



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 18, 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: Weather conditions for the majority of the week were favorable for soil preparation for corn and soybean planting. Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: fertilizer and manure spreading, topdressing wheat and hayfields, and preparing soils for corn and soybeans planting. Spring plowing continues, and is 45% completed, the same as the average and ahead of last year's estimate of 42%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 18, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	20	68	9

Crop Progress: Corn is 7% planted, well ahead of last year's 1% and the average of 5%. Oats are 56% planted, ahead of last year's 42% and the average of 44%. Eleven percent of oats have emerged which is the same as last year and ahead of the average of 9%. Tobacco beds are 90% planted, which is also ahead of last year's 48%, and the average of 18%. Potatoes are 5% planted, ahead of last year's 2% and behind the average of 9%. Cherries are 97% in pink, above the average of 63%, with 97% in full bloom, ahead of the 30% average. Apples are 81%, in pink which is ahead of last year's 17% and the average of 22%. Apples are 44% in full bloom.

Crop Condition: State-wide wheat condition is 1% very poor, 11% poor, 32% fair, 48% good, and 8% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 2% poor, 21% fair, 68% good, and 9% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 1% poor, 22% fair, 69% good, and 8% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 4% very poor, 20% poor, 24% fair, 47% good and 5% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 11, 2010: With the exception of portions of southern Texas, abnormally warm temperatures prevailed across much of the country east of the Rocky Mountains, with locations in the northern Atlantic Coast States reaching as many as 18 degrees above normal. Elsewhere, average temperature recordings in areas of the Interior and Pacific Northwest were as many as 10 degrees below normal. While much of the Nation experienced relatively dry weather during the week, several areas along the Pacific Coast, in the Great Lakes region, and in the central Rocky Mountains and Great Plains accumulated precipitation totaling 400 percent or more above normal. **Corn:** Producers had planted 3 percent of the Nation's intended corn acreage for the 2010 crop season, slightly ahead of last year, but 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average. Planting was underway in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota, 4 of the 5 largest corn-producing States, with progress slightly ahead of normal in Iowa and Minnesota. In Illinois, overall progress was 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average, but slightly ahead of progress from the previous 3 years. **Winter Wheat:** Nationally, 65 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 23 percentage points better than conditions from this time last year. Optimal weather conditions in Kansas during the week allowed for an improvement in crop conditions, with slightly more of the winter wheat rated as excellent. **Small Grains:** Nationwide, 47 percent of the oat crop was seeded by April 11, twelve percentage points ahead of last year and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm temperatures promoted increased fieldwork in areas of the Corn Belt and Mississippi and Ohio Valleys, where producers seeded 26 percent or more of their crop during the week. Overall, emergence had advanced to 28 percent complete by week's end, qualifying progress from both last year and the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 18, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 18, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	75	31	51	6	0.46	2	1.22	-0.72	7	142	136	292
