



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending April 28, 2013

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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. This week saw most days with warmer temperatures during the day but dropping down near freezing and some frost at night. Some nights saw the temperature drop to near freezing levels but it seems as though the fruit trees were not damaged. With rising temperatures, more and more field work is being done and many fields are being planted and starting to grow. The temperatures still need to reach a little higher, to warm soil temperatures, before all crops will really seem to take off. Most fruit trees are in bloom though out the state and seem to be doing very well. Pennsylvania did receive some rain this week but this did not hinder field work very much. Overall planting and field work conditions are good but things will kick into full gear when temperatures rise a little higher. Field activities for the week included manure hauling, top dressing fields with fertilizer and lime, plowing, spraying for weeds, some planting of corn and soybeans, and finishing drilling oats. More plowing, planting and field work is expected in the next couple of weeks as temperatures continue to rise. Spring plowing is getting more underway and is 55% complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 28, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	75	23

Crop Progress: Corn is 11% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 25% and the 5-year average of 17% planted. Barley is 8% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 73% and the 5-year average of 29% headed. Oats are 64% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 91% and the 5-year average of 66% planted. Oats are 23% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 55% and the 5-year average of 30% planted. Tobacco beds are 85% planted, this is the same as this time last year of 85%, but behind the 5-year average of 91%. Potatoes are 21% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 50% and the 5-year average of 23% planted. Peaches are 96% full bloom or past bloom, which is behind progress at this time last year at 99% but ahead of the 5-year average of 84% full or past bloom. Cherries are 96% full bloom or past bloom, which is behind progress at this time last year at 99% but ahead of the 5-year average of 81% full or past bloom. Apples are 99% pink or past pink, which is the same progress at this time last year of 99% and ahead of the 5-year average of 78% pink or past pink. Apples are 27% full bloom or past bloom, which is behind progress at this time last year of 96% and the 5-year average of 69% full bloom or past bloom.

