



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 4, 2008

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 5, 2008, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair week for Field Work: The weather for the week ending May 4 was not as good as the week ending April 27. Even though the weather wasn't as great as past weeks, this did not stop people from enjoying the Apple Blossom festival in Adams County over the weekend. There was a wide variety of weather conditions throughout the state that included frost, rain and snow as well as warm and sunny days. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included preparing fields as well as planting some corn and oats. Cutting of alfalfa was reported in some areas. The weather also allowed for some more spring plowing. This led to 77 percent of the plowing being completed. Cattle are continuing to be moved around to fresh pastures. Farmers carried on making other necessary preparations for the season.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 4, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	11	70	18

Crops: The cooler weather seemed to not change the crop conditions last week, yet the crop progress still moved along. The state's corn is estimated at 33 percent planted. This is 8 percentage points higher than last year and 1 percentage point lower than the average. The state's soybeans are 6 percent planted, which is 1 percentage point higher than the average. Seventy-four percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. Twelve percent of the wheat has headed which is the same as last year and 2 points above average. Only four percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Thirty-seven percent of the barley is at the headed stage, which is up 27 percentage points from last year and 1 percent above average. Five percent of the barley is turning yellow. Ninety-two percent of oats have been planted, with 27 percent emerged. Oats planting is 29 percentage points higher than last year and 13 points above average. Thirty-two percent of the potatoes have been planted, which is 5 points behind average and 14 points better than last year. Seventy-six percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while 78 percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition. Pennsylvania's fruit continues to progress well. Eighty-two percent of the peaches are in full bloom or past compared with 81 percent last year. Ninety-six percent of the cherry crop is now in full bloom or beyond which is up 16 points from last week and 9 points ahead of average. Apple trees are 100 percent in pink, with 98 percent bloomed.

Livestock: Pastures across the state are looking better than last week. Farmers continue to move cattle around to fresh pastures. Sixty-five percent of the pastures were in good or excellent condition, with only 8 percent represented as poor or very poor. The state's pasture conditions

were estimated as follows: very poor 2%, poor 6%, fair 27%, good 53%, and excellent 12%.

U.S. as of April 27, 2008: Rain intensified across the upper Midwest, while several days of warm, dry weather graced the eastern Corn Belt. As a result, corn planting commenced across much of the eastern Corn Belt. Fieldwork remained at a standstill elsewhere in the Midwest. In the East, warm, dry weather for much of the week promoted a rapid pace of fieldwork and crop development. Showers overspread most of the East toward week's end; otherwise, rain was mostly confined to the Mid-Atlantic States early in the week. Farther west, the Plains experienced a variety of weather conditions. Heavy snow also fell late in the week from parts of Nebraska into northern Minnesota. Other areas of the nation's mid-section received periodic showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures averaged as much as 13 degrees F above normal in the Great Lakes and Northeast. Weekly temperatures ranged from 7 to 10 degrees F below normal in the Northwest. Despite the Western chill, fieldwork advanced with few delays.

Corn: Producers only planted 6 percent of the Nation's corn acreage during the week. At 10 percent complete, planting was 10 and 25 points behind last year and normal, respectively. In Colorado and Pennsylvania, however, planting was slightly ahead of last year and normal. Planting progress in the Corn Belt advanced minimally in most areas due to excessive moisture.

Soybeans: Only 2 percent of the intended acreage was planted by week's end, lagging 1 point behind last year's pace, and 3 points behind the usual pace. Soybean planting was delayed in all States except Louisiana. Planting had not begun in the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains.

Winter Wheat: Fifteen percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, compared with 24 percent last year and the 25 percent average. Heading was at or behind normal in most states. Progress still lagged well behind normal throughout most of the Great Plains and Delta. Nationwide, 46 percent of the crop was rated good or excellent condition, up one point from last week.

