



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 17, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 18, 2011, 4 pm

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

Very Poor Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 1 day suitable for field work. April showers are common and reoccurring throughout much of the state. Saturated fields and fluctuating temperatures have spring farming activities off to a slow start for field crops as well as fruit crops. Primary field activities for the week included spraying orchards, limited plowing, manure hauling, and some fertilizer spreading. Spring plowing slowed by the abundance of precipitation continued, and is 9% complete, well behind the 43% last year and the five year average of 41%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 17, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	22	78

Crop Progress: Winter Wheat is 11% headed. Tobacco beds are 65% planted, which is behind last year's 83%, but ahead of the average of 14%. Peaches are 29% pink, well behind last year's 97%, and behind the average of 68%. Cherries are 49% in pink, below last year's 96%, and the average of 61%.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 58% good, and 9% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 54% good, and 13% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 65% good, and 7% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 8% very poor, 23% poor, 32% fair, 29% good and 8% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 10, 2011: Warmer-than-normal weather prevailed in most areas west of the Great Plains, but temperatures averaged more than 10°F below normal in parts of the Ohio Valley and Southeast. Precipitation was

limited across much of the nation during the week, with most locations in the Corn Belt and Southwest receiving less than 0.1 inch. However, parts of western Washington and central Florida received at least 5 inches of rain.

Winter Wheat: Nationally, 36 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 29 percentage points below this time last year. While adequate soil moisture helped to improve crop conditions in the Pacific Northwest, persistently dry conditions throughout the Great Plains led to an increase in the percentage of the crop rated very poor to poor in states such as Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Corn: By week's end, 3 percent of the nation's corn crop was planted, on par with both last year and the 5-year average. Planting was just beginning in Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska, three of the five largest corn-producing states.

Sorghum: By April 10, twenty percent of this year's sorghum crop was planted, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was most active in Arkansas, where producers utilized 6 days suitable for fieldwork to seed 25 percent of their crop during the week.

Other Crops: Thirty-three percent of the oat crop was seeded by April 10, twelve percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5- year average. The most significant delays were evident in the Great Lakes region and the Ohio Valley. In Ohio and Pennsylvania, snowfall and unusually wet fields limited fieldwork to 3 days during the past 2 weeks. By week's end, 27 percent of this year's crop was emerged, slightly behind last year but on par with the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 17, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 17, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	32	52	6	1.04	5	2.89	1.06	12	38	33	120
Franklin_AG	81	31	52	7	3.06	4	5.83	3.86	10	28	23	108
Meadville-Port	79	34	53	10	2.30	5	4.61	2.74	12	38	37	121
Mercer	80	33	52	7	2.12	5	4.40	2.45	14	28	24	118
Springboro	79	30	49	4	1.29	5	3.88	2.13	12	17	10	87
Warren	78	34	50	7	2.24	5	4.77	2.80	11	23	22	94
North Central												
Bradford Region	72	28	47	6	1.67	5	4.17	2.30	11	18	18	63
Oswayo	75	21	46	3	1.54	5	4.10	2.38	12	8	8	60
Kane	76	30	47	6	2.15	5	6.33	4.29	12	10	10	58
Laporte	72	32	46	0	3.60	4	5.99	4.19	13	9	0	51
Lock Haven	73	37	51	5	1.84	4	4.23	2.53	11	22	13	105
Port Allegany	77	32	48	6	1.76	5	4.02	2.30	12	15	15	76
Renovo	83	37	52	5	1.46	5	4.58	2.88	12	25	16	105
Ridgway	78	31	49	7	1.96	5	4.92	3.05	13	20	20	87
Stevenson Dam	83	36	51	9	1.93	5	5.16	3.29	11	23	23	95
Towanda	78	31	49	4	3.08	3	4.79	3.21	10	20	11	88
Wellsboro	78	30	46	5	1.31	4	3.82	2.56	10	10	10	52
Williamsport	78	39	53	5	3.43	4	5.93	4.13	11	35	14	135
Northeast												
Hawley	79	34	48	5	3.03	4	4.46	2.59	11	14	13	81
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	37	52	6	1.89	4	3.10	1.49	11	34	24	125
Susquehanna	78	32	49	7	1.65	3	3.24	1.23	9	14	14	82
West Central												
Butler	80	31	52	5	2.37	4	4.76	3.00	11	32	22	124
New Castle	83	31	53	8	2.17	5	3.97	2.27	9	33	30	133
Slippery Rock	80	30	52	7	2.82	4	4.92	3.16	8	31	29	127
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	36	52	5	2.51	5	3.92	2.16	13	39	19	136
DuBois	78	30	51	7	1.86	5	4.42	2.55	13	33	30	106
Lewistown	83	40	53	4	2.94	4	4.80	3.21	10	30	4	123
Middletown	84	43	55	5	4.52	4	6.17	4.43	11	49	15	177
Prince Gallitzi	78	32	52	7	2.53	4	4.94	2.56	9	30	26	101
Selinsgrove	79	39	52	5	3.18	4	4.75	3.00	14	27	9	117
State College	75	38	51	4	1.88	5	3.79	2.18	10	18	9	99
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	40	54	6	2.93	4	4.18	2.27	11	50	29	161
Lehighton	82	40	52	4	3.32	4	4.63	2.89	11	26	10	123
Matamoras	80	36	51	4	3.02	4	4.56	2.40	11	19	8	101
Mt_Pocono	74	33	48	6	4.90	4	6.14	3.91	11	15	15	82
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	34	56	8	2.10	5	4.36	2.63	14	74	54	189
Indiana_PA	79	32	53	6	2.36	5	4.73	2.69	14	48	30	147
Myersdale	79	27	48	2	1.82	5	3.33	1.12	12	24	16	88
Mount Pleasant	80	34	52	8	2.34	5	4.44	2.14	12	39	36	137
Pittsburgh Intl	82	35	56	8	1.83	4	3.37	1.58	11	71	48	187
Connellsville	80	33	53	4	2.07	5	4.83	2.71	15	43	19	150
Waynesburg	83	30	53	6	2.22	5	4.77	2.86	12	40	25	147
South Central												
Biglerville	82	43	54	4	5.71	4	6.76	4.89	9	42	8	160
Everett	85	35	52	5	2.41	5	4.05	2.21	12	31	18	124
Hanover	84	39	54	4	2.92	4	4.34	2.47	12	50	16	161
Harrisburg_AP	84	44	55	5	4.92	4	6.59	4.85	11	50	16	178
South Mountain	79	36	51	3	3.25	4	4.66	2.90	10	28	11	116
York	85	37	54	4	3.10	4	4.65	2.62	11	57	23	183
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	40	54	6	3.07	4	4.58	2.57	11	43	25	160
Hamburg	86	40	54	7	3.46	4	4.60	2.55	11	36	28	144
West_Chester	83	41	54	4	2.98	4	4.24	2.13	9	47	15	163
Lancaster	85	42	54	6	2.07	4	3.40	1.53	10	55	32	176
Neshaminy Falls	84	39	54	5	3.86	3	5.04	2.83	7	60	38	180
New Holland	83	41	53	4	3.19	4	4.83	2.96	10	37	14	149
Philadelphia	83	43	57	6	3.77	3	4.83	2.79	9	80	41	220
Philadelphia NE	83	41	56	5	3.70	3	4.93	2.89	9	70	31	205
Reading	85	43	56	8	2.41	4	3.84	1.75	10	60	44	190
Sellersville	83	39	52	4	2.90	5	4.14	2.13	11	39	21	142
Willow Grove	83	41	55	6	3.31	4	4.68	2.47	11	50	28	178

