



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending April 7, 2013

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 8, 2013, 4 pm

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. Some spring temperatures are finally starting to come to the area. Many respondents reported cold temperatures at the beginning of the week but increasing temperatures progressing throughout the week. The warming temperature should result in an increase in field work throughout the state. It is reported that with the warmer temperatures and sunshine that fields and crops are starting to come out of dormancy and show some green. Field activities for the week included manure hauling, top dressing fields with nitrogen, adding lime and fertilizer to the soil and other activities involved with preparing fields for planting. Spring plowing is getting more underway and is 17% complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 07, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	11	66	23

Crop Progress: Tobacco beds are 60% planted, this is ahead of progress at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 20%. Oats are 10% planted, which is below the behind progress from last year at 56% planted and the 5-year average of 21% planted.

Crop Condition: Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 22% fair, 62% good, and 15% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 62% good, and 5% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 4%

poor, 34% fair, 49% good, and 13% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 15% very poor, 23% poor, 25% fair, 36% good and 1% excellent.

Nationwide as of March 31, 2013: Cooler-than-normal weather blanketed much of the Corn Belt, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic regions, with weekly temperatures averaging more than 10°F below average in many locations. Elsewhere, near- to above average temperatures provided producers in the Southwest ample time for field preparations and planting. Precipitation was well below average across much of the country during the week, compounding the effects of soil moisture shortages for many areas. Winter Wheat: On March 31, thirty-four percent of the 2013 winter wheat was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 33 percent on November 26, 2012. Significant soil moisture shortages throughout much of the Hard Red growing region negatively impacted crop condition during winter dormancy. In South Dakota, 76 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in very poor to poor condition. Similarly, nearly half of the crop in Nebraska and Texas was rated very poor to poor. Other Small Grains: Oat producers had sown 32 percent of this year's crop by March 31, twelve percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. With the exception of Texas, where seeding was complete, progress was behind last year in all estimating states. Soil moisture shortages throughout much of Texas led to 36 percent of the oat crop being reported as very poor or poor.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 7, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 7, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	61	22	38	-5	0.08	1	0.08	-0.65	1	6	6	21
Franklin_AG	56	18	34	-8	0.18	1	0.18	-0.59	1	0	0	2
Meadville-Port	55	20	36	-6	0.11	3	0.11	-0.66	3	2	2	17
Clarion	54	15	33	-11	0.14	1	0.14	-0.70	1	0	0	0
Springboro	56	19	33	-9	0.10	1	0.10	-0.58	1	0	0	2
Warren	56	19	34	-8	0.29	3	0.29	-0.48	3	0	0	1
North Central												
Bradford Region	52	13	35	-4	0.25	3	0.25	-0.52	3	0	0	11
Oswayo	53	11	32	-9	0.28	3	0.28	-0.42	3	0	0	0
Kane	53	17	33	-5	0.18	1	0.18	-0.66	1	0	0	0
Laporte	49	18	33	-11	0.45	3	0.45	-0.25	3	0	0	2
Lock Haven	58	20	37	-8	0.38	1	0.38	-0.32	1	0	0	4
Coudersport_1SW	53	13	32	-9	0.44	1	0.44	-0.26	1	0	0	0
Renovo	57	20	37	-8	0.24	1	0.24	-0.46	1	0	0	3
Ridgway	54	14	33	-8	0.37	2	0.37	-0.40	2	0	0	1
Stevenson Dam	55	19	35	-6	0.25	1	0.25	-0.52	1	0	0	0
Towanda	53	21	36	-7	0.23	1	0.23	-0.40	1	0	0	1
Wellsboro	52	17	33	-6	0.34	1	0.34	-0.15	1	0	0	0
Williamsport	59	22	40	-6	0.41	2	0.41	-0.29	2	0	-6	16
Northeast												
Hawley	54	20	36	-5	0.14	1	0.14	-0.60	1	0	0	0
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	55	23	40	-5	0.09	1	0.09	-0.54	1	0	0	16
Susquehanna	53	20	36	-3	0.52	2	0.52	-0.29	2	0	0	1
West Central												
Butler	56	16	35	-10	0.13	2	0.13	-0.62	2	0	0	1
New Castle	56	19	36	-7	0.12	2	0.12	-0.58	2	0	0	4
Slippery Rock	59	15	36	-7	0.07	1	0.07	-0.69	1	0	0	5
Central												
Altoona/Blair	56	18	38	-8	0.40	2	0.40	-0.36	2	0	-6	12
DuBois	51	14	35	-8	0.20	1	0.20	-0.57	1	0	0	9
Lewistown	62	23	40	-7	0.33	1	0.33	-0.30	1	0	-7	10
Middletown	62	25	42	-6	0.10	1	0.10	-0.60	1	0	-9	26
Prince Gallitzi	54	13	34	-9	0.20	1	0.20	-0.78	1	0	0	1
Selinsgrove	60	21	38	-7	0.31	1	0.31	-0.39	1	0	-5	6
State College	56	22	37	-7	0.19	1	0.19	-0.51	1	0	0	7
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	62	21	42	-5	0.16	1	0.16	-0.61	1	0	-6	26
Lehighton	59	23	40	-6	0.23	1	0.23	-0.47	1	0	-3	13
Matamoras	58	25	40	-5	0.18	1	0.18	-0.68	1	0	0	11
Mt_Pocono	51	22	37	-3	0.21	1	0.21	-0.68	1	0	0	6
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	59	20	40	-5	0.12	2	0.12	-0.58	2	6	-1	27
Indiana_PA	55	16	37	-9	0.15	1	0.15	-0.69	1	2	-4	18
Myersdale	54	13	33	-12	0.30	1	0.30	-0.61	1	0	0	0
Chalk_Hill	58	13	34	-13	0.24	2	0.24	-0.60	2	0	-7	1
Pittsburgh Intl	57	19	40	-7	0.10	2	0.10	-0.67	2	4	-3	23
Connellsville	58	18	37	-11	0.16	2	0.16	-0.68	2	0	-7	4
Waynesburg	61	14	37	-9	0.08	1	0.08	-0.73	1	0	-4	5
South Central												
Biglerville	61	21	40	-8	0.18	1	0.18	-0.59	1	0	-9	20
Everett	59	17	37	-8	0.27	1	0.27	-0.47	1	0	-2	4
Hanover	63	20	40	-8	0.08	1	0.08	-0.69	1	0	-9	17
Harrisburg_AP	63	25	43	-6	0.14	1	0.14	-0.56	1	0	-9	28
South Mountain	57	16	37	-9	0.25	1	0.25	-0.51	1	0	-4	5
York	63	18	40	-9	0.05	1	0.05	-0.78	1	0	-9	15
Southeast												
Green Lane	62	25	42	-5	0.16	1	0.16	-0.64	1	0	-4	21
Hamburg	59	27	41	-4	0.21	1	0.21	-0.62	1	0	0	17
West_Chester	64	20	41	-8	0.05	1	0.05	-0.79	1	0	-8	18
Lancaster	61	22	41	-6	0.04	1	0.04	-0.73	1	0	-7	20
Neshaminy Falls	64	24	43	-5	0.04	2	0.04	-0.87	2	0	-7	32
New Holland	63	24	43	-5	0.05	1	0.05	-0.72	1	0	-7	27
Philadelphia	66	31	46	-4	0.27	2	0.27	-0.57	2	1	-10	42
Philadelphia NE	64	28	44	-5	0.20	2	0.20	-0.64	2	0	-11	37
Reading	62	25	44	-3	0.07	1	0.07	-0.77	1	0	-3	33
Sellersville	61	23	40	-7	0.28	1	0.28	-0.52	1	0	-4	13
Doylestown_AG	63	25	43	-4	0.19	2	0.19	-0.72	2	0	-7	29