Oats: Planting advanced to 54 percent complete. This is 2 points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average pace. Emergence of the crop reached 33 percent, behind last year and normal by 1 and 9 points, respectively. More than half of the spring-seeded acreage was planted by week's end in Nebraska, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Progress was behind normal in all states except North Dakota and Pennsylvania. Emergence was delayed in all States, with development significantly behind the 5-year average in the northern Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 4, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 4, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	71	33	51	-1	1.72	5	3.21	-0.46	15	223	169	465
Franklin	70	32	50	-3	2.35	5	3.76	-0.24	15	143	90	396
Meadville	68	31	49	-2	1.63	4	3.52	-0.22	14	166	126	415
Mercer	71	34	51	-2	1.33	4	3.25	-0.56	15	144	89	402
Springboro	68	30	49	-4	2.35	5	4.29	0.73	15	148	89	386
Warren	69	28	48	-4	2.02	4	4.15	0.13	14	139	95	375
North Central												
Bradford Region	68	24	48	-1	0.97	4	2.63	-1.24	15	103	78	313
Emporium	77	28	50	2	0.96	3	2.82	-1.15	14	135	105	379
Kane	69	23	46	-2	1.00	4	2.78	-1.34	14	69	46	267
Laporte	69	30	49	-4	1.52	5	3.44	-0.33	17	120	56	340
Lock Haven	76	31	52	-2	1.49	4	3.83	0.30	14	169	99	438
Port Allegany	72	24	47	-4	1.12	3	2.76	-0.84	13	100	66	312
Renovo	76	30	52	-2	1.26	4	3.87	0.34	14	168	98	430
Ridgway	72	28	49	-1	1.09	4	2.80	-1.17	14	93	63	319
Stevenson Dam	75	29	50	2	0.69	2	3.44	-0.53	13	144	114	387
Towanda	73	27	50	-3	1.28	5	3.22	-0.14	14	139	75	375
Wellsboro	69	27	48	-2	1.19	4	3.46	0.73	15	106	79	315
Williamsport	73	33	53	-3	1.44	3	3.16	-0.54	13	207	107	494
Northeast												
Hawley	70	29	49	-2	1.82	5	3.89	-0.04	13	106	71	323
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	30	50	-5	1.47	4	2.85	-0.58	13	196	119	448
Susquehanna	65	27	48	-2	1.45	5	3.77	-0.35	14	115	85	346
West Central												
Butler	77	33	51	-2	1.54	6	3.45	-0.24	18	135	67	400
New Castle	78	35	53	1	1.10	4	2.79	-0.65	16	165	110	436
Slippery Rock	72	35	52	1	1.81	4	2.91	-0.67	12	135	87	412
Central												
Altoona/Blair	77	31	53	-2	1.42	3	4.43	0.82	15	189	99	453
DuBois	72	31	51	-2	0.79	4	2.39	-1.44	16	175	123	418
Lewistown	75	33	51	-6	1.77	3	7.02	3.57	11	164	51	426
Middletown	74	39	53	-4	0.79	3	4.27	0.48	10	213	78	511
Prince Gallitzi	76	32	51	-1	0.94	3	2.50	-2.35	13	118	70	367
Selinsgrove	74	33	51	-4	1.51	3	4.34	0.70	11	154	67	418
State College	74	32	52	-3	1.70	4	5.63	2.29	12	188	114	456
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	65	32	51	-6	1.77	3	3.40	-0.66	9	176	73	455
Lehighton	76	34	51	-5	1.78	6	3.56	-0.27	17	150	55	408
Matamoras	63	28	48	-7	2.13	5	3.99	-0.55	12	107	32	339
Mt_Pocono	56	27	44	-5	1.23	5	3.18	-1.48	13	97	74	304
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	38	56	2	1.54	4	3.32	-0.44	14	254	164	545
Derry	77	34	55	3	1.16	5	4.50	0.73	14	185	122	454
Myersdale	77	31	50	-4	1.09	6	3.93	-0.59	16	105	40	338
Mount Pleasant	78	35	54	3	0.93	3	3.01	-1.64	12	191	145	474
Pittsburgh Intl	79	39	56	2	0.73	4	2.32	-1.27	13	242	139	532
Connellsville	80	35	55	-1	1.10	5	4.01	-0.33	16	235	127	527
Waynesburg	81	35	54	1	1.32	4	2.68	-1.27	11	186	106	464
South Central												
Biglerville	75	35	52	-6	0.87	3	5.19	1.34	11	187	52	462
Everett	78	31	52	-3	2.13	3	8.33	4.50	13	150	71	405
Hanover	81	34	53	-5	0.83	4	5.61	1.76	15	183	48	460
Harrisburg_AP	74	36	54	-4	0.92	3	3.42	-0.37	9	223	85	523
South Mountain	77	29	51	-4	0.63	3	6.95	3.34	16	140	54	380
York	79	33	54	-4	0.81	4	4.51	0.43	12	223	83	518
Southeast												
Green Lane	70	36	52	-4	1.17	4	2.57	-1.67	9	176	82	464
Hamburg	69	36	52	-2	1.35	5	3.23	-1.21	11	187	119	472
West_Chester	76	32	52	-5	1.03	2	2.77	-1.64	11	171	42	453
Lancaster	73	35	52	-4	1.21	4	2.73	-1.19	10	181	75	465
Neshaminy Falls	73	36	54	-2	2.05	4	3.51	-1.06	12	204	101	494
New Holland	77	36	53	-4	1.57	3	3.51	-0.41	10	196	90	483
Philadelphia	75	42	55	-3	0.89	3	2.23	-1.90	12	258	106	575
Philadelphia NE	75	39	56	-3	1.12	4	2.59	-1.54	12	278	126	597
Reading	72	34	52	-4	1.24	4	2.82	-1.57	12	206	113	499
Valley Forge Na	74	36	53	-6	1.76	4	4.05	-0.19	14	183	39	483
Willow Grove	71	37	53	-4	1.03	4	2.47	-2.10	11	203	100	502

