



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 11, 2010

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

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: spring plowing, spreading manure and fertilizer, sowing oats, and tobacco bed planting. Spring plowing is 33% complete, compared to last year's 29%, and the five year average of 27%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 11, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	8	80	12

Crop Progress: Oats are 41% planted, ahead of last year's 23% and the average of 22%. Tobacco beds are 42% planted, which is also ahead of last year's 36%, and the average of 7%. Most fruit bloomed rapidly, and earlier than previous years. Peaches are 96% in pink, ahead of last year's 8%, and the average of 27%, with 96% in full bloom, compared to the average of 7%. Cherries are 87% in pink, above the average of 22%, with 85% in full bloom, ahead of the 6% average. Apples are 14%, in pink.

Crop Condition: State-wide wheat condition is 0% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 64% good, and 11% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 64% good, and 14% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 0% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 67% good, and 15% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 4% very poor, 8% poor, 33% fair, 46% good and 9% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 4, 2010: Flooding intensified in late March across the northern Mid-Atlantic coastal plain and parts of New England, following a 4- to 10-inch deluge from the fourth significant storm in little more than a month. By week's end, however, dry weather and record-setting warmth replaced excessive wetness, allowing Northeastern rivers to recede. Warmth also expanded across other areas from the Plains to the East Coast. In fact, weekly temperatures ranged from 10 to 20 degrees F above normal from the northern and central Plains into the Northeast. Late-week readings climbed to 80 degrees F or higher as far north as the upper Mississippi Valley and interior New England. In contrast, near- to below-normal temperatures prevailed in the West. Western highlights also included much-needed rain and snow