Crop Condition: Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 56% good, and 27% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 64% good, and 7% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 61% good, and 7% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 6% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 55% good and 2% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 21, 2013: As warm, sunny weather promoted rapid fieldwork in California and the Southwest, cool, wet weather in portions of the northern Great Plains and Corn Belt delayed the start of spring fieldwork. Most notably, average temperatures in an area centered over the Dakotas dipped to more than 15 degrees below normal. A late week cold front triggered heavy precipitation in a widespread area stretching from the Great Lakes region to the Gulf Coast, with portions of the eastern Corn Belt accumulating more than 5 inches of moisture. Corn: Nationally, 4 percent of the corn crop was planted by April 21, twenty-two percentage points behind last year and 12 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Fieldwork in many areas was hampered by cold weather and heavy precipitation. In Iowa, planting had yet to begin, equaling the slowest pace since 2008. Winter Wheat: Heading of the winter wheat crop advanced to 8 percent complete by April 21, thirty-four percentage points behind last year and 11 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Below-average temperatures limited crop development in many areas. Overall, 35 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in Good-to-Excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week and 28 percentage points below the same time last year. Recent rainfall benefited portions of the Hard Red Winter wheat region; however, recent freezes in northern Texas negatively impacted the portion of the crop that was in the boot and early heading stages. Other Small Grains: Forty-one percent of the oat crop was sown by April 21, thirty-eight percentage points behind last year and 18 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Cold weather and above-average precipitation continued to delay fieldwork in the northern Great Plains. Overall, 33 percent of the oat crop was emerged by week's end, 21 percentage points behind last year and 6 percentage points behind the 5-year average. By week's end, 23 percent of the barley crop had been seeded, 20 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Spring wheat producers had seeded 7 percent of the Nation's crop by April 21, forty-five percentage points behind last year and 17 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Seeding in the Pacific Northwest advanced ahead of normal, while fieldwork in the northern Great Plains and western Great Lakes region was hampered by unfavorable weather conditions.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 28, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 28, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	71	33	50	0	0.44	3	2.35	-0.69	14	75	48	234
Franklin_AG	73	30	48	-2	0.69	3	4.52	1.23	11	95	69	259
Meadville-Port	72	30	50	2	0.72	3	2.69	-0.39	15	103	86	283
Clarion	71	23	45	-7	0.77	3	3.57	0.14	10	70	34	217
Springboro	71	24	46	-4	0.76	3	3.40	0.45	12	54	24	200
Warren	72	29	47	-2	0.31	3	2.97	-0.32	14	70	51	220
North Central												
Bradford Region	70	29	47	2	0.45	2	2.97	-0.18	14	85	76	238
Oswayo	70	26	46	-2	0.31	1	1.97	-0.96	9	39	24	173
Kane	70	26	44	-2	0.60	2	3.82	0.44	12	50	42	177
Laporte	65	26	44	-6	0.44	1	3.37	0.34	9	28	-7	154
Lock Haven	73	30	48	-3	0.42	1	3.16	0.30	7	100	62	269
Coudersport_1SW	70	21	43	-5	0.59	1	3.19	0.26	9	46	31	172
Renovo	74	26	49	-3	0.53	1	3.40	0.54	8	94	56	256
Ridgway	72	21	46	-2	0.58	3	3.93	0.75	10	73	61	219
Stevenson Dam	73	24	46	-1	0.42	2	2.83	-0.35	9	75	63	224
Towanda	71	30	47	-3	0.25	1	3.32	0.64	8	44	10	193
Wellsboro	67	25	45	-2	0.40	2	3.18	1.01	9	27	16	159
Williamsport	71	33	51	-2	0.26	1	3.30	0.29	8	110	51	306
Northeast												
Hawley	73	26	45	-4	0.02	1	2.45	-0.74	9	37	21	161
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	75	34	50	-2	0.11	1	1.80	-0.95	7	100	59	286
Susquehanna	71	28	46	-2	0.17	1	3.00	-0.36	9	34	21	173
West Central												
Butler	73	25	47	-4	0.59	3	3.89	0.92	13	114	77	275
New Castle	72	29	48	-2	0.65	3	3.41	0.60	10	108	83	276
Slippery Rock	75	24	48	-2	0.52	2	3.08	0.16	8	112	91	276
Central												
Altoona/Blair	72	32	50	-3	0.50	1	2.99	0.04	9	156	103	348
DuBois	70	32	49	-2	0.45	2	2.05	-1.05	9	122	98	296
Lewistown	75	31	51	-3	0.31	1	2.59	-0.14	7	136	67	336
Middletown	73	36	51	-4	0.15	1	1.79	-1.21	8	146	61	366
Prince Gallitzi	73	26	47	-2	0.38	2	2.09	-1.85	9	121	98	290
Selinsgrove	72	28	49	-4	0.28	1	2.94	-0.02	7	100	49	282
State College	71	33	49	-3	0.39	1	3.32	0.61	10	106	67	289
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	71	31	49	-5	0.03	1	2.91	-0.35	8	123	63	330
Lehighton	69	31	48	-5	0.06	1	3.05	0.04	8	78	25	263
Matamoras	71	32	48	-4	0.04	1	2.03	-1.65	6	62	21	232
Mt_Pocono	66	30	46	-2	0.08	1	2.06	-1.71	7	53	44	195
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	35	54	3	0.27	2	2.65	-0.33	9	199	146	412
Indiana_PA	70	32	51	-2	0.35	1	2.58	-0.81	7	162	112	355
Myersdale	75	23	45	-6	0.18	1	2.24	-1.43	8	106	72	260
Chalk_Hill	73	26	48	-6	0.30	1	1.89	-1.66	9	118	53	288
Pittsburgh Intl	73	34	53	0	0.52	2	3.07	0.14	9	183	121	384
Connellsville	73	29	49	-5	0.25	1	2.09	-1.46	11	134	69	313
Waynesburg	75	26	48	-4	0.21	1	1.37	-1.86	7	135	90	312
South Central												
Biglerville	74	32	50	-5	0.02	1	1.69	-1.43	7	155	70	365
Everett	75	29	48	-5	0.34	1	2.65	-0.44	8	135	91	313
Hanover	74	32	49	-7	0.17	1	2.23	-0.89	9	144	59	347
Harrisburg_AP	75	34	51	-4	0.12	1	2.01	-0.99	8	153	65	378
South Mountain	72	31	47	-6	0.10	1	2.15	-0.80	7	111	61	285
York	74	30	49	-7	0.09	1	0.98	-2.37	6	154	67	346
Southeast												
Green Lane	71	33	50	-4	0.00	0	3.04	-0.40	6	114	60	318
Hamburg	71	34	50	-2	0.06	1	2.59	-0.93	10	114	78	315
West_Chester	72	30	48	-7	0.00	0	2.50	-1.05	6	118	37	315
Lancaster	70	33	49	-5	0.09	1	2.14	-1.05	8	123	60	321
Neshaminy Falls	73	31	50	-4	0.00	0	2.37	-1.34	9	126	64	342
New Holland	72	36	53	-1	0.11	2	2.68	-0.51	8	145	82	366
Philadelphia	72	38	53	-3	0.01	1	2.22	-1.16	8	184	87	423
Philadelphia NE	71	33	51	-6	0.00	0	2.24	-1.14	9	152	55	374
Reading	73	35	51	-2	0.03	1	2.33	-1.20	8	157	105	383
Sellersville	71	32	49	-5	0.00	0	3.50	0.06	7	105	51	292
Doylestown_AG	72	33	50	-4	0.00	0	3.16	-0.55	8	125	63	338