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

Adams County received at least 4.25 inches of rain Saturday afternoon/evening with major flooding in the county. The county's soil conditions are very wet at this time because only a day or so for drying off before the next rainfall is received. Emergency crews were kept busy Saturday and early Sunday morning due to the flooding and road closures that occurred in the county. Severe thunderstorms and tornado warnings were in effect for the county Saturday afternoon/evening. Wheat and barley are now growing and getting greener with warmer weather and sunshine days. Tritacale and other forage crops are also growing. Small grains where there is water laying in the fields are still not looking good and other areas are looking like an average crop. Hay is starting to green and growing also. Pastures are also starting to green and grow. Apples are pushing leaves with blossoms not too far behind however we are later on fruit this year due to weather. Producers are busy applying spray to their orchards but the weather is making it interesting with all of the rainfall we are receiving. Apricots are in full bloom and cherries and peaches are starting to bloom also. Some early vegetables have been planted but too wet for most areas to be planted. Producers are eager to get planting this spring, however the weather isn't cooperating too well yet. Once this weather pattern breaks, they will be extremely busy all at once.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Again, rain for the most part all week. We were lucky to have a sunny warm day on Thursday and part of Friday; then the rains began Friday night and lasted all weekend. It actually snowed on Sunday morning. Even with the 1 3/4 day of sunshine, the fields are still too wet to begin planting. Normally, the farmers are starting to plant their corn and potato crop at this time, but even the oats haven't been planted yet.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Wet conditions continue, only one day suitable for field work. Limited plowing completed. Some manure hauling continues.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle

Another wet week with high winds over the weekend. Field conditions are saturated making it difficult to do the usual spring work.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Rain and snow have slowed field work. I'm hearing some livestock producers spreading manure.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Cold, rainy weather has prevented any activity in field work.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Too much rain last week and looks like rain all this week too. Like they say, April showers bring May flowers. Hope the weather breaks soon. Need to start plowing. Have not turned over any sod yet for oats.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter

Wet!!!!

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler

Wet, wet and more wet.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

There is lots of manure to haul and cover crops to burn down before we can even think of plating corn. It's looking like a late spring.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

The overabundance of rain is keeping farmers out of the fields. Standing water is a problem. The alfalfa crop is starting to fill out despite unsettled temperatures and rain. Fall planted small grains are looking good where they are not being drowned out.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Very wet conditions this past week. Over two inches of rainfall on Saturday. No field work done and everyone is wanting to work the soil.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr

Cool wet weather has delayed planting plans for Schuylkill County growers. Rainfall reports for Saturday range from 4 to 6 inches. Roads were closed and many fields were under water this past weekend. Fruit crops are running about 2 weeks behind schedule and last week many growers were applying dormant sprays.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Another week of heavy rains with over one inch prior to the heavy rain and strong winds on Saturday. The only field activities were spreading manure and fertilizer and spraying.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Some manure spreading is taking place on gravel ground. Some spring plowing for sweet corn on gravel ground has taken place.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling

Rain, wind and cold weather has made field work next to impossible.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Too wet for any field work this week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega

Incredibly wet, cool season has slowed or stopped all spring planting activities. Another 2-3 inches of rain this past week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 17, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	9	43	41
Wheat, heading or headed	11	0	0
Tobacco beds, planted	65	83	29
Peaches, in pink	29	97	68
Cherries, in pink	49	96	61

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 17, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	30	58	9
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	3	29	54	13
Timothy clover stand	1	3	24	65	7
Pasture	8	23	32	29	8

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