across the northern half of the region. Specifically, Northwestern precipitation aided winter grains and boosted high-elevation snow packs. Meanwhile, spring fieldwork proceeded in southern California and the Southwest. Farther east, occasional showers caused minor fieldwork delays across the Plains and South. In both regions, however, warm weather promoted rapid winter wheat growth. Recently planted summer crops, such as corn, emerged across the South, although dryness was becoming a concern in the central Gulf Coast region. Elsewhere, pre-planting fieldwork advanced in the Midwest until the arrival of late-week showers. Early-April rain was heaviest in the central Corn Belt, where many locations received an inch or more. Early in the week, strong thunderstorms swept across the Southeast, sparking heavy rain and spawning more than a dozen tornadoes. Farther north, March ended with another round of phenomenally heavy Northeastern rainfall. Meanwhile, cool, stormy weather developed across the West, while warmth gradually expanded from the Plains into the East. With the exception of areas along the Gulf Coast and in Florida, abnormally warm temperatures blanketed much of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Most notably, temperatures throughout the Great Lakes climbed to 15 degrees or more above average. While many regions of the United States were dry during the week, precipitation in excess of 4 inches fell along the northern Pacific and Atlantic Coasts. **Winter Wheat:** Nationally, 65 percent of the 2010 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 22 percentage points from this time last year and slightly above ratings from the week ending December 6, 2009, the last available report for the current crop. In Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing State, 69 percent of the crop was reported as good to excellent, with minimal disease, freeze, insect, or wind damage evident. Elsewhere, warmer temperatures coupled with adequate soil moisture levels in Texas led to improved crop conditions, although stripe and leaf rust prompted fungicide applications in areas of the Blacklands. **Small Grains:** Producers across the United States had seeded 33 percent of the 2010 oat crop, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Seeding was complete in Texas, where 11 percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 11, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 11, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	76	32	56	13	0.76	5	0.76	-0.41	5	115	115	215
Franklin	84	30	56	13	0.48	3	0.48	-0.77	3	95	95	190
Meadville	83	29	55	14	0.37	3	0.37	-0.84	3	96	96	190
Mercer	84	29	56	13	0.30	2	0.30	-0.99	2	102	102	196
Springboro	82	26	53	10	0.55	5	0.55	-0.54	5	86	85	176
Warren	82	32	55	13	0.27	3	0.27	-0.98	3	91	91	186
North Central												
Bradford Region	77	28	53	14	0.34	4	0.34	-0.87	4	78	78	175
Oswayo	79	31	53	12	0.70	3	0.70	-0.40	3	64	64	156
Kane	81	31	52	13	0.11	2	0.11	-1.21	2	55	55	145
Laporte	80	31	56	12	0.60	3	0.61	-0.53	4	89	86	179
Lock Haven	88	36	59	15	0.30	1	0.30	-0.80	1	110	107	214
Port Allegany	80	31	53	13	0.68	3	0.68	-0.42	3	73	73	165
Renovo	86	37	58	14	0.14	2	0.14	-0.96	2	106	103	209
Ridgway	81	33	54	13	0.33	3	0.33	-0.88	3	71	71	160
Stevenson Dam	85	35	57	16	0.51	2	0.51	-0.70	2	91	91	191
Towanda	85	36	56	13	0.42	2	0.42	-0.57	2	89	86	188
Wellsboro	81	30	54	15	0.40	2	0.40	-0.38	2	82	82	177
Williamsport	89	38	61	16	0.27	2	0.27	-0.87	2	137	127	243
Northeast												
Hawley	85	34	55	14	0.91	3	0.91	-0.27	3	65	65	158
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	36	61	16	0.28	3	0.28	-0.73	3	124	121	225
Susquehanna	84	34	56	16	0.38	2	0.38	-0.91	2	79	79	173
West Central												
Butler	85	29	55	10	0.20	3	0.20	-0.95	3	87	83	181
New Castle	87	28	57	14	0.40	3	0.40	-0.70	3	108	108	204
Slippery Rock	85	28	57	15	0.25	2	0.25	-0.91	2	101	101	198
Central												
Altoona/Blair	85	35	60	15	0.11	2	0.11	-1.05	2	127	117	228
DuBois	82	32	58	15	0.19	3	0.19	-1.02	3	120	120	220
Lewistown	89	37	60	13	0.33	3	0.33	-0.66	3	111	98	215
Middletown	89	40	63	14	0.32	1	0.32	-0.78	1	127	110	235
Prince Gallitzi	84	34	55	12	0.45	2	0.45	-1.09	2	84	84	180
Selinsgrove	89	37	60	15	0.33	1	0.33	-0.77	1	102	93	207
State College	86	39	60	16	0.07	3	0.07	-0.99	3	129	126	231
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	92	37	61	15	0.44	1	0.44	-0.77	1	110	100	218
Lehighton	88	36	60	14	0.36	1	0.37	-0.73	2	98	91	202
Matamoras	90	36	58	13	0.61	2	0.61	-0.77	2	86	82	185
Mt_Pocono	84	32	58	19	0.61	1	0.61	-0.80	1	94	94	188
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	35	61	15	0.31	2	0.31	-0.79	2	156	145	256
Indiana_PA	84	32	57	11	0.29	2	0.29	-1.03	2	101	91	197
Myersdale	82	29	53	8	0.26	2	0.26	-1.17	2	65	63	156
Mount Pleasant	86	28	57	15	0.23	1	0.23	-1.23	1	108	108	204
Pittsburgh Intl	85	30	60	14	0.18	2	0.18	-1.01	2	145	134	245
Connellsville	88	32	59	12	0.42	2	0.42	-0.92	2	125	113	222
Waynesburg	87	28	57	12	0.31	2	0.31	-0.94	2	100	92	194
South Central												
Biglerville	89	39	62	14	0.37	3	0.37	-0.84	3	129	112	236
Everett	87	32	57	12	0.33	3	0.33	-0.85	3	89	83	190
Hanover	89	37	63	14	0.34	2	0.34	-0.87	2	125	108	231
Harrisburg_AP	89	39	62	14	0.34	1	0.34	-0.76	1	131	114	239
South Mountain	86	36	59	13	0.50	1	0.50	-0.66	1	96	88	196
York	88	34	61	12	0.26	2	0.26	-1.05	2	111	94	215
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	40	62	16	0.58	1	0.58	-0.70	1	113	105	222
Hamburg	90	38	61	17	0.38	1	0.38	-0.93	1	115	113	223
West_Chester	90	38	61	13	0.70	1	0.70	-0.63	1	104	88	213
Lancaster	87	38	61	14	0.40	2	0.40	-0.81	2	108	97	214
Neshaminy Falls	90	37	62	15	0.60	1	0.60	-0.83	1	122	111	232
New Holland	87	39	63	16	0.94	2	0.94	-0.27	2	128	117	235
Philadelphia	89	42	65	16	0.56	3	0.56	-0.76	3	143	123	253
Philadelphia NE	88	42	65	16	0.67	2	0.68	-0.64	3	130	110	240
Reading	89	39	63	17	0.42	2	0.42	-0.90	2	133	126	242
Sellersville	87	35	60	14	0.72	2	0.72	-0.56	2	100	92	206
Willow Grove	88	41	65	18	0.47	2	0.47	-0.96	2	135	124	245

