



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 10, 2009

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

Poor Week for Field Work: Rainy conditions were common every day throughout last week. The rain seemed to slow field activities to a near crawl. Only 2 days were suitable for field work. The little amount of field work that happened included planting oats, soybeans, corn, and potatoes. Farmers spent time inside with equipment maintenance and repairs. The weather also slowed down plowing, as plowing is now 72 percent complete. This is compared to last week's 70%, last year's 82%, and the five year average of 82%. The rain did, however increase soil moisture throughout Pennsylvania.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 10, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	1	77	21

Crops: Twenty nine percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 48%, and the five year average of 55%. Corn has started to surface, and is now 13% emerged, compared to last year's 11%, and the average of 14%. Soybean planting continued, but is running behind schedule, and is now 7% planted statewide, compared with last year's 18%, and the average of 16%. The wheat condition is 1% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, and 16% excellent. Sixty-five percent of the barley has headed, this is compared to last year's 77%, and the average of 64%. Oats continue to look good, with 29% fair, 58% good, and 13% excellent. Oats are 89% planted. This is compared to last year's 95%, and the five year average of 90%. Oats are 56% emerged. This is compared to last year's 59%, and the average of 50%. The rain also slowed potato planting, as 24% of the potatoes are planted, compared with last year's 47%, and the average of 54%.

Fruit: Ninety-nine percent of the cherries are in full bloom, which is equal to last year, and the average. Apples are now 100% in full bloom or past, the same as last year. The average for apple bloom at this time of year is 91%.

Livestock: The rain improved pasture conditions. Alfalfa crop conditions look good and are 3% poor, 14% fair, 53% good, and 30% excellent. Timothy clover crop conditions are also doing well and are 3% poor, 16% fair, 55% good, and 26% excellent. The overall pasture conditions are as follows, 1% very poor, 5% poor, 19% fair, 56% good, and 19% excellent.

U.S. as of May 3, 2009: Torrential rainfall, totaling at least 4 inches, drenched areas from eastern parts of the central and southern Plains into the Mid-South. The rain halted fieldwork, caused flash flooding, and increased concerns about disease in

winter wheat. Planting slowed in the upper Midwest and had not yet begun across the majority of the central and eastern Corn Belt. In contrast, Southern planting advanced rapidly for several days prior to the arrival of heavy rain. Farther west, fieldwork and crop development slowed on the northern Plains due to rain, snow, and cold weather. Cool, showery conditions returned to the Northwest, while warm, dry weather prevailed in the Southwest. Weekly temperatures ranged were at least 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal in the Mid Atlantic region. Northwestern fruit producers continued to use freeze-protection measures, as needed. Early in the week, an early-season heat wave continued in the East. During the second half of the week, much cooler weather prevailed in the Northeast. During the last 4 days of April, very heavy rain erupted across parts of the Plains and the western Gulf Coast region. Toward week's end, heavy showers continued on the Plains and shifted into the Southeast.

Corn: By week's end, 33 percent of this year's corn crop was planted, 9 points ahead of last year, but 17 points behind the 5-year average. Producers in Iowa, the largest corn-producing State, had 60 percent of their crop in the ground, well ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of normal. Nationally, emergence, at 5 percent complete, was 1 point ahead of last year, but 9 points behind normal.

Soybeans: Producers had planted 6 percent of their acreage by week's end, 1 point ahead of the previous year, but 5 points behind the average.

Winter Wheat: Nationwide, 27 percent of the crop had advanced to the heading stage or beyond, compared with 24 percent last year and 35 percent for the average. Overall, 47 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 45 percent a week ago and 47 percent last year.

Barley: Producers had sown 22 percent of the Nation's acreage by May 3, 28 points behind last year and 32 points, or almost 2 weeks, behind normal. Emergence was reported at 6 percent, compared to 10 percent last year and 18 percent for the average.

