



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 5, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 6, 2009, 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: The morning fog and soaking rains made field work difficult last week leading to only 3 days suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included spreading manure, fertilizer and lime, trimming fruit trees, as well as planting oats and mixed grasses. Farmers also attended auctions, and conducted post harvest activities such as equipment maintenance, building repairs, and preparing for the growing season. Spring plowing has started and is 25 percent complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 5, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	16	62	22

Crops: Wheat crops are looking good at this point. Their conditions are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 57% good, and 14% excellent. Despite all of the rain, farmers were able to plant some oats. Oat planting is 24% completed. Tobacco is progressing well and is 15% planted into beds. Alfalfa crop conditions looking good and are 68% good and excellent. Timothy clover crop conditions are also doing well and are 64% good and excellent.

Livestock: Pastures were certainly affected by the heavy rain. There were reports of poor conditions and muddy pastures in some areas. The overall pasture conditions are as follows, 9% very poor, 10% poor, 31% fair, 45% good, and 5% excellent.

U.S. as of March 31, 2009: Heavy rain, accompanied by high winds, large hail, and isolated tornadoes soaked the South, halting spring planting but boosting moisture reserves. Farther north, heavy rain perpetuated soggy conditions in the middle Mississippi and lower Missouri Valleys, while beneficial showers dampened the previously dry Ohio Valley. Two major storms affected the nation's mid-section, with the first system creating blizzard conditions across parts of the northern Plains. That storm also brought unwanted moisture to the Red River Valley, where near-record to record flooding developed. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather from California to the Rio Grande Valley contrasted with cool, unsettled weather from the Pacific Northwest to the Rockies. Precipitation was especially heavy across the northern Intermountain West, where some locations received totals in excess of 2 inches. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal across much of the Rocky Mountain region, while readings ranged from 5 to 10 degrees F above normal in the eastern Corn Belt and Mid-South.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 5, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 5, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	68	26	45	5	1.35	4	0.96	0.45	3	14	14	50
Franklin	69	26	43	2	1.84	5	1.26	0.71	3	1	1	31
Meadville	66	25	42	3	1.58	6	1.23	0.68	4	5	5	33
Mercer	68	24	43	2	1.74	6	1.09	0.49	5	3	3	31
Springboro	69	24	42	2	1.81	4	1.28	0.80	3	3	3	30
Warren	68	27	42	3	1.44	4	1.44	0.89	4	0	0	29
North Central												
Bradford Region	62	26	40	4	1.50	4	1.09	0.54	3	6	6	29
Emporium	67	29	41	3	1.00	5	0.88	0.38	4	0	0	23
Kane	65	26	40	3	1.69	5	1.32	0.72	4	0	0	16
Laporte	62	29	41	-1	1.92	4	1.81	1.31	3	0	0	17
Lock Haven	68	32	47	5	0.97	4	0.82	0.32	3	7	7	44
Port Allegany	66	29	42	3	1.13	5	0.95	0.45	4	0	0	23
Renovo	69	30	46	4	1.03	4	0.98	0.48	3	6	6	40
Ridgway	66	26	41	2	1.59	5	1.18	0.63	3	0	0	21
Stevenson Dam	67	29	45	6	1.03	3	0.85	0.30	2	4	4	37
Towanda	69	35	46	4	1.02	4	0.99	0.54	3	4	4	35
Wellsboro	63	29	41	4	1.18	4	0.94	0.59	3	0	0	20
Williamsport	70	38	51	7	1.61	4	1.57	1.07	3	21	17	64
Northeast												
Hawley	67	33	45	6	1.17	3	0.86	0.34	2	4	4	32
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	34	49	7	0.77	3	0.53	0.08	2	15	15	55
Susquehanna	65	32	44	7	1.12	4	0.89	0.32	3	3	3	28
West Central												
Butler	68	24	44	2	1.23	5	0.92	0.37	4	3	3	34
New Castle	73	24	44	4	0.90	4	0.66	0.16	3	2	2	34
Slippery Rock	72	23	43	3	1.52	4	1.04	0.49	3	1	1	31
Central												
Altoona/Blair	63	23	46	2	0.62	4	0.57	0.02	3	9	5	45
DuBois	65	27	43	3	1.86	6	1.44	0.89	4	12	12	36
Lewistown	67	28	46	2	1.68	4	1.58	1.13	3	6	1	43
Middletown	67	32	51	4	1.26	4	1.06	0.56	3	16	11	64
Prince Gallitzi	64	22	41	-1	0.84	4	0.82	0.12	3	0	0	21
Selinsgrove	67	33	47	4	1.15	4	1.07	0.57	3	8	5	43
State College	66	32	45	3	0.78	4	0.67	0.17	3	5	5	39
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	68	31	50	6	1.64	4	1.12	0.57	3	17	13	61
Lehighton	65	37	48	4	1.60	3	0.94	0.44	2	6	5	45
Matamoras	67	35	46	4	1.88	4	1.01	0.41	3	4	4	38
Mt_Pocono	62	29	43	6	2.40	4	1.85	1.22	3	6	6	28
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	70	28	49	5	1.37	5	1.22	0.72	4	24	19	63
Derry	64	25	44	-1	0.58	3	0.34	-0.26	2	10	6	37
Myersdale	61	21	41	-3	0.92	4	0.86	0.21	3	0	0	11
Mount Pleasant	70	24	46	5	0.87	5	0.67	0.02	4	6	6	41
Pittsburgh Intl	70	28	49	5	0.84	5	0.75	0.20	4	24	19	62
Connellsville	71	28	47	2	1.24	4	0.82	0.22	3	1	-4	43
Waynesburg	72	26	46	2	1.05	5	0.95	0.36	4	0	-2	37
South Central												
Biglerville	66	28	47	1	1.67	5	1.14	0.59	4	6	1	45
Everett	56	20	41	-3	1.21	4	1.02	0.50	3	0	0	15
Hanover	66	29	49	3	1.31	5	0.86	0.31	4	12	7	55
Harrisburg_AP	67	30	51	4	1.38	5	1.26	0.76	4	17	12	65
South Mountain	61	24	45	1	1.27	4	1.19	0.64	3	1	-1	33
York	70	27	51	4	1.23	5	0.74	0.15	4	18	13	64
Southeast												
Green Lane	67	33	50	6	1.47	4	1.37	0.81	3	13	11	57
Hamburg	68	32	50	7	2.04	4	1.56	0.97	3	13	13	55
West_Chester	72	29	50	4	1.26	4	1.20	0.60	3	10	5	52
Lancaster	67	28	50	4	1.75	4	1.50	0.95	3	14	9	59
Neshaminy Falls	70	29	51	5	1.01	2	1.01	0.36	2	22	17	66
New Holland	69	29	49	4	1.25	4	0.98	0.43	3	11	6	50
Philadelphia	74	37	54	7	0.91	4	0.83	0.23	3	25	18	75
Philadelphia NE	74	33	53	5	1.08	4	0.71	0.11	3	20	13	69
Reading	72	31	52	8	1.58	4	0.91	0.31	3	20	19	67
Valley Forge Na	68	29	50	5	1.47	4	1.28	0.72	3	14	12	55
Willow Grove	71	33	52	6	3.70	3	3.18	2.53	2	18	13	65

