



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 11, 2008

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

Fair week for Field Work: The weather for the week ending May 11 was similar to the week ending May 4. Yet again last week there was a wide variety of conditions throughout the state that included rain, cool and warm temperatures as well as cloudy and sunny days. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work. Planting activities included corn, potatoes, soybeans and oats. Harvesting activities included cutting of haylage and rylage. The weather also allowed for some more spring plowing. Eighty three percent of the plowing has been completed, which is up 8 points compared to last year and 2 points above average. Farmers continued last week to make other necessary preparations such as equipment maintenance and cleaning barnyards.

advantage of this as they continued to move cattle around to fresh pastures. Seventy-four percent of the pastures were in good or excellent condition, with only 5 percent represented as poor or very poor. The state's pasture conditions were estimated as follows: 0% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair, 56% good, and 18% excellent.

U.S. as of May 4, 2008: Midwestern producers struggled amid wet conditions between storms. They attempted to plant as much corn as possible. Persistently cool weather hampered corn emergence. Freezes were noted on April 27-28 and May 2-3 as far south as northwestern Texas. Scattered severe thunderstorms occurred from the Eastern Plains into the Southeast. Producers on the central and southern high plains monitored their winter wheat for signs of freeze damage. In the Southeast, late-week rainfall was heaviest from the lower Mississippi Valley to the Appalachians. Elsewhere, chilly weather further delayed crop development in much of the West, except in southern California and the Desert Southwest. Northwestern temperatures moderated slightly but remained below normal, maintaining concerns about the condition of fruits and other crops.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 11, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	7	61	32

Crops: Farmers took advantage of the 4 days suitable for field work, as crop progress continued to advance well. The state's corn is estimated at 50 percent planted, with 12 percent emerged. Eighty-four percent of the barley has headed, which is up 36 percentage points from last year and 22 points above average. Twelve percent of the barley has turned yellow. Eighty-two percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. Twenty-nine percent of the wheat has headed, which is 10 points higher than last year and 11 points above average. Only four percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Ninety-six percent of oats have been planted, with 64 percent emerged. Oats planting is 11 percentage points higher than last year and 7 points above average. Eighty percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. The state's soybeans are 20 percent planted, which is 5 percentage points higher than last year and 3 points higher than the average. Forty-nine percent of the potatoes have been planted, which is 5 points behind average and the same as last year. The first cutting of alfalfa has begun and shows to be 5 percent completed. Seventy-four percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while 82 percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition. Pennsylvania's fruit continues to progress well. Ninety-four percent of the peaches are in full bloom or past compared with 97 percent last year. The apple crop conditions were estimated to be 99% good or excellent.

Corn: Twenty-seven percent of the Nation's corn crop was planted by week's end, 18 and 32 points behind last year and the 5-year average, respectively. Farmers planted at a slower pace, and awaited warm, dry conditions to resume fieldwork. With the significant planting delays, emergence is also delayed. Nearly all states for corn emergence were at or behind last year and normal.

Soybeans: Most major soybean producing areas averaged between 6 and 10 degrees cooler than normal during the week, keeping planting at bay for yet another week. The additional precipitation during most of the week also kept producers out of the field. With only 5 percent of the crop planted, nationwide progress lagged 3 points behind last year and 9 points behind normal.

Winter Wheat: Heading of winter wheat had occurred nationally on 26 percent of the planted acreage. This is compared to last year's 33 percent and 38 percent for the 5-year average.

Small Grains: Sixty-eight percent of the oat crop was planted, which is 7 and 13 points behind last year and normal, respectively. Spring planting progress ranged from 23 percent complete in Wisconsin to 92 percent complete in Pennsylvania. Emergence of oats, at 39 percent, was lagging the usual pace of development in all states due to planting delays. Nationally, emergence was 6 points behind last year and 16 points behind the 5-year average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions across the state improved last week compared to the week ending May 4. Farmers took

