



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending April 13, 2008

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

**Fair week for Field Work:** The weather conditions were better last week compared to the week ending April 6th. It appeared to be warmer with more sunshine. Farmers are continuing their spring plowing, as 21 percent of the plowing is complete. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included; spreading manure and fertilizer, checking and servicing machinery, attending farm auctions, spring plowing, cleaning barnyards, and constructing sod waterways and cropland terraces. Some farmers planted sweet corn under plastic and oats.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 13, 2008**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	3	74	23

**Crops:** The warm weather helped crop conditions last week. Seventy-five percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. This is 8 percent higher than the previous week. Twenty-six percent of oats have been planted. This is 15 percent higher than the previous year, and 4 percent higher than the 5-year average. Sixty-seven percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while fifty-nine percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition. So far Pennsylvania's fruit crop is looking good! Sixteen percent of the peaches are in pink. Six percent of the cherry crop is now in pink.

**Livestock:** Pastures across the state are looking much better than the previous week. As a result some farmers have moved their livestock to the pasture. Forty-three percent of the pastures were in good or excellent condition. Pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 10%, poor 10%, fair 37%, good 35%, and excellent 8%.

**U.S. as of April 6, 2008:** Winter Wheat: Condition of winter wheat nationwide was rated at 45 percent good to excellent, down from 64 percent last year but unchanged from the week ending November 25, 2007, the last available rating for the current crop. In Oklahoma and Texas, heading of winter wheat was evident.

**Small Grains:** Barley producers had planted 7 percent of their acreage, behind last year and the 5-year average by 5 and 2 points, respectively. Producers in eastern and northern Idaho were anticipating warmer weather to melt snow cover and allow planting to begin as they were 25 points behind last year and 7 points behind normal. Montana planting progress, at 5 percent, was 5 points behind last year and normal.

Thirty-one percent of the Nation's oat acreage was planted by the end of the week, at the pace of last year but behind normal by 4 points. Planting had begun in all producing States except Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. In these States, however, progress was within 5 points of last year's pace and average.

### Weather Data For Week Ending April 13, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 13, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
<b>Northwest</b>													
Erie	74	32	52	8	0.74	3	1.40	0.00	6	41	39	126	
Franklin	72	33	52	8	0.57	3	1.24	-0.26	7	21	19	114	
Meadville	71	32	52	9	0.57	4	1.53	0.10	8	24	24	114	
Mercer	72	33	52	8	0.73	4	1.13	-0.37	7	20	19	116	
Springboro	74	30	51	7	0.72	4	1.88	0.55	8	24	20	107	
Warren	71	31	52	9	0.40	4	1.48	-0.02	8	18	18	103	
<b>North Central</b>													
Bradford Region	65	27	49	9	0.50	4	1.19	-0.24	8	13	13	77	
Emporium	72	31	51	10	0.27	3	1.18	-0.25	7	19	19	107	
Kane	67	20	47	8	0.34	3	1.14	-0.42	7	8	8	65	
Laporte	63	34	48	4	0.45	2	1.42	0.05	7	6	0	66	
Lock Haven	71	38	53	8	0.49	2	0.95	-0.35	6	32	26	128	
Port Allegany	69	29	49	7	0.33	3	0.96	-0.34	7	10	10	78	
Renovo	74	36	53	7	0.33	3	1.50	0.20	7	28	22	119	
Ridgway	69	31	49	8	0.41	3	1.35	-0.08	6	11	11	90	
Stevenson Dam	71	33	52	11	0.36	3	1.50	0.07	7	21	21	110	
Towanda	69	33	51	7	0.35	2	1.57	0.38	6	17	11	98	
Wellsboro	63	34	48	7	0.46	3	1.42	0.47	7	2	2	64	
Williamsport	70	42	55	8	0.33	3	1.03	-0.34	7	41	26	149	
<b>Northeast</b>													
Hawley	71	32	49	6	0.51	2	1.96	0.55	6	15	15	72	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	71	37	53	8	0.39	2	1.18	-0.04	6	34	28	121	
Susquehanna	67	34	50	9	0.48	3	1.95	0.41	7	9	9	85	
<b>West Central</b>													
Butler	73	33	52	6	0.42	3	1.11	-0.23	7	19	12	121	
New Castle	76	33	53	9	0.52	3	0.89	-0.41	7	28	28	131	
Slippery Rock	75	33	52	9	0.38	2	0.86	-0.49	5	21	21	127	
<b>Central</b>													
Altoona/Blair	72	38	53	6	0.48	2	0.94	-0.41	5	36	22	133	
DuBois	67	34	51	7	0.33	3	1.37	-0.06	7	27	27	112	
Lewistown	73	40	53	5	0.58	2	1.04	-0.16	5	31	13	119	
Middletown	75	41	55	5	0.28	1	1.13	-0.18	4	47	23	152	
Prince Gallitzi	73	33	50	6	0.46	3	0.84	-0.98	5	11	10	102	
Selinsgrove	72	39	53	7	0.61	1	1.13	-0.19	5	31	19	119	
State College	69	39	52	7	0.33	1	0.82	-0.41	4	25	19	121	
<b>East Central</b>													
Allentown-Bethel	73	38	54	6	0.48	1	1.51	0.07	5	42	27	141	
Lehighton	75	39	52	5	0.26	2	1.43	0.12	7	32	22	112	
Matamoras	76	32	50	4	0.44	2	1.82	0.17	6	18	11	89	
Mt_Pocono	66	32	48	7	0.79	2	1.71	0.02	6	16	16	79	
<b>Southwest</b>													
Pittsburgh/Alle	72	37	56	10	0.29	3	0.82	-0.48	6	64	51	178	
Derry	75	36	53	9	0.79	2	1.70	0.34	6	30	28	130	
Myersdale	72	35	50	5	0.19	2	0.65	-1.04	5	23	18	106	
Mount Pleasant	73	37	55	11	0.35	2	0.97	-0.78	5	45	45	159	
Pittsburgh Intl	73	38	56	8	0.29	2	0.83	-0.55	5	62	46	175	
Connellsville	78	41	57	9	0.49	3	1.05	-0.56	6	68	51	188	
Waynesburg	75	36	55	9	0.23	1	0.59	-0.87	4	48	37	158	
<b>South Central</b>													
Biglerville	75	40	53	4	0.46	1	1.23	-0.20	4	37	13	126	
Everett	74	40	52	6	0.25	1	0.89	-0.52	4	30	21	124	
Hanover	75	40	54	4	1.29	4	2.16	0.73	7	42	18	137	
Harrisburg_AP	76	42	56	6	0.22	1	0.39	-0.92	4	53	29	161	
South Mountain	73	37	50	4	0.87	4	1.60	0.25	7	28	17	106	
York	78	40	56	6	0.53	1	1.28	-0.28	4	59	35	171	
<b>Southeast</b>													
Green Lane	74	39	53	6	0.55	1	1.24	-0.29	4	39	27	138	
Hamburg	76	40	54	8	0.44	1	1.45	-0.11	4	41	36	134	
West_Chester	76	39	54	5	0.59	2	1.44	-0.16	7	46	24	142	
Lancaster	74	39	54	6	0.27	1	0.78	-0.65	4	43	27	143	
Neshaminy Falls	75	38	53	5	0.54	2	1.27	-0.42	7	37	22	136	
New Holland	73	39	53	5	0.71	1	1.45	0.02	5	39	23	135	
Philadelphia	75	41	56	5	0.24	4	1.22	-0.34	8	72	44	182	
Philadelphia NE	77	43	57	7	0.43	3	1.25	-0.31	7	82	54	194	
Reading	74	41	55	8	0.35	2	1.17	-0.41	6	53	43	157	
Valley Forge Na	74	39	56	6	0.91	2	1.75	0.19	7	48	22	160	
Willow Grove	74	38	54	7	0.56	2	1.19	-0.50	6	56	41	160	

