renovo	76	37	56	-5	1.24	4	6.16	+0.14	30	261	+24	697
Ridgway	73	32	52	-5	1.20	2	6.34	-0.58	25	157	+18	542
Stevenson_Dam	75	38	56	-1	1.18	3	7.00	+0.08	32	213	+74	631
Towanda	75	38	55	-5	1.05	4	5.79	+0.14	32	171	-45	558
Wellsboro	72	37	53	-2	0.98	3	5.61	+0.67	23	150	+29	496
Williamsport_AP	75	39	57	-5	1.47	3	6.10	-0.18	27	303	+9	744
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	78	31	53	-5	0.88	4	3.95	-2.67	21	127	-24	512
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	38	57	-5	0.56	4	3.52	-2.34	27	283	+26	702
Susquehanna	80	38	57	+1	0.43	3	5.64	-1.19	23	203	+67	597
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	75	40	55	-5	2.06	4	7.14	+0.70	28	300	+72	750
New_Castle	77	39	55	-5	1.78	2	7.55	+1.75	23	317	+96	773
Slippery_Rock	77	40	55	-4	1.98	3	8.10	+2.05	24	313	+116	762
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	72	36	53	-9	1.37	5	6.46	+0.40	35	290	+18	711
Du_Bois	71	36	54	-6	1.51	2	7.19	+0.68	29	254	+51	655
Lewistown	76	38	57	-6	1.02	5	6.59	+0.38	28	328	+8	779
Middletown	74	41	57	-7	0.85	4	5.97	-0.69	28	352	-17	808
Prince_Gallitzi	75	34	53	-6	0.99	4	7.06	-0.97	26	248	+68	641
Selinsgrove	76	37	56	-6	1.31	5	5.79	-0.44	32	254	-13	689
State_College_P	72	41	56	-6	0.44	5	5.24	-0.52	31	300	+45	734
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	79	36	57	-6	0.62	4	3.39	-3.55	27	294	-19	732
Lehighton	73	37	55	-8	0.80	5	3.82	-2.99	30	211	-86	628
Matamoras	79	35	54	-7	0.93	5	3.05	-4.40	24	145	-101	527
Tobyhanna	77	39	56	+2	1.46	5	5.90	-1.87	25	235	+121	653
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	75	43	57	-4	0.90	4	7.51	+0.89	28	448	+171	930
Derry	77	40	56	-5	1.41	3	7.60	+1.12	30	321	+86	756
Meyersdale	73	38	51	-9	0.78	4	8.88	+1.43	31	173	-54	554
Mount_Pleasant	72	38	55	-4	1.04	3	7.56	+0.09	31	330	+143	785
Pittsburgh_Intl	75	43	57	-5	1.79	3	7.46	+1.44	29	432	+131	909
Rector	78	39	56	-2	1.35	3	7.64	+0.17	26	333	+146	781
Waynesburg	76	40	56	-5	0.89	4	9.03	+2.38	29	363	+108	832
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	73	39	56	-8	0.96	6	8.50	+2.13	35	324	-44	778
Everett	74	37	53	-8	0.71	5	9.45	+3.16	35	272	+17	711
Hanover	74	36	56	-9	0.61	4	7.20	+0.83	28	330	-38	782
Shippensburg	75	36	56	-8	0.89	3	8.09	+1.94	28	348	-34	809
South_Mountain	70	35	52	-9	1.19	4	10.63	+4.57	32	224	-41	622
York_AP	75	35	56	-8	0.59	4	5.62	-0.93	29	341	-38	793
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	81	36	57	-6	1.11	4	4.87	-2.13	28	321	+31	775
Hamburg	76	37	56	-5	0.78	5	4.17	-3.63	27	294	+59	732
Hopewell	76	36	55	-11	1.12	5	4.86	-2.26	26	255	-139	678
Lancaster_AP	74	41	56	-7	1.20	4	5.58	-0.94	25	301	-15	748
Neshaminy_Falls	80	38	56	-7	0.61	4	4.44	-3.21	26	292	-16	735
New_Holland	74	40	56	-7	1.33	5	4.87	-1.65	26	291	-25	732
Philadelphia	79	43	59	-6	0.67	4	4.08	-2.57	22	433	+23	908
Philadelphia_NE	79	41	57	-8	0.89	5	5.27	-1.38	24	351	-59	808
Reading_AP	77	36	57	-6	0.92	6	4.09	-3.24	27	332	+36	774
Valley_Forge_Na	80	32	55	-10	0.67	5	4.68	-2.44	24	248	-146	679
Willow_Grove	76	39	56	-7	0.56	4	2.69	-4.96	21	319	+11	761

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
 Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap 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.*

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“Another cold and wet week. Some areas of the county dried out enough to get some corn and beans in before it started to rain again, however most farmers are behind schedule.”

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

“Continued wet conditions have made it impossible to cut hay, other field activities very difficult. In general, field work is behind where most folk would like to be now.”

- Harry Blanchet, Forest County

“Cool temperatures have slowed plant growth and hay looks short. Corn planting is in full swing with rain slowing down progress. A freeze happened early in the week. Oats have emerged and stands look good.”

- David Stratton Potter County

“Cold wet week, need sun. What corn is up needs heat a little haying being done.”

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

“Rain continued, 5/8" added in my gauge during the week. Most days too wet for field work.”

- Dick Decker, Centre County

“Another wet week, just waiting for some dry weather.”

- M. K., Huntington County

“Another wet week, wherever you walk it's squishy, squishy and more squishy.”

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

“Have had 1 ½ inches of rain this past week. It has been very hard to get the field work done in only 2 days each week. The weather is similar to 2002, except we do have more opportunity to do field work this year. Let us pray we do not have a drought in 2003 as was in 2002.”

- V. Pfleegor, Northumberland County

“Continued wet and cool conditions. Some limited corn and soybean planting on well-drained fields. Forage harvest is slow with no dry baled hay being made. Crop growth is good and would probably be excellent if we had a little more heat.”

- John Lohr, Westmorland County

“Same old, same old, just staying cold and wet here.”

- Russ McLucas

“Corn planting continued as fast as possible with weather conditions uncooperative. Some alfalfa haylage was cut as quickly as possible when sporadic drying conditions appeared.”

- D. Wayne Kurtz, York County

"Let the sun shine in!"

- Bucks County

“Another week of mostly rainy weather without much rain. Many were able to keep working soil and planting without working wet soils. Many were able to cut and make alfalfa haylage of mostly good quality. Few areas had a little more rain making it difficult to get hay without it being rained on. Despite what seems like bad weather for field work most producers are getting the field work completed. With the cool temperatures, they probably are not far behind.”

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 25, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Spring plowing	84	87	91
Corn, planted	59	70	78
Corn, emerged	40	47	53
Barley, headed	84	92	92
Winter wheat, headed	60	64	66
Oats, planted	95	93	96
Oats, emerged	85	84	86
Soybeans, planted	23	32	42
Tobacco, transplanted	8	8	24
Potatoes, planted	68	76	79
Alfalfa, 1 <sup>st</sup> cut	15	29	33
Timothy clover, 1 <sup>st</sup> cut	5	4	10

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 25, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	0	9	36	45	10
Winter wheat	1	7	23	51	18
Oats	0	5	25	56	14
Soybeans	0	0	44	45	11
Alfalfa stand	0	5	13	52	30
Timothy clover stand	0	3	19	58	20
Quality of hay made	4	17	33	27	19
Pasture conditions	0	6	16	56	22
Peaches	0	0	15	79	6
Apples	0	0	17	77	6

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