



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 27, 2012

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Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. The week was off and on with rain showers throughout the week. This allowed for farmers to catch up on hay making over the weekend. Field activities for the week included planting, hay and haylage harvesting, and spraying.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 27, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7	14	62	17

Crop Progress: Corn planting continued and is 84% complete, ahead of 55% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 77%. Corn is 56% emerged, ahead of 28% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 49%. Corn height is 6 inches, ahead of the average of 3 inches. Barley is 83% yellow, which is ahead of last year's 40%, and the average of 35%. Winter Wheat is 96% headed, ahead of 79% at this time last year, and the average of 82%. Winter wheat is 14% yellow, which is ahead of last year's 0%, and the average of 2%. Oats are 6% headed, compared with 0% last year and the average of 2%. Soybean planting continues and is 64% complete, compared to 25% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 51%. Soybeans are 28% emerged, which is ahead of last year's 6%, and the average of 24%. Tobacco transplanting is 70% complete, compared to 36% last year, and the average of 36%. Potatoes are 93% planted, compared to last year's 50%, and the average of 76%. The first cutting of alfalfa continues, and is 62% complete, compared with last year's 36% and the average of 45%. The first cutting of timothy/clover continues, and is 46% complete, compared with last year's 11% and the average of 19%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 10% fair, 63% good, and 25% excellent. Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 6% fair, 58% good, and 35% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 61% good, and 20% excellent. Alfalfa conditions are; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 24% fair, 54% good, and 16% excellent. Timothy/clover conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 32% fair, 54% good, and 12% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 4% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 46% good and 28% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 7% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 39% good and 18% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 34% fair, 37% good, and 27% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 17% fair, 51% good, and 31% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 20, 2012: Warmer-than-normal conditions prevailed across much of the nation during the week, promoting a rapid fieldwork pace and promoting crop development. Most notably, portions of the Great Lakes region, Corn Belt, and Southwest recorded temperatures more than 10°F above average. Conversely, storm systems delivered cooler weather and much-needed moisture to Texas, allowing producers in some locations to decrease irrigation on their crops. Similarly, rainfall totaling at least 200 percent of the weekly normal was received along much of the Atlantic Coast. Elsewhere, the Corn Belt, Delta, and areas west of the Rocky Mountains were relatively dry during the week.