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) - The soil moisture level is still low for Adams County; however, ground conditions are wet right now. The timely planted wheat and barley are looking ok for now. The later planted wheat and barley do not look very good. Oats were seeded during the past few weeks, and some have emerged. Field preparations were halted once the rain was received. Fruit tree pruning continued last week.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most areas received over an inch of rainfall this past week. Soil moisture for the most part is adequate at the moment. Bud development on fruit trees is probably a bit behind normal at this time.

BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA) - The week could be summed up with wet conditions in most areas of the county. This kept most farmers out of the fields, with a lot left to do. There was a little bit of hail and gusty winds in the northern parts of the county over the weekend.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly Sundy (FSA) - Due to cooler temperatures in Bradford County there has been no significant spring growth yet.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, David Stolz - There was no planting done this past week. Two days were fit for manure spreading and plowing.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It was a cool and windy week. It is still too cold for the grasses to grow.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Conditions are dry. We did get some light rain amounting to less than one inch.

CLARION COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many farmers are preparing fields and planting oats, alfalfa and mixed grasses. Those making maple syrup saying this is not a very productive year.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William R. Clouser - Normal spring activities such as grazing, tillage, and manure hauling were evident early in the week. Heavy rains beginning on Friday put an end to most field work. Moisture conditions are now surplus in most localities.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Most of the farming activity has been manure spreading and some liming. Weekend auctions are still drawing big crowds.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Pastures, particularly horse pastures are in rough condition due to overgrazing since last fall. There are significant erosion problems, as these areas are often located close to streams and on hill sides. Farmers have applied herbicides in anticipation of planting. Coltsfoot is blooming and is a sign that alfalfa weevils will be hatching at the same time.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was still cool and cloudy last week. Rain has been helpful in replenishing the water table after a very dry late winter. Pastures are now just beginning to green, with little or no growth yet in the hay. Fruit has survived the winter and is in good shape. It looks like cool weather for the coming week should be holding the tree blooms back some.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - It rained 0.80 inches this week here in Brush Valley, PA.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - We received more than an inch of much needed rain and some un-needed wind last week.

JUNIATA COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The winter grains are looking good at this point in time. Most of the hay fields look good. There has been some heaving of alfalfa roots to the extent of near 100% loss in some spots.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - Cover crops of rye have begun to grow. Alfalfa and pastures are greening up nicely. Some planting of specialty crops are being planted under plastic.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - There was one day of spring weather, then 6 days of wind, rain, and snow.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - It was wet and cooler toward the weekend, with more normal temperatures. Not much additional field work progress because of the wet conditions.

WESTMORELAND, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Much needed rain has arrived this week. March was extremely dry. April is showing some improvement in moisture conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 5, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	25	-	-
Oats, planted	24	-	-
Tobacco beds, planted	15	-	-

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 5, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	3	25	57	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	29	57	11
Timothy clover stand	0	0	36	57	7
Pasture	9	10	31	45	5

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