Weather Data For Week Ending May 11, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 11, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	78	40	55	1	0.37	2	3.58	-0.81	17	263	170	573
Franklin	78	34	55	1	0.47	2	4.23	-0.59	17	183	91	503
Meadville	74	39	56	3	0.27	1	3.79	-0.78	15	212	138	529
Mercer	78	34	55	2	1.25	3	4.50	-0.10	18	185	88	511
Springboro	76	36	54	-2	0.34	1	4.63	0.37	16	179	78	484
Warren	77	32	53	-2	0.33	3	4.48	-0.38	17	168	85	470
North Central												
Bradford Region	73	25	50	0	0.45	2	3.08	-1.63	17	121	72	387
Emporium	81	32	54	3	0.37	3	3.19	-1.73	17	165	107	477
Kane	75	26	50	0	0.44	2	3.22	-1.78	16	83	36	339
Laporte	74	37	53	-2	0.70	4	4.14	-0.48	21	151	48	432
Lock Haven	81	36	56	0	0.55	3	4.38	0.07	17	212	96	550
Port Allegany	75	29	51	-2	0.27	1	3.03	-1.34	14	117	52	390
Renovo	81	34	56	1	0.47	3	4.34	0.03	17	212	96	543
Ridgway	76	28	52	0	0.60	2	3.40	-1.52	16	114	56	401
Stevenson Dam	79	33	54	3	0.42	3	3.86	-1.06	16	173	115	485
Towanda	79	33	53	-3	0.55	3	3.77	-0.36	17	165	60	466
Wellsboro	73	30	51	0	0.23	3	3.69	0.26	18	125	74	395
Williamsport	80	36	57	0	0.56	4	3.72	-0.82	17	260	105	617
Northeast												
Hawley	79	34	52	-1	0.92	3	4.81	-0.02	16	132	67	410
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	37	56	-2	0.81	3	3.66	-0.55	16	243	116	560
Susquehanna	76	34	53	1	0.52	3	4.29	-0.74	17	139	83	435
West Central												
Butler	77	33	55	-1	0.95	4	4.40	-0.17	22	171	59	504
New Castle	80	36	57	3	1.00	3	3.79	-0.42	19	216	116	557
Slippery Rock	78	34	56	3	1.07	3	3.98	-0.37	15	180	92	526
Central												
Altoona/Blair	78	37	56	-1	1.28	4	5.71	1.32	19	235	94	568
DuBois	75	31	54	-1	0.95	4	3.34	-1.33	20	211	118	519
Lewistown	81	38	56	-2	0.65	3	7.67	3.33	14	210	38	542
Middletown	79	42	59	-1	0.64	4	4.91	0.17	14	278	75	646
Prince Gallitzi	78	28	53	-2	0.97	4	3.47	-2.43	17	145	61	459
Selinsgrove	80	38	56	-2	0.67	3	5.01	0.53	14	197	60	530
State College	79	37	56	0	0.50	4	6.13	2.02	16	233	109	571
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	80	38	57	-2	1.21	3	4.61	-0.40	12	230	69	574
Lehighton	80	38	56	-3	0.85	3	4.41	-0.40	20	198	46	523
Matamoras	79	36	54	-3	0.88	3	4.87	-0.65	15	139	17	438
Mt_Pocono	74	35	53	3	0.79	3	3.97	-1.74	16	125	79	396
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	41	59	3	2.28	4	5.60	0.90	18	317	175	678
Derry	82	37	57	2	2.14	4	6.64	1.96	18	233	123	572
Myersdale	75	30	52	-4	1.77	4	5.70	0.20	20	128	18	422
Mount Pleasant	78	34	56	3	2.57	4	5.58	0.02	16	234	150	585
Pittsburgh Intl	78	38	59	2	1.46	3	3.78	-0.58	16	305	146	665
Connellsville	80	37	58	-1	2.59	5	6.60	1.31	21	289	123	651
Waynesburg	76	37	56	0	1.67	4	4.35	-0.49	15	233	104	581
South Central												
Biglerville	80	42	59	0	0.88	4	6.07	1.38	15	253	51	598
Everett	80	35	55	-3	0.79	3	9.12	4.45	16	184	56	508
Hanover	80	39	58	-2	1.18	4	6.79	2.10	19	240	38	586
Harrisburg_AP	80	40	59	-1	0.31	2	3.73	-1.01	11	289	83	659
South Mountain	76	36	55	-2	1.14	4	8.09	3.70	20	178	42	486
York	81	39	59	-1	0.85	5	5.36	0.48	17	287	78	652
Southeast												
Green Lane	80	41	58	1	1.30	3	3.87	-1.33	12	235	86	592
Hamburg	82	38	58	3	0.74	3	3.97	-1.58	14	246	133	600
West_Chester	83	36	57	-3	1.38	3	4.15	-1.24	14	224	30	572
Lancaster	80	37	58	-1	0.74	3	3.47	-1.29	13	237	73	590
Neshaminy Falls	80	40	59	1	1.29	2	4.80	-0.82	14	265	105	625
New Holland	82	44	60	2	1.14	3	4.65	-0.11	13	267	103	623
Philadelphia	82	45	62	1	1.59	3	3.82	-1.15	15	341	114	727
Philadelphia NE	83	44	62	2	1.29	3	3.88	-1.09	15	364	137	752
Reading	81	39	58	2	0.79	3	3.61	-1.76	15	269	120	630
Valley Forge Na	76	36	57	-4	1.73	3	5.78	0.56	17	226	11	595
Willow Grove	80	43	59	2	1.22	3	3.69	-1.93	14	273	113	639

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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Internet 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 (FSA) - Adams County had another week of various weather conditions. Monday thru Wednesday started out sunny with 70-80 degrees during the daytime. Nighttime temperatures were 50's. Thursday was 60 degrees with some rain and mostly cloudy. Friday was in the 50's and rainy. We had 1/4" of rainfall Thursday and into Friday. Friday night into Saturday we had 3/4" of rainfall and it rained until lunchtime. It then cleared off nicely with sunshine and temperatures in the 60's. Sunday was nice, but it was windy until late afternoon/early evening. It then started to rain, being heavy at times, and rained most of the night into Monday morning. York Springs area had about 1.75 inches as of Monday morning. Gettysburg area had 2.8" of rainfall overnight. More heavy rains are to come Monday with flood warnings up until Monday evening.

