



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending June 1, 2003

Poor week for Field Work: There were 2 days suitable for field work. Soil Moisture was rated as 1 percent short, 43 percent adequate and 56 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included planting corn, soybeans, and potatoes; cutting hay; maintaining machines; caring for livestock; spreading manure; spraying herbicides and pesticides; and fixing fences.

Crops: For the third week in a row, there were very few days that farmers could get in the fields and do any work. Some farmers reported that the continuing rain and below average temperatures were beginning to effect crop condition and continued to hamper planting. Spring plowing advanced slightly to 89 percent complete, on pace with 2002 but 6 percent behind the five-year average. Despite the weather, corn planting jumped to 74 percent complete, 15 percent greater than last week but still 6 percent behind 2002. The percent of corn that has emerged reached 56 percent, 6 and 14 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. Corn height averaged 3 inches. Corn condition was rated as 6 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 39 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Soybean planting increased significantly as well, advancing to 43 percent complete, 20 percent ahead of last week but still 12 percent behind last year. Percent of soybeans emerged advanced to 13 percent complete, 18 and 29 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. Soybean condition was rated as 11 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 35 percent good and 5 percent excellent. The percent of oats emerged advanced to 93 percent, on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. Oat condition was rated as 5 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 44 percent good and 19 percent excellent. Percent of winter wheat headed jumped to 75 percent, up 15 percent from last week but still slightly behind 2002 and the five-year average. Six percent of wheat was rated as poor, 26 percent was fair, 51 percent was good and 17 percent was excellent. Percent of barley headed advanced to 92 percent, on pace with last year and the five-year average. Eight percent of tobacco has been transplanted, 33 percent behind 2002 and 37 percent the five-year average. With continued rain, the hay condition declined slightly this week. Alfalfa stand was rated as 6 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 48 percent good and 25 percent excellent. Timothy clover stand was rated as 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Thirty-four percent of the first alfalfa cutting was completed and 12 percent of the first timothy clover cutting was completed. The quality of hay made was rated 9 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 27 percent good and 17 percent excellent.

Livestock: The rain continued to fall most of the week which has the pasture conditions improving. Three percent of the pasture land was rated poor, 18 percent fair, 55 percent good and 24 percent excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Weather conditions seem to be good for fruit tree growth. Peach tree condition was rated 100 percent good. Apple tree condition was rated 16 percent fair, 83 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Potatoes planted jumped to 86 percent, 5 percent above last year and 2 percent behind the five-year average.

