



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 8, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 9, 2012, 4 pm

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

Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. The keystone state has experienced much milder temperatures this week. The milder weather has slowed some crop progress to a more normal pace for this time of year, but is still weeks ahead of the normal. Some counties throughout the state have even seen temperatures close to the freezing mark during the overnight periods. Farm activities for the week included field preparation, manure hauling, planting oats and new seedings, and spraying herbicide. Spring plowing is well underway and is 50% complete, which is ahead of the 7% reported at this time last year.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 08, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	26	69	2

Crop Progress: The year's oats crop is 59% planted, ahead of the 2% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 14% with 22% emerged. Tobacco beds are 25% planted, behind the 50% during this week last year, but ahead of the average of 14%. Peaches are 99% in the pink, well ahead of the 29% this time last year. Peaches are 97% in or past the full-bloom. Cherries are 99% in pink, well ahead of last year's 47%. Apples are 68% in the pink.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are 0% very poor, 0% poor, 10% fair, 56% good, and 34% excellent. Pasture conditions are 5% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 59% good and 10% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 01, 2012: Warmer-than-normal weather continued to dominate much of the United States during the week. Most notably, temperatures averaged at least 15°F above average in an area centered over much of the Great Plains and western Corn Belt. The warmth promoted a rapid development pace for

winter wheat. Precipitation was scattered during the week, with much of the Pacific Northwest and portions of the northern and southern Great Plains accumulating rainfall in excess of four times the weekly normal. Elsewhere, unusually dry conditions persisted in northern Texas, leaving small grain producers concerned about potential drought stress for growing cereal crops.

