



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending April 24, 2011

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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. The rain continued to drench Pennsylvania soils throughout last week. Although temperatures have begun to warm slightly in the past few days, producers still need the rain to let up before field activities can get into full swing. Primary field activities for the week included limited plowing, some seeding of no till oats, and some pesticide spraying. Spring plowing continued, and is 14% complete, well behind the 60% last year and the five year average of 55%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 24, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	13	87

Crop Progress:

Barley progress is 6% headed, which is behind last year's 19% and the 5-year average of 10%. Oats are 6% planted, well behind last year's 73% and the average of 62%. Winter Wheat is about the same at 11% headed which is above the 5-year average of 3%. Tobacco beds are 80% planted, which is behind last year's 99%, but ahead of the average of 64%. Peaches are 63% pink, behind last year's 97%, and behind the average of 90%. Cherries are 64% in pink, below last year's 97%, and the average of 83%.

Crop Condition:

State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair, 66% good, and 7% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 22% fair, 61% good, and 10% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 60% good, and 6% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 7% very poor, 23% poor, 31% fair, 36% good and 3% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 17, 2011:

Warmer-than-normal weather blanketed much of the eastern half of the country, pushing the mercury to as much as 8°F above average in portions of the Ohio Valley. Elsewhere, temperatures in the Pacific Northwest and northern Great Plains were well below average in advance of a late-week

storm system. Much of California and the Southwest were relatively dry, while a strong spring storm system dumped at least twice the normal weekly precipitation on areas from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Coast.

Winter Wheat:

By April 17, heading was evident in 14 percent of the nation's winter wheat crop, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Unusually warm weather in portions of the Delta and Great Plains pushed crop development well ahead of both last year and the average. Overall, 36 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 33 percentage points below this time last year.

Corn:

Nationwide, 7 percent of this year's corn crop was planted by week's end, 9 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Planting in four of the five major corn-producing states was 11 percentage points or more behind last year. In some areas of the Corn Belt, recent flooding and wet weather limited fieldwork.

Sorghum:

Twenty-one percent of the 2011 sorghum crop was planted by week's end, slightly ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average.

Small Grains:

Oat producers had seeded 39 percent of the nation's crop by week's end, 23 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding was 41 percentage points or more behind last year in Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. By April 17, the crop was 28 percent emerged, 7 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. By week's end, barley producers had seeded 11 percent of this year's crop, 8 percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delays were evident in Minnesota and Washington, where wet fields limited fieldwork in the major barley-growing areas. Five percent of the spring wheat crop was seeded by April 17, thirteen percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 24, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 24, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	71	34	47	-2	2.08	6	4.97	2.37	18	48	32	170
Franklin_AG	75	32	48	-1	2.25	6	8.08	5.27	16	45	29	163
Meadville-Port	72	31	46	-1	2.05	6	6.66	4.02	18	52	43	169
Mercer	73	34	49	1	1.68	5	6.08	3.36	19	44	29	181
Springboro	76	29	46	-3	2.83	6	6.71	4.19	18	30	11	134
Warren	74	29	45	-3	2.41	6	7.18	4.37	17	32	22	132
North Central												
Bradford Region	67	26	43	-2	1.82	6	5.99	3.32	17	26	22	95
Oswayo	67	24	42	-5	1.35	4	5.45	2.96	16	10	3	87
Kane	71	26	43	-2	2.39	5	7.91	5.03	17	16	12	91
Laporte	65	28	43	-7	1.11	4	7.10	4.53	17	9	-14	80
Lock Haven	76	31	48	-2	1.01	4	5.24	2.82	15	33	8	164
Port Allegany	67	27	44	-3	1.72	5	6.15	3.66	17	20	13	98
Renovo	72	33	48	-3	1.35	5	5.93	3.51	17	35	10	161
Ridgway	70	28	46	0	1.77	5	6.69	3.99	18	31	25	130
Stevenson Dam	63	29	45	-1	1.80	6	6.96	4.26	17	28	22	135
Towanda	72	29	46	-4	1.27	4	6.06	3.78	14	27	5	131
Wellsboro	67	27	41	-4	1.57	5	5.39	3.57	15	12	6	72
Williamsport	74	32	49	-2	1.38	5	7.31	4.74	16	48	6	201
Northeast												
Hawley	72	26	44	-3	1.00	5	5.46	2.75	16	21	13	117
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	73	29	49	-2	0.69	5	3.79	1.48	16	50	23	188
Susquehanna	69	27	44	-2	1.15	6	4.39	1.54	15	18	11	114
West Central												
Butler	72	34	51	2	1.17	4	5.93	3.40	15	53	28	200
New Castle	75	34	51	3	1.57	6	5.73	3.33	15	56	42	213
Slippery Rock	73	32	50	3	1.68	5	6.60	4.12	13	53	42	198
Central												
Altoona/Blair	75	37	53	3	1.07	4	4.99	2.48	17	74	36	227
DuBois	70	29	48	1	1.73	5	6.15	3.51	18	52	39	166
Lewistown	79	37	51	-1	0.74	2	5.54	3.25	12	50	0	205
Middletown	77	39	54	0	1.40	3	7.57	5.05	14	81	18	274
Prince Gallitzi	75	29	49	2	1.18	5	6.12	2.76	14	49	35	163
Selinsgrove	76	34	49	-2	0.58	3	5.33	2.81	17	38	2	182
State College	74	35	50	1	0.74	2	4.53	2.22	12	37	12	170
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	68	31	51	-1	0.59	3	4.77	2.02	14	65	23	237
Lehighton	65	31	49	-3	0.64	2	5.27	2.74	13	31	-5	185
Matamoras	66	26	45	-5	1.21	4	5.25	2.13	15	28	1	150
Mt_Pocono	68	30	46	2	0.89	4	7.03	3.82	15	25	20	125
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	74	41	56	7	1.10	4	5.46	2.96	18	120	82	303
Indiana_PA	72	36	52	2	1.45	4	6.18	3.30	18	80	45	233
Myersdale	72	33	50	2	2.17	5	5.50	2.38	17	45	23	161
Mount Pleasant	74	37	53	6	1.60	4	6.04	2.76	16	70	58	229
Pittsburgh Intl	75	40	56	6	1.19	4	4.56	2.07	15	120	75	303
Connellsville	76	39	57	6	1.19	5	6.02	2.99	20	92	45	268
Waynesburg	76	40	56	7	1.87	4	6.64	3.89	16	83	52	259
South Central												
Biglerville	79	37	52	-2	0.87	1	6.63	3.99	10	69	6	247
Everett	76	35	51	2	1.33	3	5.38	2.77	15	56	26	206
Hanover	80	37	53	0	1.22	3	5.56	2.92	15	80	17	253
Harrisburg_AP	78	38	53	0	1.27	3	7.86	5.34	14	82	17	273
South Mountain	77	35	50	-1	1.64	4	6.30	3.79	14	45	10	188
York	81	37	54	2	0.98	3	5.63	2.76	14	94	30	283
Southeast												
Green Lane	77	34	52	1	0.53	3	5.11	2.19	14	64	27	243
Hamburg	71	34	50	1	0.75	3	5.35	2.39	14	50	27	218
West_Chester	81	36	53	0	0.75	3	4.99	1.97	12	76	17	259
Lancaster	79	35	53	2	0.81	3	4.21	1.50	13	84	39	268
Neshaminy Falls	83	33	55	4	0.82	3	5.86	2.71	10	104	60	285
New Holland	81	35	52	0	0.78	3	5.61	2.90	13	59	14	234
Philadelphia	83	40	57	4	0.39	3	5.22	2.34	12	130	58	338
Philadelphia NE	82	35	55	1	0.62	3	5.55	2.67	12	109	37	310
Reading	75	38	54	4	0.75	3	4.59	1.59	13	91	56	287
Sellersville	78	34	51	-2	1.00	3	5.14	2.22	14	58	21	218
Willow Grove	77	36	54	3	0.65	3	5.33	2.18	14	82	38	275

