



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 15, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 16, 2011, 4 pm

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 an average of 5 days suitable for field work. The weather made a favorable change in pattern this week that proved to be conducive for farmers anxiously awaiting the chance to get into the fields. Primary field activities for the week included planting oats, corn, potatoes, and soybeans, spreading fertilizer, and cutting alfalfa. Spring plowing moved on at a quickened pace and is 56% complete, still behind the 85% last year and the five year average of 85%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 15, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	55	45

Crop Progress:

Corn planting continued, and is 34%, compared to 68% last year, and the five year average of 61%. Barley is 78% headed, which is behind last year's 86% and the 5-year average of 82%. Barley is 10% yellow, compared to the five year average of 5%. Winter Wheat is at 34% headed, which is behind last year's 48% and the 5-year average of 40%. Oats are 67% planted, behind last year's 96% and the average of 95%. Oats are 21% emerged, well behind last year's 79%, and the average of 70%. Soybean planting is underway and is 15% complete, well behind last year's 32% and the 5-year average of 24%. Potato planting is 28% completed, compared to last year's 65%, and the average of 59%. Alfalfa cutting has begun and is 20% completed, slightly behind last year's 27%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 18%.

Crop Condition:

State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 45% good, and 21% excellent. Oats conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 32% fair, 51% good, and 17% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 61% good, and 19% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 61% good, and 21% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 0% very poor, 10% poor, 6% fair, 70% good, and 14% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 2% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 42% good and 20% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 82% good and 18% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 6% fair, 83% good and 11% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 8, 2011:

Much of the country experienced below average temperatures during the week, while warm, sunny weather in California promoted increased fieldwork. Elsewhere, drier conditions in the northern Great Plains and portions of the Corn Belt allowed for a rapid planting pace for a number of crops. However, at least 2 inches of rain fell on already soggy fields in a band stretching from northeastern Texas to New England, with portions of the northern Delta and southern Corn Belt receiving 4 or more inches.

Corn:

A week of near-normal temperatures and little to no rainfall across many of the major corn-producing areas of the country allowed for an increased planting pace during the week. By May 8, forty percent of this year's corn crop was in the ground, 40 percentage points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. In Iowa, producers worked long hours for much of the week, planting 61 percent—or nearly 8.5 million acres—of their intended 2011 crop. Overall, 7 percent of the corn crop was emerged by week's end, 29 percentage points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. Despite some producers in Colorado having corn seed in the ground for over a month, the crop had yet to begin emerging due to very dry soil conditions and unusually low soil temperatures.

Soybeans:

By May 8, planting was underway in all but four of the 18 major soybean-producing states. Planting progress, however—at 7 percent complete—was 21 percentage points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. Although planting was most advanced in the Delta, one of the most significant delays was evident in Mississippi, where flooding along the Mississippi River left many fields under water.

Winter Wheat:

Nationally, 42 percent of the winter wheat crop was headed by week's end, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Heading was most active in Missouri where—despite cooler-than-normal weather—31 percent of the winter wheat crop developed heads during the week. Overall, 33 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 33 percentage points below the same time last year.

Small Grains:

Oat producers had seeded 59 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 28 percentage points behind last year and 24 points behind the 5-year average. Improved weather conditions allowed planting progress in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota to advance 23 points or more during the week. Forty-one percent of the oat crop was emerged by May 8, thirty percentage points behind last year and 18 points behind the 5-year average. Nationally, 29 percent of the barley crop was seeded by week's end, 33 percentage points behind last year and 31 points behind the 5-year average. Weather and soil conditions allowed producers in North Dakota, the largest barley-producing state, to begin seeding during the week. Overall, 12 percent of the barley crop had emerged by May 8, seventeen percentage points behind last year and 12 points behind the 5-year average. Producers in the six major spring wheat-producing states seeded 12 percent of this year's crop during the week. At 22 percent complete, progress was 43 percentage points behind last year and 39 points behind the 5-year average. Six percent of the spring wheat crop had emerged by week's end, 30 percentage points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 15, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 15, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	79	39	61	6	0.31	3	8.01	3.19	28	189	75	495
Franklin_AG	85	37	64	9	1.31	2	11.84	6.55	28	211	98	516
Meadville-Port	82	41	64	11	1.06	4	10.19	5.15	33	236	144	540
Mercer	82	39	63	8	1.52	4	10.09	5.01	35	211	92	538
Springboro	81	35	61	6	1.45	4	11.41	6.76	33	162	39	445
Warren	84	36	61	6	1.03	2	11.31	5.98	31	169	65	457
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	32	58	7	1.48	2	10.71	5.53	30	136	74	376
Oswayo	82	29	57	5	0.41	2	8.83	4.03	26	116	35	370
Kane	81	30	58	7	1.32	2	12.89	7.38	29	125	66	374
Laporte	75	39	57	2	0.24	1	14.12	9.01	28	126	2	388
Lock Haven	82	40	61	5	0.12	2	9.10	4.33	25	236	96	572
Port Allegany	80	32	59	6	0.80	2	10.09	5.29	30	126	45	386
Renovo	84	39	62	6	0.03	1	10.47	5.70	29	230	90	560
Ridgway	84	32	59	7	1.00	2	10.71	5.26	29	163	90	449
Stevenson Dam	85	37	62	10	0.04	1	11.89	6.44	27	190	117	500
Towanda	79	39	58	3	0.09	1	12.15	7.60	25	170	44	475
Wellsboro	79	37	57	6	0.16	1	10.26	6.45	27	120	56	368
Williamsport	79	40	61	3	0.15	2	11.86	6.86	26	262	79	622
Northeast												
Hawley	78	36	56	3	0.26	1	9.22	3.90	26	149	68	441
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	39	60	3	0.12	1	8.33	3.67	26	256	103	597
Susquehanna	77	38	57	5	0.25	1	9.74	4.21	25	150	79	445
West Central												
Butler	82	38	64	9	1.95	4	10.44	5.37	31	256	121	601
New Castle	84	39	64	8	1.03	4	9.40	4.76	30	236	112	583
Slippery Rock	86	34	63	9	1.60	4	10.62	5.81	29	230	121	568
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	41	62	5	0.25	2	9.29	4.43	26	298	131	653
DuBois	82	40	62	7	1.30	1	10.39	5.22	28	220	106	525
Lewistown	80	42	61	3	0.20	2	9.73	4.91	23	269	66	634
Middletown	77	48	62	2	0.23	1	10.70	5.44	23	330	93	733
Prince Gallitzi	80	36	59	5	0.72	2	8.67	2.18	27	218	116	523
Selinsgrove	78	42	60	3	0.19	2	11.17	6.23	30	233	70	583
State College	81	43	62	6	0.26	2	6.92	2.36	23	259	109	595
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	78	41	61	3	0.43	2	7.01	1.47	23	300	109	681
Lehighton	75	44	59	1	0.41	2	8.38	3.04	23	229	48	589
Matamoras	77	39	58	2	0.10	1	7.44	1.38	23	184	38	506
Mt_Pocono	74	38	56	5	0.31	1	10.38	4.10	23	169	111	465
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	44	66	9	1.00	4	7.76	2.54	35	363	193	745
Indiana_PA	81	37	64	7	1.15	3	9.89	4.19	33	299	136	645
Myersdale	78	33	58	3	1.00	3	8.12	2.07	28	187	54	488
Chalk_Hill	79	34	59	1	2.29	2	12.46	6.63	31	217	20	531
Pittsburgh Intl	82	44	66	8	1.91	3	8.01	3.19	30	353	165	731
Connellsville	84	41	64	6	1.28	4	9.41	3.58	37	324	127	699
Waynesburg	83	38	63	7	2.70	4	11.21	5.86	31	293	139	667
South Central												
Biglerville	76	48	62	2	0.47	2	11.51	6.35	18	305	69	693
Everett	78	37	59	2	0.54	2	8.67	3.54	24	231	78	587
Hanover	77	40	60	0	0.42	1	8.27	3.11	24	319	83	701
Harrisburg_AP	78	44	62	2	0.18	1	11.66	6.40	25	342	101	743
South Mountain	73	38	58	0	0.36	2	9.92	5.06	23	224	62	568
York	77	39	60	-1	0.45	2	7.72	2.37	21	330	86	729
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	45	60	3	0.46	2	8.19	2.49	25	298	121	686
Hamburg	77	46	61	5	0.65	2	8.94	2.80	25	282	145	658
West_Chester	77	40	60	0	0.52	1	6.52	0.59	17	308	80	699
Lancaster	76	44	61	3	0.41	2	7.17	1.94	23	324	129	716
Neshaminy Falls	77	43	61	3	0.73	2	8.12	1.92	16	353	163	744
New Holland	76	46	61	2	0.28	1	8.06	2.83	21	300	105	683
Philadelphia	76	50	64	3	0.32	1	6.07	0.62	17	436	171	854
Philadelphia NE	75	45	62	0	0.91	1	8.60	3.15	18	384	119	795
Reading	78	44	62	4	0.67	1	7.41	1.50	24	360	182	766
Sellersville	76	40	59	1	0.40	1	8.22	2.52	23	274	97	642
Doylestown_AG	77	45	61	3	0.39	1	7.37	1.17	20	338	148	738

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 finally had some continuous days without rainfall. Monday and Tuesday morning temperatures started in the 40's and warmed to 70 degrees and sunny. Wednesday and Thursday morning temperatures were in the 50's and warmed to almost 80 degrees and sunny. Corn planting has been started, finally, as the soil conditions are improving. Farmers are able to get into the fields. Triticale, rye and other small grains were being chopped for forage. Manure hauling and topdressing fertilizer were also being done, as prior to this stretch farmers were not able to get onto the fields due to wet conditions. Some producers also got tillage done. All the fruit trees are past full bloom now we are waiting to see how the set is for future crops. Some producers are stating that scab is apparent due to the wet spring. There is also concerns by all for stink bugs and how they might affect the crops this year. Strawberries are in bloom, and other vegetables are being planted as soil conditions permit. Overall, the county is behind in fieldwork for the spring and producers will be putting in some long days to get work completed.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Weekend rains have made for wet conditions in the orchards. Most growers are or have done chemical thinning on apples. Fruit continues to grow rapidly. Growers have also been pressed to keep up with spraying for diseases due to the wet weather.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