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, Callihan M. Dice

Adams County had five days that were suitable for field work last week. Monday saw morning temps in the high twenties causing heavy frost in most areas. This could pose a potential problem for stone fruit, especially peaches as they are blossoming. Wednesday evening brought heavy winds and less than .5" of rainfall. Daytime temps ranged from 58-72 degrees all week. Saturday saw beautiful spring weather, with Sunday bringing some light rain into the area in the afternoon through overnight hours.

ADAMS County, Lee Showalter

Peaches are in petal fall. Apples will be full bloom by mid-week. Crop potential remains good for all fruit.

CAMBRIA County, Dolly Little

This was a good week to be in the field. Farmers were busy planting oats while under seeding with hay, plowing corn ground, spreading manure, fertilizer, and lime. Very productive week. Heavy rains on Wednesday evening but not enough to keep farmers out of the fields for very long.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Good week for field work. Soil preparation, continued manure hauling and started corn planting. Rainfall about .25 inches.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Many acres tilled for small grains. Some corn planted. Apple trees shooting buds.

COLUMBIA County, David Reedy

Planting conditions are good. Need some warmer temperatures.

CRAWFORD County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Field conditions have not been ideal for planting in Crawford County. Good drying days followed by soaking rains have stalled progress in preparing fields and planting. Saturday was the best day of the week for getting things done. Pasture conditions have started to take off and more cows are seen out enjoying the grass.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Good week for field work. Planting corn, alfalfa, and oats. Some green chop of rye was done as well. All small grain, pasture and hay are growing well. Peaches in full bloom and apples are nearly there as well. No damage due to frost being noted.

INDIANA County, David B. Overdorff

Well last week was not too bad for working in the fields. Finished up the beginning of last week, drilling the last field of oats. The first oats planted back on April 6 is coming along real nice. It will really take off if we get some warm, sunny days and some more rain. We could use some rain as the ground is dry. Still have more plowing to do for corn and soybeans. Too early to tell how the hay and pasture fields will

do. The alfalfa, clover and timothy are green and growing but need more rain sun and rain. Give it 2-3 weeks and then should be able to report better on its condition. Hope to do some more plowing this week and plant some more corn. Everyone have a great and safe farming week!

LEBANON County, Charlene Zeigler

Manure hauling continues. Fields are being sprayed for weeds. Some rye has been cut for forage. The cooler weather seems to be keeping the farmers from planting corn and soybeans.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

More acres of sweet corn have been planted this week. Hay is finally growing with the warmer weather and additional rains. Tillage seems to be at full speed. Oats were planted this week and most acres in our area are planted by the Amish. I see some "new and new to the farmer" tractors and implements in our area which means the economy is better do to better crop prices the past several years.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Hard frost and very cold temperatures slowed the growth of alfalfa and timothy. Reports of a few fields of soybeans being planted. The main activities for the week were preparing equipment for planting, spraying and spreading manure.

TIOGA County, Pamela Barnes

Sunshine came out but still need a little warmer temperatures to heat up the soil. Windy weather drying things out between showers but still too wet in some fields to get equipment across.

TIOGA County, J. Craig

Grass growing slow.

WESTMORELAND County, John Lohr

A little corn got planted late week. Sweet corn under plastic is up and looking good. The weather is still a little unsettled for good corn planting conditions.

YORK County, John Rowehl

Corn planters rolling in earnest late last week

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 28, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	55	81	57
Corn, planted	11	25	17
Barley, heading or headed	8	73	29
Oats, planted	64	91	66
Oats, emerged	23	55	30
Tobacco beds, planted	85	85	91
Potatoes, planted	21	50	23
Peaches, in full bloom or past	96	99	84
Cherries, in full bloom or past	96	99	81
Apples, in pink	99	99	78
Apples, in full bloom or past	27	96	69

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 28, 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	16	56	27
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	25	64	7
Timothy clover stand	0	3	29	61	7
Pasture	6	5	32	55	2

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