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.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney** - Adams County had another variety of weather conditions this past week. The weather started off being cloudy and in the 40-50's, then Wednesday into the 60's, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday into the 70's. Friday into Saturday we had about 3/4 of inch of rainfall and Saturday was sunny and 70's and a little windy in pm. Sunday was mostly cloudy and only 50 degrees and breezy. Sunday into Monday the nighttime temperatures dipped to 30 degrees. Today is sunny and suppose to get to 50 degrees.

Wheat and barley continue to get greener and starting to grow in height. Oats is being seeded but with cooler nighttime temperatures. They may need a little more sunshine and warmer days to germinate and emerge. Some soil is being prepared for spring planting but the soil temperature isn't too warm yet. Manure is being hauled for spring planting also. Pastures are now getting greener and will start to regenerate. Hay crops will start to grow here also.

Fruit trees are looking good with lots of green buds just awaiting warmer temperatures to break out into blooms. Most trees have been pruned and just awaiting mother nature to take its course.

Overall the soil moisture level in the county has been replenished and ponds also have been replenished for future use. Producers are anxiously waiting the spring planting season and more no-tilling may be completed due to high costs of fuel and fertilizer again this year.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier** - Rain over the weekend kept most tractors sidelined. Soils are still a little too wet to get much field work done. Wheat has been top dressed and hay fields are being fertilized. Not much ground has been worked.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little** - Hauling out manure and planting oats were the main activities this week.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth, Jr.** - There was some alfalfa damage this past winter. Fruit trees are late. Small grains are looking good. Farmers are late with oats and alfalfa planting.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill** - In Lancaster County, plow farmers are busy preparing fields while No-till farmers are beginning to spray cover crops.

**LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman** - Many farmers are taking advantage of the nice weather and getting out in the fields to get a jump of things. Pastures are starting to green up and farmers are looking forward to get the cattle out.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield** - This was a good week for field work. Primary activities included spreading manure and fertilizer, spraying wheat, planting oats, seeding pastures, and some tilling. Everything greened up by week's end. Pear and cherry trees are flowering. Spring is finally here. Livestock are getting a chance to graze again in pastures that were rested over the winter. Others that were grazed short over the winter are slow to recover. The first thunderstorm of the season came through Friday night, dropping around an inch of rain and putting an end to field work for a few days.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger** - Good week to spread hog manure from the pit.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The alfalfa, barley and wheat are beginning to grow, and it looks good at this time. However, there is a heavy infestation of common chickweed in a few fields. The main field activities for the week were spreading manure, chopping corn stalks, and seeding oats and alfalfa.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney** - Some heifers have been put on pasture. Weekly activities include mending fences.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - The sun and warmer weather made this a very good week. The grass is starting to green up. Weekly activities included spring plowing, spreading lime and fertilizer. We got a few showers late in the week and some snow over the weekend.

**UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler** - Fields have dried out. Farmers have started tilling and hauling manure.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - This was the best week for field work so far this spring. Oats planting continued and some sweet corn was planted under plastic. Manure hauling and fertilizer application were also major activities.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 13, 2008**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	21	18	28
Oats, planted	26	11	22
Peaches, in pink	16	37	38
Cherries, in pink	6	32	29

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 13, 2008**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	0	25	60	15
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	29	50	17
Timothy clover stand	0	11	30	47	12
Pasture	10	10	37	35	8

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