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 Behney (FSA) - Adams County started out last week with a rainy Monday. Morning temperatures Tuesday through Thursday were in the low 30's with frost occurring in Adams County. Daytime temperatures rose to 50 degrees Tuesday through Thursday. The rest of the week, the temperatures were in the 60's and 70's. A few raindrops were received Saturday evening, which was not enough to dampen the ground. Sunday was nice and sunny, but a little breezy.

Corn continues to be planted in the county. Some of the corn that was planted several weeks ago is now emerged. The soil is still a little heavy, yet producers are still trying to get corn planted due to this being the first week of May. Barley is now headed and some wheat is heading also. The small grain crops are finally getting height and looking good. Oats are looking pretty good; however, some lower areas are looking a little light green due to moisture. Hay has grown in height a lot since last week. Warm sunny days will definitely help all of these crops.

Apples are past full bloom now and a lot of blossoms still were visible for the Apple Blossom Festival in this past weekend. There were lots of clusters of blooms on the trees, which is a good sign for a nice crop this year. It is not known yet if the frost that we had last week will hurt any of the crops. Vegetable crops including sweet corn continue to be planted. Strawberries are blooming and some berries are visible on plants.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Last week started off wet and cool. Very little corn was planted until late in the week. Forage chopping and first cutting of alfalfa began late in the week. Apples are in full bloom. Peaches and cherries still are looking good. Pastures are recovering and look excellent. It appears to be a normal spring. Rainfall is above average.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The weather was quite a mix last week with rain, snow, freeze and cool, as well as some warm and sunny days. The grasses are beginning to grow. The county could use some warm days to get the growth going in the pastures and grasses. Some farmers are reporting that the alfalfa crop appears to have been affected by the heaving during the last two months of winter.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Corn planting is well underway. There is about 1 3/4 inch of rainfall in my gauge so soil moisture levels are good.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - Farmers in our area have really gotten a jump on spring plowing and planting. Cooler temperatures slowed the emergence of corn. Barley has headed and looks hearty.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Much needed rains occurred over the weekend. Pastures and hay ground really needed some moisture to stimulate growth. Farming activities were mostly spreading manure and fertilizer and making sure equipment is field ready.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many farmers are preparing fields for spring planting. The ground is very dry. Additional moisture would be good. Rain is coming for the weekend.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Juniata County is wet and getting wetter.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (Ext) - Cool weather has significantly slowed crop development. Fruit crops look good so far.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - Rain over the weekend slowed field work until mid week. Some plowing began mid week even though conditions were still wet. Showers later in the week did not amount to much. Corn and oats have emerged in some fields.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - Crop conditions are very favorable for the time being. The area received adequate rainfall this week to supplement pasture growth and give newly planted fields a jump start. Livestock can be found in most pastures throughout the county. Grazing conditions have been excellent so far this grazing season. Many producers are reporting few problems when it comes to the spring planting. rye/age harvest is beginning.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleego - There was 1.1" rain Saturday night. The ground was well saturated.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - There were heavy rains on Saturday and Monday (April 26 & 28), coupled with cold temperatures on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. This put a halt to field activities. The soil is well saturated.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Last week was another good week for all types of field work. Corn planting progress has also been good. Slightly below normal temperatures have not been a problem for newly planted crops.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 4, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	77	58	71
Corn, planted	33	25	34
Barley, heading or headed	37	10	36
Barley, turning yellow	5	0	0
Wheat, heading or headed	12	12	10
Oats, planted	92	63	79
Oats, emerged	27	18	35
Soybeans, planted	6	3	5
Potatoes, planted	32	18	37
Peaches, in full bloom or past	82	81	91
Cherries, in full bloom or past	96	80	87
Apples, in pink	100	82	92
Apples, in full bloom or past	98	35	75

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 4, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	4	0	22	58	16
Oats	0	1	51	40	8
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	5	19	59	17
Timothy clover stand	1	2	19	64	14
Pasture	2	6	27	53	12

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