Corn: Boosted by favorable growing conditions throughout much of spring, corn planting was advancing at the quickest pace on record. By week's end, 96 percent of this year's corn crop was planted, 21 percentage points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 76 percent complete by May 20, thirty-eight percentage points ahead of last year and 28 points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm weather across the nation's mid-section promoted rapid crop development in most of the major estimating states during the week. Overall, 77 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition. With the accelerated pace of emergence this year, comparable data from last year is not available. **Soybeans:** By May 20, producers had planted 76 percent of the soybean crop, 41 percentage points ahead of last year and 34 points ahead of the 5-year average—and the quickest pace on record. With the exception of the Lower Mississippi Valley, double-digit planting progress was evident in the major estimating states, as warm, dry weather provided ample time for fieldwork during the week. Boosted by favorable temperatures and mostly adequate soil moisture levels, emergence advanced 19 percentage points during the week. By week's end, 35 percent of the soybean crop had emerged, 25 percentage points ahead of last year and 22 points ahead of the 5-year average. **Winter Wheat:** Heading of this year's winter wheat continued to advance at a rapid pace, as above-average temperatures provided nearly ideal conditions for crop development. By week's end, 79 percent of the winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 20 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Harvest was underway in California, as well as the Delta and southern Great Plains. By May 20, producers had harvested 3 percent of this year's crop, 2 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 58 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week but 26 points better than the same time last year. Unusually dry conditions throughout much of the Great Plains negatively impacted the developing crop. **Small Grains:** Ninety-six percent of the oat crop was emerged by May 20, thirty-four percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures promoted rapid progress in regions where emergence was not yet complete or nearing completion. Heading advanced to 38 percent complete by week's end, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. In Texas, heading was complete and producers began harvesting their crop. Overall, 74 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 18 percentage points better than the same time last year. By week's end, 98 percent of the barley crop was seeded, 38 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. As warm weather continued across most of the major barley producing regions, emergence advanced 22 percentage points during the week. By May 20, seventy-eight percent of the barley crop had emerged, 49 percentage points ahead of last year and 27 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence was well ahead of normal in all estimating states except Washington, where weather conditions earlier in the season had delayed seeding and crop development. Overall, 68 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition. With the accelerated pace of emergence this year, comparable data from last year is not available.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 27, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 27, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	88	52	70	10	0.76	1	4.30	-1.90	20	416	180	818
Franklin_AG	88	53	70	11	0.05	2	3.44	-3.36	23	413	180	812
Meadville-Port	85	50	70	12	0.00	0	3.61	-2.97	20	442	242	856
Clarion	86	49	68	8	0.01	1	4.97	-2.21	22	365	97	746
Springboro	87	47	67	8	0.02	1	5.85	-0.06	20	337	88	701
Warren	88	53	70	12	0.03	1	4.99	-1.97	23	382	161	765
North Central												
Bradford Region	85	50	68	13	0.04	1	4.58	-2.27	21	340	200	707
Oswayo	85	50	68	11	0.40	3	4.17	-2.20	21	284	109	621
Kane	85	52	68	13	0.33	2	7.25	0.08	24	298	163	640
Laporte	80	52	66	8	0.46	4	9.62	2.85	26	306	65	679
Lock Haven	86	57	71	11	1.04	5	7.02	0.70	27	448	177	916
Coudersport_1SW	84	53	67	11	0.43	2	5.79	-0.58	27	295	120	634
Renovo	87	51	70	10	2.24	2	7.58	1.26	24	433	162	892
Ridgway	87	48	69	12	0.02	2	4.50	-2.76	24	353	190	737
Stevenson Dam	88	50	70	14	0.94	2	5.78	-1.48	22	415	252	856
Towanda	85	51	69	9	0.77	2	5.78	-0.14	22	366	118	767
Wellsboro	83	48	66	11	0.50	2	4.33	-0.90	23	293	151	662
Williamsport	87	54	72	10	0.05	2	5.12	-1.45	23	517	184	998
Northeast												
Hawley	83	53	67	10	0.44	4	5.62	-1.29	23	329	152	707
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	58	71	9	0.20	3	7.23	1.09	23	478	185	917
Susquehanna	83	51	67	11	0.50	2	7.10	-0.01	22	342	182	730
West Central												
Butler	87	52	70	10	0.00	0	5.09	-1.66	20	439	178	876
New Castle	89	52	71	11	0.00	0	3.25	-2.81	18	459	204	907
Slippery Rock	89	51	70	11	0.05	1	4.02	-2.31	18	439	211	879
Central												
Altoona/Blair	87	60	71	10	2.03	3	6.00	-0.32	21	519	210	997
DuBois	84	53	69	10	0.01	1	4.29	-2.53	21	415	180	829
Lewistown	88	55	70	8	1.05	5	6.03	-0.51	27	483	123	985
Middletown	87	62	73	9	0.88	4	5.81	-1.17	23	572	158	1,095
Prince Gallitzi	88	53	68	10	1.36	3	5.13	-3.21	20	385	177	808
Selinsgrove	85	52	70	9	0.20	4	5.81	-0.74	24	436	132	899
State College	85	60	70	9	1.26	5	7.37	1.32	27	460	168	928
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	86	58	72	9	2.17	7	7.88	0.66	24	523	168	1,019
Lehighton	86	56	69	6	1.49	6	8.41	1.28	24	408	70	871
Matamoras	84	54	67	7	1.62	7	7.87	0.15	25	385	103	851
Mt_Pocono	83	55	66	11	1.67	7	8.63	0.56	29	356	221	767
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	91	57	73	12	0.00	0	3.75	-3.19	20	582	269	1,071
Indiana_PA	88	54	70	10	0.55	4	5.50	-2.00	26	477	174	920
Myersdale	85	45	65	6	0.11	4	4.36	-3.37	23	324	63	724
Chalk_Hill	85	46	65	3	0.20	2	6.74	-0.79	25	386	30	794
Pittsburgh Intl	88	56	72	10	0.00	0	4.69	-1.58	18	562	223	1,042
Connellsville	90	53	72	10	0.31	2	6.26	-1.27	21	519	163	1,009
Waynesburg	89	52	69	9	0.00	0	4.05	-2.87	19	453	162	919
South Central												
Biglerville	88	61	71	7	2.55	5	7.52	0.87	26	528	115	1,038
Everett	88	48	68	8	1.41	4	7.54	1.02	25	423	132	879
Hanover	88	60	71	8	1.05	4	6.31	-0.34	24	506	93	1,005
Harrisburg_AP	89	63	73	9	1.88	4	7.29	0.31	24	614	193	1,139
South Mountain	88	58	68	7	3.15	6	8.74	2.42	27	386	84	833
York	86	61	71	7	1.57	4	7.15	0.33	26	507	83	991
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	57	70	8	1.13	4	8.18	0.93	23	488	159	998
Hamburg	87	59	71	11	1.39	5	8.53	0.36	25	480	210	977
West_Chester	88	50	71	7	0.48	3	6.84	-0.82	15	491	88	979
Lancaster	89	59	72	9	0.54	2	4.83	-1.97	19	531	174	1,030
Neshaminy Falls	87	59	72	9	1.99	5	8.18	0.24	25	527	178	1,055
New Holland	88	61	73	10	0.10	3	5.79	-1.01	20	574	217	1,106
Philadelphia	86	61	73	7	1.28	3	5.79	-1.10	16	644	186	1,193
Philadelphia NE	85	60	71	7	1.25	5	7.15	0.26	20	565	107	1,095
Reading	91	60	74	11	1.46	4	5.55	-2.11	22	599	262	1,117
Sellersville	83	55	70	8	1.58	5	8.05	0.80	20	446	117	915
Doylestown_AG	87	56	71	8	3.04	5	9.11	1.17	23	516	167	1,029