Oats: Producers had sown 69 percent of this year's oat acreage, 4 points ahead of last year, but 9 points behind the 5-year average. Progress was on par with or ahead of normal in all States except for North and South Dakota. Emergence advanced 10 points during the week to 47 percent, 9 points ahead of 2008, but 4 points behind the average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 10, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 10, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	72	45	58	5	0.74	4	3.92	-0.35	21	196	115	476
Franklin	74	42	59	6	0.80	4	5.00	0.31	21	183	103	451
Meadville	70	43	58	6	0.42	3	4.32	-0.12	23	190	127	451
Mercer	73	44	58	5	0.91	3	4.97	0.49	20	184	101	457
Springboro	71	40	56	3	0.86	4	5.22	1.07	22	154	67	403
Warren	74	42	58	6	0.91	2	5.74	1.01	20	168	97	426
North Central												
Bradford Region	69	38	55	6	0.95	3	4.05	-0.53	19	135	94	368
Oswayo	71	36	56	5	1.03	3	3.96	-0.29	20	114	59	338
Kane	71	36	55	6	0.89	4	5.06	0.20	20	103	64	319
Laporte	73	44	54	0	1.33	5	5.59	1.12	22	127	36	371
Lock Haven	80	43	58	4	1.38	5	4.31	0.13	20	200	98	490
Port Allegany	73	38	56	5	0.61	4	3.20	-1.05	20	130	75	365
Renovo	78	42	58	3	0.67	5	4.29	0.11	19	189	87	478
Ridgway	73	38	55	5	0.82	5	4.36	-0.39	21	121	72	348
Stevenson Dam	76	42	57	6	0.66	4	4.31	-0.44	18	159	110	422
Towanda	78	41	56	3	1.45	5	4.34	0.34	19	165	73	440
Wellsboro	72	40	54	4	0.45	3	3.48	0.18	18	120	77	351
Williamsport	81	48	59	3	1.19	5	5.06	0.66	19	263	125	600
Northeast												
Hawley	77	39	55	3	1.68	5	4.59	-0.08	16	144	89	405
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	47	59	4	0.68	4	2.70	-1.37	15	254	143	572
Susquehanna	76	43	56	6	1.51	6	3.84	-1.04	17	150	102	412
West Central												
Butler	73	46	58	4	1.02	4	5.11	0.69	23	169	71	442
New Castle	74	46	60	6	0.59	2	4.58	0.49	20	205	119	488
Slippery Rock	74	43	59	6	1.14	5	5.61	1.37	21	197	122	467
Central												
Altoona/Blair	76	47	57	2	1.34	5	3.80	-0.47	23	203	78	492
DuBois	72	43	56	3	0.88	4	5.45	0.91	22	200	120	461
Lewistown	78	47	58	0	1.38	5	5.82	1.65	23	210	55	513
Middletown	80	49	60	2	2.67	5	6.93	2.37	22	280	97	626
Prince Gallitzi	75	44	55	3	1.18	6	3.81	-1.93	23	138	66	374
Selinsgrove	80	47	57	3	0.98	5	5.13	0.79	19	187	66	477
State College	76	47	57	3	1.44	5	4.82	0.83	23	212	104	504
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	79	47	59	3	2.06	4	5.22	0.38	20	244	101	562
Lehighton	76	48	58	1	2.09	6	5.20	0.57	15	201	67	499
Matamoras	77	42	56	1	1.32	5	4.27	-1.09	18	157	50	423
Mt_Pocono	74	44	54	5	2.00	6	5.92	0.39	20	157	119	411
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	74	48	59	3	1.69	5	5.15	0.63	24	273	146	598
Indiana_PA	72	45	58	3	0.97	5	2.59	-2.41	15	212	91	494
Myersdale	73	43	54	-1	2.60	5	6.88	1.53	26	112	16	333
Mount Pleasant	75	46	58	6	1.29	4	5.36	-0.07	24	208	136	509
Pittsburgh Intl	74	48	59	3	1.41	4	4.17	-0.08	25	281	139	605
Connellsville	78	47	59	3	1.81	6	6.80	1.67	27	214	65	533
Waynesburg	76	44	58	3	1.50	5	6.57	1.87	26	200	87	500
South Central												
Biglerville	79	49	59	1	3.21	6	8.21	3.65	25	238	55	556
Everett	74	44	54	-3	3.07	5	7.51	2.98	26	123	11	354
Hanover	82	46	59	1	2.65	6	7.84	3.28	24	247	64	574
Harrisburg_AP	81	50	60	2	2.50	5	7.38	2.82	23	291	105	635
South Mountain	75	47	56	-1	3.56	6	8.57	4.30	26	155	35	436
York	81	48	60	2	2.87	6	7.14	2.38	23	264	75	587
Southeast												
Green Lane	81	50	59	3	2.98	5	7.12	2.07	23	243	111	563
Hamburg	80	48	60	5	2.52	6	6.08	0.74	23	256	157	584
West_Chester	84	47	59	0	2.80	5	7.42	2.19	21	231	56	535
Lancaster	80	48	59	2	2.38	6	6.86	2.23	22	241	94	560
Neshaminy Falls	83	49	60	4	3.02	4	8.39	2.94	18	247	104	568
New Holland	81	49	59	2	2.48	4	7.12	2.49	21	250	103	576
Philadelphia	84	51	61	2	2.71	6	6.94	2.09	24	329	124	695
Philadelphia NE	82	51	60	1	2.65	5	6.69	1.84	22	292	87	637
Reading	81	51	61	4	2.05	6	4.94	-0.27	23	295	164	629
Sellersville	81	46	57	2	2.87	5	6.70	1.65	21	211	79	518
Willow Grove	82	50	60	3	4.75	5	11.57	6.12	19	290	147	625

