



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 17, 2009

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Field conditions improved from last week. The rain slowed enough to allow farmers to get out into their fields. Four days were suitable for field work. Primary field activities included planting oats, soybeans, corn, and potatoes. Conditions favored plowing, as plowing is now 84% completed. This is compared to last week's 72%, last year's 85%, and the five year average of 88%. There was little change in soil moisture.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 17, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	3	75	22

Crops: Forty-eight percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 56%, and the five year average of 69%. Corn is now 23% emerged, compared to last year's 26%, and the average of 31%. Soybean planting continued, and is now 18% planted statewide, compared with last year's 22%, and the average of 33%. Six percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 8%, and the average of 7%. The wheat condition is 0% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 66% good, and 18% excellent. Thirty-four percent of the wheat has headed, this is compared to last year's 47%, and the average of 40%. Seventy-three percent of barley has headed, which compares to last year's 96% and the average of 86%. Oat conditions are 0% very poor, 1% poor, 19% fair, 65% good, and 15% excellent. Oats planting is near completion, at 96% planted. This is compared to last year's 97%, and the five year average of 95%. Oats are 76% emerged. This is compared to last year's 85%, and the average of 70%. Potato planting progressed strongly at 49%, compared with last week's 24%. At this time last year, 51% of the potatoes were planted, compared to the average of 68%.

Fruit: Peaches and apples both look to be in good to excellent condition as of this point. The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 1% fair, 92% good, and 7% excellent. The apple conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 1% fair, 99% good, and 0% excellent.

Livestock: Pasture conditions continue to improve. Pastures are 2% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 53% good, and 28% excellent. Alfalfa crop conditions continue to look good and are 0% very poor, 4% poor, 14% fair, 57% good, and 25% excellent. Farmers have begun their first cutting of alfalfa, and are 19% done, compared with last year's 15%, and the average of 18%. Timothy clover crop conditions are also doing well and are 0% very poor,

2% poor, 18% fair, 56% good, and 24% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 0% very poor, 8% poor, 27% fair, 38% good, and 27% excellent.

U.S. as of May 10, 2009: For the second week in a row, heavy rain fell along and near a slow-moving frontal boundary draped across the South and East. The first full week of May featured at least 4 inches of rain and widespread flooding in many locations from the southeastern Plains to the central and southern Appalachians. Wetness continued to disrupt summer crop planting as far north as the central and eastern Corn Belt, although there were some windows of planting opportunity across the northern and western Corn Belt. More than 2 inches of rain soaked southern Illinois and the southern half of Missouri, but less than an inch of rain fell in parts of the Great Lakes States and the upper Midwest. On the Plains, torrential rainfall was confined to southeastern portions of the region.

Corn: Nationally, 48 percent of this year's corn acreage was planted by week's end, on par with last year's pace but 23 points, or more than a week, behind the 5-year average. Emergence was evident in 14 percent of the Nation's crop, compared with 10 percent last year and 28 percent for the average. Development was behind the 5-year average pace in all States except Iowa and Nebraska.

Soybeans: By May 10, producers had planted 14 percent of their soybean acreage, up 3 points from last year but 11 points slower than the average pace.

Winter Wheat: Forty percent of the winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end, 6 points ahead of 2008 but 8 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 46 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 47 percent last week and a year ago.