The ground dried out enough last week to allow corn planting to get started. A few acres of soybeans also got planted. Rain over the weekend and a forecast of several more days of showers will put a halt to all field work for the week.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

What a difference 5 days of sun can make. Planting was in full speed last week. There were reports of alfalfa getting planted, as well as oats, corn, potatoes. Many had to decide whether to plant the oats or forgo and start planting the corn. Producers reporting that the hay looks excellent. Hopefully we get nice weather to make the hay). Activities for the week included spreading fertilizer, planting crops, and scouting for weed control, especially on CREP fields.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Finally got a week to do some field work, but need some warm weather. We received 1/3" rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

The apple and peach trees were in full blossom this past week. Many farmers were able to prepare fields for planting. Many were planting corn last week along with some soybeans. The steady rain on Saturday brought the planting to a standstill. Many small streams flooded fields and roadways.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle

The beginning of the week was beautiful. Fields were drying out and farmers were busy with everything, and not enough time in the day to get it all done. If it was not for no-till farming practices, planting acreage would be considerably lower. This is definitely the year to be using no-till. Rains came in on Friday night and have not stopped. Some areas exceeded 2 inches in a 4 hour period. Soil loss from erosion in recently plowed fields showed the importance of good conservation methods.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

An awesome week of weather finally allowed producers to get into the fields, and that is exactly what they did. Corn and bean planting progressed rapidly, with many producers completing or nearly completing their plantings. Other growers took advantage of the weather and future forecasts to take first cutting of alfalfa and orchard grass off early. Then the rains came on Saturday and shut everything down.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

North East producer's report fruit crops are doing Ok. There has been extreme fungal pressure with recent weather conditions. Most crops are about normal dates for bloom, may be 2-3 days behind the normal. Cherries are almost done blooming, peaches are in full bloom and apples are just going into bloom. Producers also report water still lying in some grape vineyards.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Fair weather in the early part of the week allowed for chopping alfalfa and other field work. Some early corn is now up, but it is about two weeks late. Lots of corn yet to be planted. Fruit sets still undetermined.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Well finally this week, we had some nice weather without it raining too much. I got all of the oats planted in three days this past week. I also got more plowing done too. Hope to have some better weather this week in order to get some corn planted. Also have some plowing to do yet. Well everyone have a safe week farming!

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger

Finally, a much needed opportunity to get spring vegetables in. Sweet corn planting has started in earnest. The few earlier planted sweet corn fields are emerging. Early plantings of melons and tomatoes are going in under row cover. Overall the season is late but picking up speed.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

The break in the rainy weather allowed all the producers to get fields tilled, burn down of cover crops and corn planted. Alfalfa was cut and harvested for silage. Some corn that was planted early has emerged.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

The rainfall has been spotty as far as the amounts. Saturday night and Sunday we received over 2 inches. Very little field work was done until Wednesday, and it rained on Thursday afternoon. It has been too wet for field work since Thursday afternoon.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Excellent week for field work, now things are at a standstill again because of heavy rain. Everything was going on this week, spreading manure and fertilizer, tillage, planting corn and soybeans, seeding grass and alfalfa, spraying and planting vegetables. It is not likely any field work will occur this week because of the 1.5" of rain and rain forecasted for the next 5 days or more.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman

We had 4 nights with frost last week; spring oats and potatoes are behind in planting. We did have 5 dry days to catch up last week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

A good week for field activities. The soil dried enough to plant corn and soybeans, spray herbicides and make hay and haylage. The crops are looking good. Barley has headed, wheat is growing well, and oats have emerged very well.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

We are back into the wet weather. Some ground was able to be worked late in the week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Finally got dry enough early this week to begin corn planting until the rains returned again Thursday evening. A small amount of nice alfalfa was harvested ahead of the rain. Corn and soybean planting progress is well behind normal with very little hope of catching up soon.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 15, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	56	85	85
Corn, planted	34	68	61
Barley, heading or headed	78	86	82
Barley, turning yellow	10	4	5
Wheat, heading or headed	34	48	40
Oats, planted	67	96	95
Oats, emerged	21	79	70
Soybeans, planted	15	32	24
Potatoes, planted	28	65	59
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	20	27	18

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 15, 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	3	30	45	21
Oats	0	0	32	51	17
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	2	17	61	19
Timothy clover stand	1	2	15	61	21
Quality of hay made	0	10	6	70	14
Pasture	2	5	31	42	20
Peaches	0	0	0	82	18
Apples	0	0	6	83	11

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