Corn: Nationally, 3 percent of the 2012 corn crop was planted by week's end, slightly ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Favorably warm weather so far this year across most of the major corn-producing regions promoted an early start to spring fieldwork, leaving progress slightly ahead of normal in half of the major estimating states. Despite the opportunity to plant early, producers in some locations remained hesitant out of concern of a spring freeze. **Winter Wheat:** Overall, 58 percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition on April 1, compared with 37 percent at the same time last year. Since the fall, crop conditions have improved on the southern Great Plains, as winter storms delivered moisture to Oklahoma and Texas. Elsewhere, an unusually dry winter on the northern Great Plains left many wheat fields lacking a protective snow cover, as well as a significant moisture supply, as the crop emerged from dormancy. **Small Grains:** Nationally, oat producers had seeded 48 percent of this year's crop by April 1, twelve percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Warmer-than-normal weather prompted an early start to spring fieldwork across most of the major growing regions. With the exception of Wisconsin, seeding was ahead of normal in all estimating states. Eight percent of the barley crop was seeded by week's end, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Seeding was most advanced in Idaho, where progress was ahead of the normal pace even though producers in northern and eastern parts of the state had yet to begin sowing their fields.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 8, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 8, 2012					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	64	27	42	-2	0.02	2	0.02	-0.83	2	1	1	20
Franklin_AG	66	27	43	2	0.00	0	0.01	-0.89	1	0	0	26
Meadville-Port	63	29	44	3	0.01	1	0.01	-0.87	1	2	2	30
Clarion	62	24	43	-2	0.00	0	0.00	-0.96	0	0	0	23
Springboro	63	25	40	-3	0.01	1	0.01	-0.78	1	0	0	10
Warren	66	26	42	1	0.03	1	0.03	-0.87	1	0	0	16
North Central												
Bradford Region	63	22	41	3	0.03	1	0.03	-0.85	1	0	0	13
Oswayo	64	17	39	-2	0.13	1	0.13	-0.67	1	0	0	8
Kane	63	26	41	3	0.05	1	0.06	-0.90	2	0	0	14
Laporte	58	27	40	-4	0.28	1	0.32	-0.50	2	0	-1	10
Lock Haven	71	28	47	3	0.13	1	0.15	-0.65	2	2	1	52
Coudersport_1SW	65	20	39	-3	0.04	1	0.05	-0.75	2	0	0	4
Renovo	69	29	46	2	0.07	1	0.09	-0.71	2	0	-1	48
Ridgway	67	21	42	2	0.08	1	0.08	-0.80	1	0	0	17
Stevenson Dam	68	27	45	6	0.13	1	0.13	-0.75	1	0	0	41
Towanda	62	25	41	-3	0.48	1	0.49	-0.23	2	0	-1	14
Wellsboro	62	26	41	2	0.15	1	0.18	-0.38	2	0	0	11
Williamsport	69	30	48	3	0.10	1	0.11	-0.71	2	9	1	61
Northeast												
Hawley	60	24	40	-2	0.07	1	0.10	-0.76	2	0	0	7
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	63	28	45	0	0.29	1	0.30	-0.42	2	4	3	35
Susquehanna	60	25	41	2	0.39	1	0.39	-0.55	1	0	0	11
West Central												
Butler	66	27	46	2	0.05	1	0.05	-0.79	1	1	-1	46
New Castle	68	28	46	4	0.05	1	0.05	-0.75	1	1	1	45
Slippery Rock	66	25	45	4	0.00	0	0.00	-0.85	0	0	0	44
Central												
Altoona/Blair	70	30	49	5	0.03	1	0.03	-0.82	1	15	7	76
DuBois	64	27	44	2	0.11	2	0.11	-0.77	2	2	2	32
Lewistown	73	31	50	4	0.25	1	0.28	-0.44	2	10	2	76
Middletown	72	33	51	3	0.15	1	0.16	-0.64	2	16	4	84
Prince Gallitzi	65	24	43	1	0.05	1	0.05	-1.07	1	0	0	29
Selinsgrove	71	28	46	2	0.13	1	0.16	-0.64	2	3	-4	50
State College	66	30	47	4	0.08	2	0.15	-0.63	3	3	2	58
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	69	31	48	2	0.27	1	0.29	-0.59	2	9	1	61
Lehighton	67	29	45	-2	0.25	1	0.26	-0.54	2	0	-5	35
Matamoras	64	29	45	0	0.30	1	0.30	-0.70	1	0	-2	34
Mt_Pocono	63	25	43	5	0.30	1	0.30	-0.73	1	5	5	30
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	67	32	50	5	0.16	1	0.16	-0.64	1	11	3	75
Indiana_PA	64	27	46	1	0.15	1	0.15	-0.81	1	6	-2	50
Myersdale	68	24	43	-2	0.37	1	0.37	-0.67	1	1	1	32
Chalk_Hill	68	23	43	-4	1.00	2	1.00	0.04	2	1	-7	31
Pittsburgh Intl	68	32	49	4	0.15	1	0.15	-0.73	1	15	7	72
Connellsville	71	28	48	2	0.46	1	0.48	-0.48	2	8	0	66
Waynesburg	71	27	47	3	0.10	1	0.10	-0.81	1	5	-1	56
South Central												
Biglerville	72	32	51	3	0.56	2	0.56	-0.32	2	14	2	85
Everett	72	28	48	3	0.07	1	0.07	-0.79	1	7	3	63
Hanover	73	29	48	0	0.44	2	0.44	-0.44	2	7	-5	63
Harrisburg_AP	74	33	52	5	0.18	1	0.19	-0.61	2	23	11	93
South Mountain	69	29	45	-1	0.40	1	0.41	-0.44	2	0	-6	41
York	71	27	48	-2	0.50	2	0.50	-0.46	2	7	-5	59
Southeast												
Green Lane	70	32	48	3	0.17	1	0.18	-0.75	2	6	0	61
Hamburg	71	32	48	4	0.11	1	0.11	-0.85	1	8	8	59
West_Chester	71	27	47	-2	0.23	1	0.23	-0.73	1	2	-9	50
Lancaster	70	30	49	2	0.11	1	0.12	-0.76	2	10	2	67
Neshaminy Falls	72	29	49	2	0.13	2	0.23	-0.81	3	8	0	70
New Holland	71	29	51	5	0.00	0	0.16	-0.72	1	17	9	89
Philadelphia	71	37	52	3	0.33	1	0.33	-0.63	1	20	6	90
Philadelphia NE	71	33	50	2	0.19	2	0.19	-0.77	2	12	-2	74
Reading	72	32	50	5	0.15	1	0.15	-0.81	1	14	9	78
Sellersville	69	27	46	-1	0.19	1	0.21	-0.72	2	3	-3	44
Doylestown_AG	71	32	48	2	0.24	1	0.26	-0.78	2	6	-2	62