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 started the week out with sunny most of the day and into the 60's. Tuesday was rainy with an inch of rainfall received and in the 50's. Wednesday was cloudy/foggy 46 degrees in the morning and then 80's after lunch with sporadic sun. Peaches are blooming in the county. Thursday was 40's and windy and got to 60's in the afternoon with some sun. Today is starting out with a little sun but mostly cloudy and 40 degrees overnight temperature and not suppose to get too much warmer as the day goes on. Rain is forecasted for today, Saturday and Sunday is supposed to get warmer temperatures.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Rain every few days continues to stymie all field work.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

It's really hard to get any crops planted when it rains 5 days out of the week. It's a rarity to get two consecutive sunny days. We receive one sunny day followed by a couple of days of heavy downpours. The fields are saturated with water and just too wet to get the tractors in the fields without creating ruts. Very little oats planted and the end planting date is just two weeks away.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Rain fall continued much of the week. I recorded 2.5 inches in my gauge. Little field work is being completed; Limited plowing, no till oats seeding etc.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle

No field work at all due to wet conditions. Producers are depressed with current conditions and are anxious to get out in the fields.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

Like everywhere else no field work getting done. Limited access to fields for pest management applications but, spreaders seem to find the wet spots. Forage crops looking good. Many well managed pastures are making milk.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Excessive rain has prevented producers from getting into the fields.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Too much, rain has hindered the field operations this week but, temperatures are climbing slowly warming the soil.

INDIANA COUNTY, DAVID B. OVERDORFF

We had only 2 days in the field to do plowing this past week and it looks like only 1 or 2 days this week towards the end of the week. In some of the sod fields you might be able to plow but not too much plowing of last year's bean or corn fields will be happening yet until there is a break in the rain.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler

Being this will be the last week of April, if this weather pattern continues another week or two, planting intentions are probably going to be altered.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Another wet week behind us. Here in Lancaster a few dairymen braved the weather and cut rye on Friday.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene

Fields are still wet with standing water in low lying areas. Alfalfa is stressed and losing its green color.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

The area has had over 2 inches of rainfall this past week. No field activity of any sorts occurred this week. I traveled from Mercer to Hershey on Sunday and returned to Mercer on Wednesday and was soon aware that the cold wet weather was a statewide issue. We are several weeks behind in our spring field work.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Even wetter than last week. We received 1.5" of rain over the weekend. No corn has been planted; some wheat and hay fields still need to be fertilized. Not likely any field work will be done this week either.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Since last Saturday (4/16), we have had over four inches of rain. This along with cool temperatures has kept the soil well saturated. The grass fields are greening up with good growth. Main activities for the week were spreading manure and fertilizer, limited herbicide application and equipment preparation for spring planting.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Rain is the main event. I have seen many tractors hooked to equipment ready to go waiting for their day in the sun. Many farm operators are anxious to get out in the fields and their wives can't wait either.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

Wet, wet, wet! We have had enough winter and spring does not look like it is right around the corner. Waiting patiently for the sun and dry conditions. Many are ready to spread manure as the manure pits are getting full. Warmer weather would be a welcome site.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Still too wet to get into fields for almost any reason. Finally warm enough to plant corn but way too wet.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega

Continued very wet conditions has put all spring farming operations well behind schedule.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 24, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	14	60	55
Barley, heading or headed	6	19	10
Wheat, heading or headed	11	0	3
Oats, planted	6	73	62
Tobacco beds, planted	80	99	64
Peaches, in pink	63	97	90
Cherries, in pink	64	97	83

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 24, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	5	21	66	7
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	6	22	61	10
Timothy clover stand	1	4	29	60	6
Pasture	7	23	31	36	3

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States
 Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
 Harrisburg PA 17112

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