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

Last week was very slow for fieldwork, as all areas got some rainfall. Other areas received significantly more, which will keep producers out of the fields for a little while. Corn and soybeans that were planted are all now emerged, except what was planted last weekend. Wheat and barley continue to look good, considering the growing season we've been having. Some fields of small grain and hay went down with the heavy downpours on Wednesday. These fields may come back if we get some sunny days. Hay continues to grow. Fruit trees are continuing to grow. Fruit is now prevalent when you look closely at the trees while driving by the orchards. It is still not known how weather conditions this spring have affected the 2012 fruit crops. Producers continue to maintain fruit crops, hoping they will have a decent crop. Time will tell. This week, the producers are repairing and readying their field equipment for future fieldwork when weather conditions permit. Producers are reminded that they need to visit their FSA offices to enroll in 2012 DCP/ACRE program before June 1st, report their 2012 small grain crops before June 15, and spring planted crops by July 15.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

We are still waiting to see the effects of drop on the apple crop. Peaches are sizing nicely, although, in some instances the fruit numbers per tree will produce a less than full crop volume.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

It rained just about every day somewhere in the county. The rains were very spotty and heavy at times. When the northern part of the county received rain, the southern part was dry. When the southern part received rain, the western part was dry. Heavy down pours occurred in Ebensburg on Saturday with 2.5 inches of rain. There were heavy downpours with hail on Sunday in the Loretto and Munster area. The newly planted soybeans and hilled potatoes had some wash outs.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Crops are progressing nicely. We received 2.2 inches of rainfall for the week. Dry weather is needed to complete first cutting hay making.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Spring planted crops are off to a good start. Many farmers are spraying fields and applying fertilizer to harvested forage fields.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

It rained early and late last week. The mid week dried out to allow some field work, mainly hay making and planting beans. All full season corn is now planted. Some second cutting of alfalfa is likely to be cut before June 1st. Early barley will be ready to combine about June 1st as well.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Parts of Lancaster County could use a good rain. Heat and humidity are causing some uneven growth in corn fields.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene

Another rainy beginning to last week. Farmers mowed hay toward the end of the week. Some of it was rained on by storms which will affect quality. Alfalfa is being watched for leafhopper. The humid weather was beneficial for the corn and soybeans. In some fields the corn has reached 12 inches.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Hay fields for forage and baled hay are being cut and harvested at a rapid pace. This past week will probably be the best hay drying week in May and the best quality forage, haylage and baled hay. Plus, the field conditions were ideal for machinery. Strawberries are very small due to lack of rainfall. Our area is still behind in the amount of normal rainfall for May. Many of the latest herbicide sprayings are not working due to the little amount of rainfall.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

Heavy storms have brought 4.5 to 5 inches of rain to western Perry County. Fieldwork has stopped due to the daily rains. Grass hay crops and pastures are showing explosive growth with the combination of heavy rain and high temperatures. Some corn ground has yet to be planted. The daily rains and wet soils have delayed the timeliness of herbicide applications.

POTTER COUNTY, Dave Stratton (FSA)

Last week was a very good week for corn planting, haylage and hay harvesting and tillage work. It is starting to get a little dry.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The planting of corn and soybeans continues as soil conditions permit. Localized heavy rains have slowed the field activities in some areas. Flea beetles are a problem in a few fields. The winter wheat and barley looks good and are beginning to turn color. The main field activities for the week were planting, chopping haylage and spraying.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

We are very dry in north eastern Tioga County, other parts of the area have received rain. We have not had a drop in over three weeks. The morning dew is our only source of moisture in hay fields and relying on subsurface moisture in no-till fields for corn growth. It is hot and things are drying out quickly.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker

We finally finished planting corn, but it was a challenge this year with all the rain. Rainfall has been very varied with less than a tenth to over 4" in a short distance. Corn and beans that are up look good, except for a few areas that are flooded out.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Spotty rain showers have missed a few areas causing moisture to be a little short. Excellent field conditions have planting well ahead of normal. With the nice weather, hay harvest has begun.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl

Damp conditions have promoted continued slug feeding on corn. Treatments are being applied on some fields.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 27, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	84	55	77
Corn, emerged	56	28	49
Corn average height, inches	6	0	3
Barley, turning yellow	83	40	35
Wheat, heading or headed	96	79	82
Wheat, turning yellow	14	0	2
Oats, heading or headed	6	0	2
Soybeans, planted	64	25	51
Soybeans, emerged	28	6	24
Tobacco, transplanted	70	36	36
Potatoes, planted	93	50	76
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	62	36	45
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	46	11	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 27, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	2	10	63	25
Wheat	0	1	6	58	35
Oats	0	2	17	61	20
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	24	54	16
Timothy clover stand	0	2	32	54	12
Quality of hay made	4	1	21	46	28
Pasture	7	5	31	39	18
Peaches	0	2	34	37	27
Apples	1	0	17	51	31

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