Franklin	79	30	49	4	0.38	2	0.86	-1.23	5	112	106	258
Meadville	79	31	49	6	0.46	4	0.83	-1.15	7	113	111	258
Mercer	79	33	50	5	0.50	4	0.80	-1.26	6	122	117	271
Springboro	80	28	48	3	0.21	2	0.76	-1.10	7	103	95	236
Warren	79	30	49	4	0.23	3	0.50	-1.59	6	106	104	251
North Central												
Bradford Region	73	25	46	4	0.12	2	0.46	-1.52	6	91	91	223
Oswayo	74	21	45	1	0.29	2	0.99	-0.84	5	72	71	187
Kane	76	25	45	3	0.19	2	0.30	-1.86	4	62	62	183
Laporte	74	31	48	2	0.36	3	0.97	-0.94	7	101	90	238
Lock Haven	82	32	52	5	0.07	1	0.37	-1.43	2	137	126	297
Port Allegany	74	25	46	3	0.15	2	0.83	-1.00	5	83	82	210
Renovo	81	31	51	5	0.18	1	0.32	-1.48	3	128	117	290
Ridgway	77	26	47	4	0.20	2	0.53	-1.45	5	82	82	211
Stevenson Dam	80	30	50	8	0.30	1	0.81	-1.17	3	109	109	263
Towanda	78	30	48	3	0.29	2	0.71	-0.97	4	102	92	249
Wellsboro	74	28	47	5	0.08	1	0.48	-0.86	3	93	93	232
Williamsport	84	33	55	7	0.22	1	0.49	-1.42	3	182	159	350
Northeast												
Hawley	68	28	46	2	0.87	3	1.78	-0.21	6	68	66	201
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	32	51	3	0.40	1	0.68	-1.03	4	145	133	301
Susquehanna	68	30	48	6	0.53	3	0.91	-1.22	5	87	86	229
West Central												
Butler	80	31	50	3	0.91	4	1.11	-0.76	7	105	93	251
New Castle	82	31	51	6	0.73	5	1.13	-0.67	8	130	126	284
Slippery Rock	81	31	51	6	0.69	5	0.94	-0.92	7	124	121	277
Central												
Altoona/Blair	79	30	52	3	0.80	2	0.91	-0.95	4	163	141	313
DuBois	76	31	51	6	0.49	2	0.68	-1.30	5	150	146	303
Lewistown	82	33	53	4	0.53	1	0.86	-0.83	4	144	115	306
Middletown	81	37	55	4	0.35	2	0.67	-1.18	3	171	134	340
Prince Gallitzi	79	29	49	3	0.74	3	1.19	-1.33	5	107	102	258
Selingsgrove	82	35	52	4	0.44	2	0.77	-1.09	3	129	109	292
State College	78	32	52	5	0.21	2	0.28	-1.43	5	160	149	316
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	73	29	51	3	0.99	3	1.43	-0.60	4	136	113	297
Lehighton	73	33	51	2	0.83	2	1.20	-0.65	4	121	103	280
Matamoras	69	29	48	2	0.49	2	1.10	-1.19	4	93	80	245
Mt_Pocono	68	30	48	6	0.96	2	1.57	-0.80	3	102	102	245
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	36	55	7	0.14	2	0.45	-1.39	4	204	182	359
Indiana_PA	77	34	52	4	0.60	3	0.89	-1.27	5	126	106	280
Myersdale	74	29	46	-2	0.91	2	1.17	-1.17	4	75	66	206
Mount Pleasant	78	29	51	6	0.72	4	0.95	-1.49	5	137	133	282
Pittsburgh Intl	80	36	54	5	0.36	3	0.54	-1.35	5	189	164	345
Connellsville	80	33	53	4	0.66	3	1.08	-1.17	5	160	133	313
Waynesburg	81	32	51	3	0.51	2	0.82	-1.21	4	126	109	271
South Central												
Biglerville	82	31	53	2	0.54	2	0.91	-1.07	5	164	127	326
Everett	80	32	50	3	0.94	3	1.27	-0.68	6	113	98	264
Hanover	84	34	53	2	0.59	3	0.93	-1.05	5	162	125	323
Harrisburg_AP	80	33	54	3	0.32	2	0.66	-1.19	3	174	136	338
South Mountain	79	29	49	2	0.64	2	1.14	-0.72	3	121	102	267
York	82	32	52	2	0.60	2	0.86	-1.29	4	146	108	304
Southeast												
Green Lane	74	34	53	4	0.42	3	1.00	-1.14	4	147	127	316
Hamburg	77	35	53	6	0.81	1	1.19	-0.99	2	151	141	317
West_Chester	78	30	53	2	0.47	2	1.17	-1.07	3	138	103	303
Lancaster	79	33	53	4	0.36	2	0.76	-1.23	4	146	121	307
Neshaminy Falls	73	33	51	2	0.29	4	0.89	-1.45	5	140	116	309
New Holland	78	32	53	4	0.48	2	1.42	-0.57	4	168	143	329
Philadelphia	76	40	58	6	0.25	3	0.81	-1.35	6	201	158	378
Philadelphia NE	81	38	55	4	0.31	4	0.99	-1.17	7	175	132	349
Reading	76	35	55	7	0.56	2	0.98	-1.24	4	176	158	346
Sellersville	73	31	52	3	0.37	3	1.09	-1.05	5	127	107	288
Willow Grove	73	36	54	5	0.40	3	0.87	-1.47	5	171	147	342