Small Grains: Thirty-three percent of the Nation's barley acreage was sown by May 10, compared to 73 percent in 2008 and 74 percent for the 5-year average. Progress remained behind last year and average in all States. Emergence was reported at 12 percent complete, 12 points below last year and 22 points, or more than a week, behind normal. Producers had sown 80 percent of the 2009 oat acreage, on par with the previous year but down 9 points from the 5-year average. Emergence was evident in 60 percent of the crop, compared with 50 percent in 2008 and 65 percent for the average. Overall, 45 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 17, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 17, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	77	35	56	-1	0.15	3	4.07	-0.97	24	245	115	588
Franklin	80	33	55	-2	1.43	3	6.43	0.90	24	220	91	556
Meadville	75	34	55	-1	0.32	3	4.64	-0.64	26	230	124	555
Mercer	78	31	55	-2	0.63	4	5.60	0.28	24	223	88	563
Springboro	76	31	53	-4	0.59	3	5.81	0.96	25	186	47	494
Warren	79	33	53	-3	0.50	2	6.24	0.65	22	200	81	519
North Central												
Bradford Region	75	27	50	-2	0.64	4	4.69	-0.75	23	164	92	443
Oswayo	79	28	50	-4	0.73	3	4.69	-0.35	23	133	40	410
Kane	78	28	50	-3	1.08	3	6.14	0.37	23	124	55	391
Laporte	72	36	53	-4	1.73	3	7.32	1.95	25	156	17	463
Lock Haven	81	35	57	0	1.23	3	5.54	0.53	23	253	96	613
Port Allegany	78	31	51	-3	1.04	3	4.24	-0.80	23	155	62	447
Renovo	81	33	56	-1	0.96	3	5.25	0.24	22	235	78	594
Ridgway	78	29	51	-4	0.55	2	4.91	-0.82	23	143	58	425
Stevenson Dam	81	34	56	3	0.98	3	5.29	-0.44	21	200	115	531
Towanda	79	32	55	-3	2.18	3	6.52	1.75	22	201	59	544
Wellsboro	72	31	51	-3	1.79	3	5.27	1.24	21	137	63	426
Williamsport	80	37	59	0	1.53	3	6.59	1.35	22	328	125	735
Northeast												
Hawley	77	31	54	-2	2.24	2	6.83	1.25	18	174	81	501
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	38	58	0	2.26	2	4.96	0.06	17	312	141	700
Susquehanna	74	34	54	0	1.57	4	5.41	-0.38	21	182	100	509
West Central												
Butler	80	32	55	-3	0.58	3	5.69	0.36	26	205	54	546
New Castle	82	35	57	-1	0.32	4	4.90	0.04	24	252	111	605
Slippery Rock	80	32	54	-3	0.25	4	5.86	0.81	25	231	106	569
Central												
Altoona/Blair	78	38	57	-2	0.39	4	4.19	-0.91	27	256	70	612
DuBois	76	35	55	-2	0.85	3	6.30	0.87	25	245	115	569
Lewistown	82	37	58	-2	2.06	3	7.88	2.79	26	269	45	642
Middletown	78	42	62	1	1.03	3	7.96	2.42	25	364	103	780
Prince Gallitzi	80	29	54	-2	0.48	3	4.24	-2.57	26	174	58	469
Selinsgrove	79	36	58	-1	2.25	3	7.38	2.19	22	244	63	604
State College	79	39	57	-2	0.84	3	5.66	0.86	26	260	92	622
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	79	37	60	0	0.98	3	6.20	0.38	23	315	102	703
Lehighton	74	37	57	-3	2.03	4	7.23	1.59	19	250	48	618
Matamoras	77	34	55	-4	1.76	2	6.03	-0.31	20	192	28	528
Mt_Pocono	73	34	54	2	0.29	3	6.21	-0.37	23	191	123	513
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	41	60	3	0.64	3	5.79	0.29	27	348	159	743
Indiana_PA	79	34	57	-1	0.12	2	2.71	-3.27	17	269	88	618
Myersdale	77	30	53	-5	0.40	3	7.28	0.95	29	146	-3	425
Mount Pleasant	80	35	58	3	1.06	4	6.42	0.07	28	267	149	635
Pittsburgh Intl	80	37	60	2	0.44	3	4.61	-0.45	28	356	148	750
Connellsville	83	39	60	1	0.92	3	7.72	1.61	30	286	67	675
Waynesburg	80	37	58	1	0.86	4	7.43	1.82	30	257	85	627
South Central												
Biglerville	78	39	59	-3	1.06	3	9.27	3.87	28	304	44	692
Everett	79	33	54	-4	0.49	3	8.00	2.63	29	161	-10	458
Hanover	79	37	61	0	0.89	3	8.73	3.33	27	324	64	721
Harrisburg_AP	81	39	62	2	0.94	3	8.32	2.78	26	375	110	789
South Mountain	76	35	58	-1	1.04	5	9.61	4.51	31	212	32	561
York	79	36	61	-1	0.88	3	8.02	2.43	26	342	74	735
Southeast												
Green Lane	78	40	60	2	0.94	3	8.06	2.10	26	316	119	706
Hamburg	78	40	60	3	1.65	4	7.73	1.27	27	326	172	724
West_Chester	80	36	60	-1	1.51	3	8.93	2.71	24	305	53	679
Lancaster	79	39	61	1	0.61	3	7.47	1.99	25	317	100	706
Neshaminy Falls	81	39	61	3	0.61	3	9.00	2.50	21	328	117	719
New Holland	81	44	61	2	1.29	3	8.41	2.93	24	328	111	724
Philadelphia	80	48	65	3	0.81	3	7.75	2.06	27	434	143	870
Philadelphia NE	80	42	62	0	0.44	3	7.13	1.44	25	380	89	795
Reading	80	40	61	3	1.47	3	6.41	0.22	26	377	178	781
Sellersville	79	38	60	2	0.96	3	7.66	1.70	24	282	85	659
Willow Grove	78	43	62	3	0.63	3	12.20	5.70	22	374	163	779

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) - Corn and soybeans are still being planted, but the majority has not even started due to wet conditions. The crop insurance deadlines for corn and soybeans are getting closer. Not many corn or soybeans have emerged. Some barley for silage has been chopped. Haylage is being made between rainfalls. Wheat is coming into heads and the barley has already headed. Fruit trees continue to look good. Some sweet corn has been planted. Strawberries are all blooming. Some have coloring and will soon be picked. Overall the planting season is behind due to wet conditions. Ponds are replenished in the county.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - The early varieties of apples seem to be setting up well. Some of the late blooming varieties like Yorks and Romes are a bit of a question mark in some orchards. Chemical apple thinning has started and most growers are hoping for some warmer temperatures during this process.

BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA) - Berks County experienced a variety of weather events this week from rain and the first taste of humidity to cool days and evenings. The last of the rye was harvested for ryelege, and some rye planted for straw has lodged just as it is ready to bloom. Some farmers sprayed for alfalfa weevils, while some dairy farmers began their first cutting.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Beth Abbott (FSA) - We have received some rainfall, with an inch on May 16. Temperatures were cool the week of May 10. The temperatures for the coming week are looking above average and some first cutting hay could be cut.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Continued rain and saturated soils have severely hampered corn planting and other field activities.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - We finished planting oats and direct seedings. Now, corn is the main crop being planted this week. The week has been cold and wet.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There has been rain 5 days this week with a total of 1.5 inches in my gauge. Hay and grass look good. Completion of corn and soybeans planting is difficult.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of corn, soybean, vegetable and oats planting have been done this past week. Many acres of alfalfa/mixed hay were mowed and some haylage was harvested. Jack Frost showed up Monday morning.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William Clouser - Due to the seasonal moisture conditions, oats planting has terminated. Potato planting was in high gear last week, while corn planting progressed and hay-making began. Several local areas had frost on 3 mornings this past week. For the most part, these were not killing frosts, but damage has not been completely assessed.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dave Reedy (FSA) - A nice rain fell this week. Full degree days are needed to get everything moving on schedule.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - We received about 2" of rain this past week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - This week produced a significant amount of crops in the ground. Oats were about finished planting. Considerable acres of corn were planted and soybean planting is underway. Pastures are in very good shape.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Wet weather and heavy rains put the damper on a good early week of busy field work. The majority of alfalfa hay was harvested early in the week in advance of weather and weevils. Concerns of weevil feeding on re-growth may require a close look at stubble. Corn planting is nearing completion. There is still a fair amount of beans to get in the ground. There is excellent germination of corn stands. Weeds are coming on rapidly. Heavy storms on Saturday evening put a damper on the week.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Showers and wet ground slowed hay making last week. Corn is emerging in good shape. Some soybeans and corn got planted in the better soils this week. There has been no frost damage to the fruit.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - The oats are looking great. It has been 3 weeks since the first corn has been planted and it is looking good with about 3 to 4 leaves on the stocks now since it has emerged.

JUNIATA COUNTY, G. Hostetter (EXT) - Small grains are being harvested for baleage and chopped for haylage. Alfalfa has been cut at early bud stage.

MERCER COUNTY, Gary Micsky (EXT) - Pasture growth has improved significantly in the past week. There were heavy rains Wednesday evening.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Saturday we received 0.9 inches of rain in the afternoon and evening. Up to that point, field work was full steam ahead. A few dairy farmers cut and chopped their first cutting of alfalfa this Wednesday-Friday.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT) - During the week, there were two significant frosts and two days of rain/drizzle that delayed potato planting. Field corn has not yet been planted due to recurring frosts and will likely be held off until the last week of May. Frosts may have hurt pollination and fruit set in apples.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The beginning of the week was ideal for planting and the making of haylage. During the end of the week we had significant rainfall in the 1.5 to 2.0 inch range. The early planted corn has emerged and has a good color, and the oats are looking good. A few alfalfa fields are showing weevil damage. The main activities for the week were planting, harvesting, and spraying.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Kelly Sundy (FSA) - Alfalfa hay last week looked pretty good, but heavy rain and winds knocked down quite a bit before first cutting. Rain has helped improve some of the pasture.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Some much needed rain fell in the northern part of the county Saturday evening. Along with it came very strong winds and lots of trees and branches in the fields to clean up. Rye is being cut to chop. It looks like haylage will start coming off later this week. Lots of corn is in the ground, with more to go.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump - The rain over the last two weeks has relieved the dry conditions. Combined with the forecast for warmer weather, it should give the hay and pasture a much need boost.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Wet conditions continue to slow planting progress. Many fields remain too wet to work. The hay is short and thin in many places.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Wetness and cool conditions have slowed all planting and haying conditions.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Fairly wet soil conditions prevail, but planting continues as the season is getting on. The most advanced corn is at the 3 collar stage. Wheat disease levels are low.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 17, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	84	85	88
Corn, planted	48	56	69
Corn, emerged	23	26	31
Barley, heading or headed	73	96	86
Wheat, heading or headed	34	47	40
Oats, planted	96	97	95
Oats, emerged	76	85	70
Soybeans, planted	18	22	33
Soybeans, emerged	6	8	7
Potatoes, planted	49	51	68
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	19	15	18

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 17, 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	2	14	66	18
Oats	0	1	19	65	15
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	14	57	25
Timothy clover stand	0	2	18	56	24
Quality of hay made	0	8	27	38	27
Pasture	2	3	14	53	28
Peaches	0	0	1	92	7
Apples	0	0	1	99	0

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