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 (FSA) - The fields in Adams County are wet and will be that way for another week depending on type of soil. Some haylage may be mowed this week if ground conditions permit. Corn and soybean planting were halted last week due to rainfall. Apple blossoms are almost gone, and other fruit trees past bloom now. The producers are concerned about not having enough corn and soybeans planted yet. It is near mid-May and approaching the crop insurance last plant date for corn and soybeans. These dates are the 10th of June, and the 20th of June respectively.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most of the fruit areas received in excess of 3" of rain over the past week. Apple bloom is over and growers are attempting to cover up with fungicides to prevent apple scab. Peaches are at shuck split.

BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA) - Most farmers in Berks County spent the week watching the rain gauge and working indoors on equipment. Most fieldwork came to a screeching halt with over 3 inches of rain for the duration. Corn planting will resume hastily when the weather cooperates.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA) - One and 3/4 inch of much needed rain was received during the week. Spotted areas of frost may have affected the cherry and apple blossoms. Temperatures in some areas were in the low 30's.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Joe Shevchik (NRCS) - Last week was too wet to plow!

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Rain each day slowed field work. I had a total of 1-1/2 inches for the week.

CHESTER COUNTY, Cheryl Fairbairn (EXT) - It was too wet for much to occur at all!

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - The county is well over normal for rainfall during the month of May. Very little activity happened in the fields. Spraying of cherry and apple blossoms is going on.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William R. Clouser - The wet, cool weather continues. At this late of a date, planting of oats may be curtailed in favor of corn planting. It will take an extended period of dry weather to enable planting to continue. Short term weather forecasts do not favor that situation. The wet weather may actually hurt future pasture conditions.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was a wet week. There was 3 inches of rain to help pastures and hay crops. No field work done.

INDIANA COUNTY, DAVID B. OVERDORFF - The oats are looking good. The weather was good for plowing, but not for planting. I hope for drier weather next week.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger - Early sweet corn stands are excellent. Potato and cole crop planting have proceeded on schedule. Disease control in apple orchards have been a challenge due to frequent rains.

LANCASTER COUNTY, - Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - The most prevalent activity was making ryelege. I am not sure how much damage is being done to the fields, as wet as it has been.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill (EXT) - Farmers will wade back into the fields this week. Let's hope the weather cooperates as we all play catch-up!

LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby (EXT) - Field work got off to a slow start last week because of soaking rains. The week finished with good working conditions. The growing environment has been excellent for alfalfa and cool season grasses.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - On Friday and Saturday, we had 1.2 inches of rain. With the high winds and sun, the soil dried out on Sunday. A few farmers were doing field work Sunday afternoon.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola K Pflieger - We received rain on 6 days of the past week. Hopefully we will have a nice full week of sunshine.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT) - Farmers are preparing to plant potatoes this week. It is likely this week will be the main tillage week. The apple orchards quickly bloomed last week following the warm weather of the previous week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The week began with significant rainfall and ended with ideal conditions. Corn planting and the sowing of soybeans is moving forward at a rapid pace. The making of first cutting alfalfa is beginning. The barley has headed and is looking good. Spraying, spreading manure, and planting were the main activities for the week.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Some much need rain came this past week. Parts of the county had much more than others. Hay and small grains are darker green and looked to add some height. We need sun and warmer temps to really get things growing this week.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA) - Heifers are out on pasture right now, which is earlier than normal. We received just over an inch and half of rain. Most of this was received Friday night.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Wet weather dominated last week. Not much field work was completed. Pastures are growing and are very lush.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Wet weather continued for most of the week stopping any progress with field work.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 10, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	72	82	72
Corn, planted	29	48	55
Corn, emerged	13	11	14
Barley, heading or headed	65	77	64
Wheat, heading or headed	18	27	19
Oats, planted	89	95	90
Oats, emerged	56	59	50
Soybeans, planted	7	18	16
Potatoes, planted	24	47	24
Cherries, in full bloom or past	99	99	99
Apples, in full bloom or past	100	100	91

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 10, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	18	65	16
Oats	0	0	29	58	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	14	53	30
Timothy clover stand	0	3	16	55	26
Pasture	1	5	19	56	19

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