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 with daytime temperatures in the 50's and sun/cloudy days. Wheat, barley, rye and any other forage crops are doing ok. Some are looking better than others and a lot has to do with planting time last fall. Once we get some warmer weather, it will be easier to tell how things may turn out this year. Hay fields are mostly dormant yet but starting to show some green. Pastures are starting to show some green also. Some producers are starting to be able to get some oats sown where soil conditions permit. It is still fairly wet throughout the county.

Apple trees have been pruned in the county and producers are working on peaches and other fruit trees. The producers are concerned now with what the temperatures are doing at nighttime, as they are getting closer to blooming and are at a critical stage for all fruit crops. Some loss may be apparent from Tues-Thurs morning temperatures. Vegetable crops will soon be planted in the county.

Overall producers are gearing up for the spring fieldwork where they will be planting, spraying, cutting first cuttings of forage crops soon. They are readying equipment to make sure they will be ready.

CAMBRIA County, Dolly Little

Cold and wet during the weekdays. Finally, dry, warmer days towards the end of the week; still quite windy.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

A few spring like days at the end of the week allowed field work.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Many farmers spreading lime and fertilizer.

CRAWFORD County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Wind and warmer weather finally arrived to Crawford County for the weekend which led to farmers getting out in the fields a little. There was some plowing started but most of the activity was spreading manure, lime, and getting equipment ready for the season.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Did not get any warmer weather this past week, but did get sunny and drying winds to allow some field work. Some alfalfa and oats seeded as well as chisel plowing and other preliminary field work. Pastures are showing green and small grains are getting some color as well. Not much progress in the fruit.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

We had a cold period Sunday - Wednesday with the highs for the day only in the mid 30's. The rest of the week was sunny and windy. Area Amish farmers have been plowing with horses for several weeks and making great progress during the cold - horse friendly weather. Wheat growers have top dressed the fields with nitrogen and many other crop fields had lime applied this past week.

PERRY County, David L. Swartz

Field operations have been delayed due to wet soil conditions. Finally, manure storages were being emptied. Crops have been delayed in breaking dormancy, and pasture grasses have not started to grow due to the unusually cold temperatures.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Winter grains are looking good, except for a few small areas of winter kill. Alfalfa stands are showing some infestation of chickweed. The main activities for the week were spreading manure, spreading fertilizer and chopping corn stalks.

WESTMORELAND County, Tom Sierzega

Very cold, wet weather; not suitable for any growing season. Snow several days this week. Night time temperatures in the low 20's and teens. No pasture or hay growth as of yet. End of the week a little warmer.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 7, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	17	43	na
Oats, planted	10	56	21
Tobacco beds, planted	60	21	20

na = not available

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 7, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	22	62	15
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	30	62	5
Timothy clover stand	0	4	34	49	13
Pasture	15	23	25	36	1

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