The soil is very saturated and now the rain is running off. It will be a little while before producers will get back into their fields due to the heavy rainfall received. Corn continued to be planted last week where field conditions were ok. Haylage and barley for silage were chopped last week. Some of the hay, barley and wheat have lodged (down) due to recent rainfall and windy conditions. Hopefully some sunshine will help these crops. Wheat and barley continue to grow in height. Hay is also not far away from being cut for dry hay once the weather permits.

All fruit crops are looking good for now. Strawberries have been in blossom the past week. With some sunshine, the berries should be coloring up here in the next week. Some sweet corn has been planted in the county. Other vegetable crops are also being planted.

Most producers are still awaiting better soil conditions so they can get their 2008 crops planted. Some crops are planted, but a lot more are to be planted when weather permits and better soils are in the county. A lot of sunny days with a breeze will help out in drying the soil. This will also help the crops that have been planted.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Good weather during the first part of the week gave three good days in the field. There was another inch of rain late in the week and more rainfall on Sunday. We have finished most of the full season corn planting, now waiting for barley and first cutting of alfalfa. Also, some wet areas are not yet planted. Corn is slow to germinate due to cool nights. Fruit is still in good shape. There was no damaging frost.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Conditions this week again varied with a wide range of temperatures and moisture conditions. There still are lots of acres that need to be planted; especially the corn, potatoes, and soybeans. The grasses are growing. Apple trees were in full bloom this week. The coming week doesn't look too promising for planting.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Rain showers limited field work. There was 1/2 inch in my gauge for the week. The temperatures need to increase to get seeds germinated.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - Early plantings of corn are emerging with a slight yellow color, indicating signs of cool temperatures. Soil moisture is improving. Alfalfa is being cut for haylage.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Off and on rain showers slowed field work during the week, however Saturday was probably the most productive day for planting corn. Hay and pasture fields are still slow growing, which made the rains during the week a welcome site.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - There was frost on May 5th. Some of the apple and peach buds may have damage from the frost. Many acres of land were covered with winter manure. Plowing and preparing soils for spring crops is well ahead of last year at this time. New seedings and oats crops are planted and look fairly good. Many acres of corn are planted in Venango, Clarion, Warren, and Forest Counties. 300 acres of Potatoes are planted. The winter wheat crop looks to be above average. The rains were needed. The weather forecast in the long range shows warming up, and planting could be up and going over the weekend.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - Planters were running in this area. Realistically, I would question if much or any of the soils were actually fit to be trafficked.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Last week it was wet and getting wetter, while this week its wetter and getting more wet. We have had about 6 inches of rain since April 26.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - Cool and wet weather continued to slow farm activities. Some haylage and ryelage was made. Corn planting and preparing for soybeans planting happened during the middle of the week. Farmers were moving equipment preparing to plant tomatoes.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - Rain late in the week provided moisture for the continued growth of area pastures. The progress of hay fields looks promising at this point. Stands are looking rather full and seem to have good height for this early in May. Oats are emerging in most fields and the corn is just beginning to poke through the surface in the earlier planted fields. Corn planting progress seems to be well underway.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Cool and wet weather continues to slow field activities. Earliest planted corn emerged this past week after 2 weeks in the ground. Field activities were progressing by midweek, but more than an inch of rain on Friday put an end to planting. There is more than half of the corn remaining to be planted and most of the soybeans. Orchard grass and alfalfa are ready to be harvested. More rain Monday will prevent field work for a few more days.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Hay is growing slow. We could use some more rain. Corn planting has started, but producers are proceeding slow as the nights are close to freezing.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Spring planting is progressing slowly due to the wet soil conditions in many areas. The winter grains look good. Many farmers have begun to make haylage. The main activities for the week were planting, spraying and chopping ryelage.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Last week was a good week for field work. Corn planters started to run last week. Rye was being cut for silage late in the week. There was a little rain over Sunday night.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - ICCOM: Rain in the mid-week ended our good stretch of excellent planting conditions. Some areas got over 2 inches of rainfall on Friday and Saturday. It will be into the middle of next week at best before field work can continue.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Much needed rain arrived at week's end with cooler temperatures. There were substantial amounts of rain totaling 2-3 inches with very cool temperatures at week's end. This has put a halt to much of the field work that had been moving ahead of schedule.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 11, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	83	75	81
Corn, planted	50	53	56
Corn, emerged	12	16	16
Barley, heading or headed	84	48	62
Barley, turning yellow	12		
Wheat, heading or headed	29	19	18
Oats, planted	96	85	89
Oats, emerged	64	37	52
Soybeans, planted	20	15	17
Potatoes, planted	49	49	54
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	5	10	8
Peaches, in full bloom or past	94	97	99

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 11, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	4	0	14	65	17
Oats	0	0	20	65	15
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	20	58	16
Timothy clover stand	0	2	16	65	17
Pasture	0	5	21	56	18
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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