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, Lee Showalter - We continue to be about two weeks ahead of normal.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney - The county had another week of warm weather to start the week in the 70's. There were minor showers and cloudy on Tuesday and temperatures were around the 50's. On Wednesday the morning was cold with temperatures around 30 degrees. There was heavy frost in northern Adams County. Around Gettysburg and further south there was no frost. Thursday and Friday the morning temperature was 40 degrees. By the afternoon the daytime temperatures were into the 70's on both days. Friday evening York Springs area received a half a inch of rainfall. Saturday and Sunday temperatures were in the low 50's and windy all day. Spreading fertilizer and manure has been the primary field activities. Some oats are still being sown. Soil preparation for future plantings of corn and soybeans are happening. Wheat and barley are starting to grow in height now. Pasture and hay fields are also growing from warmer and sunnier days. All fruit trees are in full bloom or past bloom for cherries, peaches, pears, etc. The blooms are full so hopefully that means the fruit crops will be good this year. The cold temperatures will probably have some affect on some of the yields. Overall, the producers are busy in the county and hoping to get more planting done real soon when the weather stays warm.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work with only a half inch of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner- Many farmers preparing fields for spring planting. Winter stored manure being incorporated in the ground. There has been planting of oats and new seedings.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, Bill Clouser - Spring manure hauling and application is progressing and almost complete. While most spring tillage has been completed, some has been delayed awaiting manure application. Soil conditions are getting dry in some areas.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - This week produced off and on showers. Despite the showers, the ground is still dry for this time of year. Spring plowing, liming, fertilizing, and planting small grains are the current activities. Pasture conditions are rapidly increasing with the rain showers.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Corn planting was started in a few locations last week as soil temperatures and moistures proved favorable. Warm spurt earlier this month has pushed forage development. Some of the earlier varieties of orchardgrass appear to be only a few warm days away from boot stage. A three-fourth inch of rain on Friday was welcomed after a dry period throughout the month.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - There are some farmers are planting while others are waiting for temperatures to improve. There has been some frost in low areas, but not enough to hurt the fruit. Farmers are putting in conservation practices and getting fields ready to plant.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - We received very little rain as of Saturday afternoon. Many acres of oats were planted this week. Although pastures grew some and are a darker green, they could benefit from some rain.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - Dry conditions have allowed for more field work. Topdressing wheat and hayfields, hauling manure and some tillage were the main activities this week. Current cool weather and concerns about planting too early for our heavy soils has kept most farmers from planting any corn or soybeans. There may be a few farmers who will begin planting these crops this week.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr - The impact of a heavy frost on Friday remains to be seen. Most fruit is in the latter stages of bloom which may have prevented damage. Growers are reporting temperatures as low as 30 degrees.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Earlier in the week, parts of the area had a significant frost with minor damage. On Friday, the county received over an inch of rain as a cold front moved through the area. The rain was greatly needed for the newly seeded crops. The main activities for the week were plowing, seeding, and spraying. Cereal rust mites are showing significant stress to the timothy crop while there is very little evidence of the alfalfa weevil being present.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Frosty nights and snowflakes have slowed pasture growth. The early warm dry weather allowed some early seeding of oats and alfalfa.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters,(FSA) - This week brought the plows out on the drier ground. It is still too wet in the majority of the county with its heavier soils. Oats were planted on a few farms. Pastures are growing well where animals were kept out over the winter months but are still being pressured by the livestock. There was light rain early Friday morning but producers will still be able to continue with field work. Some spots are now showing in alfalfa fields where alfalfa did not survive the open winter. Apple and cherry trees are blossoming and could be hurt if we get a freeze which is still a possibility.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling The fruit bloom is at least two weeks ahead of schedule.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr It was another excellent week for spring field work. Activities included tillage, manure spreading, planting oats and new hay seedings. A few growers have sweet corn planted under plastic.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 18, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	45	42	45
Corn, planted	7	1	5
Oats, planted	56	42	44
Oats, emerged	11	11	9
Tobacco beds, planted	90	48	18
Potatoes, planted	5	2	9
Cherries, in pink	97	19	63
Cherries, in full bloom or past	97	0	30
Apples, in pink	81	17	22
Apples, in full bloom or past	44	0	2

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 18, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	11	32	48	8
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	21	68	9
Timothy clover stand	0	1	22	69	8
Pasture	4	20	24	47	5
Peaches	0	0	9	36	55

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