U.S. As Of May 25, 2003: Highlights: Warmer weather returned in the Pacific Northwest and benefitted winter wheat development. Subsoil moisture conditions remained very dry in the central and northern Rockies, with minimal rainfall recorded. Hot, dry weather increased irrigation demands in the Southwest as dry conditions persisted in a band from southern California to the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. Temperatures on the southern Great Plains reached as high as 100 degrees F and further depleted topsoil moisture. Mid-week showers helped to alleviate the dry conditions but warm, dry weather returned by week's end. The central Great Plains received showers and daily average temperatures were about normal, favoring winter wheat development and crop emergence. Cool weather and scattered frosts in the northern Great Plains slowed winter wheat development and the emergence of small grains. Scattered showers in the Corn Belt caused some fieldwork delays, but growers gradually accelerated corn and soybean planting as local conditions allowed. Continued wet conditions slowed fieldwork across a wide swath of the interior South, from the northern Delta, to the Tennessee Valley, to the Atlantic Coastal Plains. In contrast, unfavorably dry conditions persisted across the western Gulf Coast. In the Northeast, cool conditions and shower activity limited Pennsylvania and New York growers' progress. Corn: Planting was 88 percent complete, 6 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 3 points behind the 5-year average. The crop was 64 percent emerged, 13 points ahead of last year but 7 points behind the 5-year average. Soybeans: Planting was 50 percent complete, 2 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 12 points behind normal for this date. The crop was 17 percent emerged, 3 points ahead of last year but 16 points behind the 5-year average. Each of the 18 major producing States was behind their 5-year average planting pace. Heavy rainfall across the Southeast limited planting progress to 6 points or less in most States. Fields slowly emerged across the Corn Belt, but all States in this area were still behind normal progress. Most states remained significantly behind their 5-year average emergence pace. Winter Wheat: Seventy-six percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, 3 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 1 point behind the 5-year average. Development accelerated in the Corn Belt and yielded double-digit increases. Fields developed slower than normal due to cool temperatures across the northern Great Plains. Eleven of the 18 major-producing States were behind their 5-year average pace. Small grains: The barley crop was 90 percent seeded, compared with last year's 89 percent and the 5-year average of 88 percent. The crop was 70 percent emerged, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence rose by at least 12 points in all States. The oat crop was 94 percent seeded and 82 percent emerged. Planting was ahead of last year's pace of 93 percent seeded and emergence was 13 percentage points ahead of last year. Pennsylvania showed slow progress due to wet conditions.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 1, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - June 1, 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	68	42	55	-7	0.96	3	7.04	+0.23	24	283	-2	724
Franklin_AG	73	43	56	-6	1.43	5	9.06	+1.60	38	280	+1	768
Meadville	73	42	55	-5	1.47	4	9.01	+1.76	25	267	+25	743
Mercer	73	35	54	-8	1.77	3	8.50	+1.21	23	229	-59	698
Springboro	73	40	54	-8	0.54	3	8.69	+2.23	31	236	-62	676
Warren	76	44	57	-5	1.24	3	7.85	+0.18	29	248	-18	704
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	70	36	53	-5	1.53	5	8.45	+0.88	32	207	+36	622
Emporium	74	47	58	+0	1.27	6	7.94	-0.03	36	291	+93	781
Kane	68	35	50	-8	2.30	3	8.82	+0.93	28	82	-84	418
Laporte	69	43	56	-5	2.12	4	7.91	+0.46	34	191	-95	608
Lock_Haven	75	48	61	-2	1.63	6	7.15	+0.17	35	361	+40	872
Port_Allegany	73	41	55	-4	1.23	5	6.33	-0.75	26	184	-27	601
Renovo	76	48	60	-3	1.89	6	8.05	+1.07	36	330	+9	836
Ridgway	71	42	55	-4	1.13	4	7.47	-0.50	29	196	-2	651
Stevenson_Dam	74	47	59	+1	1.97	6	8.97	+1.00	38	274	+76	762
Towanda	72	47	58	-4	2.17	6	7.96	+1.47	38	228	-67	685
Wellsboro	72	42	55	-3	2.00	6	7.61	+1.80	29	187	+13	602
Williamsport_AP	74	50	61	-3	1.03	6	7.13	-0.10	33	379	-10	890
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	70	44	57	-3	2.96	5	6.91	-0.62	26	176	-39	631
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	73	49	59	-5	3.63	4	7.15	+0.40	31	346	+0	835
Susquehanna	74	52	61	+3	2.29	3	7.93	+0.17	26	280	+84	744
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	74	42	58	-5	0.88	5	8.02	+0.60	33	354	+44	874
New_Castle	77	45	58	-4	1.61	4	9.16	+2.50	27	378	+73	904
Slippery_Rock	75	42	57	-5	1.62	4	9.72	+2.72	28	362	+89	881
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	72	46	58	-5	0.87	6	7.33	+0.38	41	351	-11	842
Du_Bois	71	41	56	-6	1.32	5	8.51	+0.98	34	298	+17	769
Lewistown	76	48	61	-4	0.96	6	7.55	+0.36	34	408	-11	929
Middletown	77	50	61	-6	2.32	5	8.29	+0.65	33	433	-48	959
Prince_Gallitzi	71	43	57	-3	1.32	6	8.38	-0.70	32	299	+50	762
Selinsgrove	75	47	60	-4	0.92	4	6.71	-0.51	36	325	-33	830
State_College_P	74	48	60	-4	2.15	6	7.39	+0.72	37	370	+25	874
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	78	47	60	-6	2.32	6	5.71	-2.14	33	364	-52	872
Lehighton	77	46	60	-4	1.77	4	5.59	-2.20	34	286	-110	773
Matamoras	75	47	58	-5	3.40	5	6.45	-1.91	29	202	-131	654
Tobyhanna	78	48	61	+4	3.62	6	9.52	+0.77	31	312	+145	800
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	46	60	-3	0.90	7	8.41	+0.85	35	520	+153	1072
Derry	75	48	60	-3	1.71	4	9.31	+1.92	34	392	+71	897
Meyersdale	69	40	54	-8	2.16	6	11.04	+2.66	37	204	-106	655
Mount_Pleasant	73	46	59	-2	1.08	5	8.64	+0.16	36	395	+134	920
Pittsburgh_Intl	74	46	60	-4	1.14	5	8.60	+1.74	34	503	+107	1050
Rector	73	43	58	-2	1.40	5	9.04	+0.56	31	394	+133	912
Waynesburg	73	46	60	-3	1.19	5	10.22	+2.66	34	434	+91	973
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	77	49	61	-6	2.11	6	10.61	+3.37	41	401	-79	925
Everett	75	44	58	-5	1.59	6	11.04	+3.98	41	330	-13	839
Hanover	78	49	61	-6	1.36	4	8.56	+1.32	32	408	-72	930
Shippensburg	79	50	63	-4	1.21	5	9.30	+2.31	33	438	-56	969
South_Mountain	73	48	58	-5	1.67	5	12.30	+5.35	37	284	-71	752
York_AP	78	47	61	-6	2.23	6	7.85	+0.40	35	418	-73	940
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	82	47	61	-3	3.59	4	8.46	+0.63	32	401	+15	925
Hamburg	78	48	60	-3	3.04	5	7.21	-1.71	32	364	+43	872
Hopewell	78	45	60	-8	1.99	5	6.85	-1.17	31	324	-187	817
Lancaster_AP	76	48	60	-6	1.48	5	7.06	-0.37	30	372	-47	889
Neshaminy_Falls	81	50	61	-4	2.73	5	7.17	-1.44	31	371	-40	884
New_Holland	79	48	60	-5	2.05	5	6.92	-0.51	31	362	-57	873
Philadelphia	82	51	63	-5	3.10	5	7.18	-0.31	27	525	-4	1070
Philadelphia_NE	81	47	61	-7	2.70	5	7.97	+0.48	29	432	-97	959
Reading_AP	78	48	60	-5	2.37	5	6.46	-1.90	32	405	+9	917
Valley_Forge_Na	80	43	59	-8	3.11	4	7.79	-0.23	28	314	-197	815
Willow_Grove	79	48	61	-5	1.03	4	3.72	-4.89	25	395	-16	907