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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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) - Field preparations for future planting are occurring. Producers are busy applying fertilizer to hay, wheat, and barley fields. Some additional oats were seeded last week. The producers will start to plant corn soon, depending on ground temperatures. Cherries, pears, peaches, and apricots are all blooming. If you would like to see all of these in bloom at same time, which doesn't usually happen, this would be the time to take a drive to Adams County. The apple blossoms are starting to pop open. Producers are saying the blooms look good and they are hoping the temperatures do not dip. Overall, the producers are busy with various fieldwork, and preparing their equipment for future planting.

BUCKS COUNTY, Austin Drager (FSA) - Bucks County is still wet, but drying quickly. Producers are gearing up for spring planting. April has being unseasonably warm to start.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Last week was a good week for field work. Many fields are now starting to dry out from our record rains in March. Wheat was top dressed, grass hay fields were fertilized, some ground was worked, and oats were planted.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work. We had 3/4 inch of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) Many acres of oats were planted last week. Liming and fertilizing of fields is going on.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - There is quite a bit of agricultural activity going on in Crawford County these days. Producers are busy with manure spreading, spreading lime, and preparing their fields for planting. Spring calves are dotting the pasture fields and enjoying being heated by the sun.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - Unusually warm and dry conditions have permitted producers to begin soil preparation.

INDIANA COUNTY, David Overdorff - We had 0.30" of rain last week. We got most of the ground plowed for oats. We will be working on plowing the corn ground this week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Oscillating temperatures are holding some farmers back from planting. It is still early, but a few warm days got some farmers planting a few acres of corn. Fields are being sprayed with lime and manure spread. Pastures are greening up. Most fruit crops are in full bloom.

MERCER COUNTY, James Rust - With several morning temperatures ranging from 23-30 degrees, the soil temperature is much lower than last week. Several sweet corn growers have fabric in place for protection from frost. The soil is the proper moisture for plowing and preparation. Manure hauling and spreading has been at a fast pace this week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer The warm weather has allowed many farmers to plow, plant, spray, and spread fertilizer and manure. The crops are looking good. Nearly four tenths of rain on Thursday was helpful.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA) - Alfalfa stands are actually looking good right now, which is great news. However, Tioga County is having unusually warm weather for this time of year. If we get below freezing weather now, it could set things back. Here and there we hear about a producer trying to plow.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 11, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	33	29	27
Oats, planted	41	23	22
Tobacco beds, planted	42	36	7
Peaches, in pink	96	8	27
Peaches, in full bloom or past	96	0	7
Cherries, in pink	87	3	22
Cherries, in full bloom or past	85	0	6
Apples, in pink	14	0	3

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 11, 2010

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	24	64	11
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	20	64	14
Timothy clover stand	1	2	16	67	15
Pasture	4	8	33	46	9

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