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.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

Producers were kept from the fields in the beginning of the week due to weekend rainfall. Once conditions permitted, producers continued spreading manure, fertilizer, soil preparation, etc. Hay continues to grow and the pastures are coming along nicely. Producers are appreciating the hay growth as most are running low on hay supply for feeding their livestock due to last year's conditions. Wheat, barley, rye and oats are now looking pretty good. Some fall seeded small grains that were underwater are still drowned out. Some additional oats and new hay seedings will probably be planted once soil conditions permit. Wheat planted earlier this spring looks pretty good. No corn or soybeans have been planted to date. Apple blossoms are about to bloom but will not make it until Adams County Fruit Growers Annual Apple Blossom Festival held May 5-6. Fruit growers are still not sure if the past few weeks morning frost will affect their fruit crops. Some tart and sweet cherry producers have indicated that those crops were affected by the cold temperatures. Overall, the producers are readying their equipment for spring planting, which will probably co-inside with hay forage harvest if the hay continues to grow as it has past few weeks.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Cambria is ahead of schedule on oats planting.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

It was a good week for field work. Could use some showers in the area.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

There were three frosty mornings where temperature dropped to 19 degrees. Many acres have been tilled; now oats and new seedings being planted.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Grapes, orchard fruit and berries have been affected by significant frosts/ freezes after unseasonably warm temperatures in March. The warm March temperatures brought on premature budding. Primary buds on grapes were affected by freeze. April and May temperatures will dictate whether secondary buds will be affected.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Very good week for field work. Busy planting alfalfa, oats and a few early fields of corn. Also, spring plowing is well underway. The week was dry. Cool nights and sunny days helped alfalfa grow. It's still too early to assess all the damage to the fruit caused by low temperatures. Apples and peaches have suffered some damage, but does not appear severe at this time has shown up.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhardt

Weeks of warm, dry weather have allowed farmers to get spring grass fertilized, manure spread, and fields plowed or sprayed. Some farmers are seeding alfalfa, while others are finished and itching to start corn planting but have so far held off. Soil conditions range from ideal to dry for planting; expect to see corn planting to start next week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill

Saw a few fields of rye cut over the weekend here in Lancaster. Need some rain!

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

Farmers are slowly starting to plant their corn. The weather has been very variable, nearly 60 degrees during the day with freeze warnings at night. Rain is needed.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST

Freeze and frost damage continue to be the hot topic of discussion among the area orchards, as damage has occurred at least four times the past week. A few sweet corn growers have planted with row cover and hoping for the best. We have seen several farmers installing field tile for the past three weeks - very seldom see these projects in March. All types of field work are being completed at record speed due to the excellent moisture conditions.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Dry conditions have allowed farmers to get in the fields early this spring. It seems like most of the tillage, fertilizing and manure hauling is complete and farmers are waiting to plant corn. Spraying has been challenging with frequent windy conditions.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

We had three mornings of below freezing temperatures. Last rainfall measured three tenths of an inch. Main field activities for the week were plowing, spreading manure and fertilizer, spraying herbicide and machinery maintenance. Happy Easter!

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

More normal temperatures have slowed crop growth and early planting progress. Dry conditions have allowed field work to continue ahead of the average for early April. Some sweet corn has been planted under plastic.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling

Blooms are 3 weeks ahead of average; still 6 weeks to worry about damaging frost.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 8, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	50	7	na
Oats, planted	59	2	14
Oats, emerged	22	na	na
Tobacco beds, planted	25	50	14
Peaches, in pink	99	29	na
Peaches, in full bloom or past	97	na	na
Cherries, in pink	99	47	na
Apples, in pink	68	na	na

na = data not available

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 8, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	0	10	56	34
Pasture	5	4	22	59	10

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 USDA
 PERMIT NO. G-38