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.

"Farmers were taking advantage of a narrow window of opportunity that presented itself during the week. There were about three days that were dry enough to plant corn and make haylage. Rain all day Saturday saturated the fields and put a halt to farming activity."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Good progress was made this past week in planting corn, soybeans, potatoes, and harvesting first cutting of hay. All day rain on Saturday halted all field activities."

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

"Continued cool wet weather hampered progress in planting and harvesting hay. Corn planting is way behind and forages need harvested, but not enough dry weather to permit baling so far this year. Some hay has been cut and bagged, but no baling has been done yet that I know of."

- Wes Ramsey, Warren County

"Another wet week in the northern tier. The moisture is welcome but it is sure slowing down field work. Late week rains soaked the area. Uncut hay has fallen over making cutting more work. Cold temperatures have slowed corn emergence. Some much needed sunshine would be welcome to warm soils and encourage growth. This recent rain can return in July and would be very welcome."

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"We had 3+ inches of rain on the weekend. A lot of talk about having poor quality hay again this year because of a delayed harvest. One comment from an area farmer who hires custom chopping, 'I would trade all the corn I have planted for one silo full of haylage.'"

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"Another wet one, 1 5/8 inch in my rain gauge. Hay should be cut but we need days free of rain to make dry hay. Some high moisture being put up."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"Too wet, too cool, too late. Hard to make hay with such short time between showers. Lots of baylage and haylage made but no dry hay. Orchard grass is 3 weeks late in harvest and going down fast. Heavy rains over weekend will keep producers out of fields until next showers come in mid week. Could really use some sunshine and warmer temperatures."

- Paul H. Craig, Dauphin County

"Another wet week, 2 1/2 inches of rain."

- M. K., Huntington County

"Just another wet week in Central Pa."

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

"We had .7 inches of rain this past week. Extremely difficult to complete spring planting. Fruit trees are plentiful with fruit, developing nicely. The corn has emerged with a good even stand. Looks like almost every kernel germinated."

- Viola Pfleeger, Northumberland Co.

"Still very wet, only couple days fit for field work. Hay meadows showing strain of harvest, ruts, wet spots, etc."

- Don Fretts, Fayette County

"Wet and cool conditions are still slowing all field work. Some forage is being harvested for silage or wrapped bales. Soil and crop conditions are almost too wet for even this type harvest. Corn and soybean planting is continuing with many bottom fields still too wet to work."

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Sunny day Sunday; a lot of hay cut."

- Fulton County

"Another week, another monsoon."

- Russ McLucas



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 1, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Spring plowing	89	91	95
Corn, planted	74	80	88
Corn, emerged	56	62	70
Corn, height (inches)	3	6	5
Barley, headed	92	93	96
Winter wheat, headed	75	89	87
Oats, emerged	93	88	92
Soybeans, planted	43	55	62
Soybeans, emerged	13	31	42
Tobacco, transplanted	8	41	45
Potatoes, planted	86	81	88
Alfalfa, 1 st cut	34	46	48
Timothy clover, 1 st cut	12	16	21

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 1, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	0	6	41	39	14
Winter wheat	0	6	26	51	17
Oats	0	5	32	44	19
Soybeans	0	11	49	35	5
Alfalfa stand	0	6	21	48	25
Timothy clover stand	1	4	25	53	17
Quality of hay made	9	21	26	27	17
Pasture conditions	0	3	18	55	24
Peaches	0	0	0	100	0
Apples	0	0	16	83	1

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