



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending April 19, 2009

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** The weather conditions last week finally resembled spring throughout much of Pennsylvania. There were many sunny, warm days followed by cool, comfortable evenings. Contrasting with all of the nice weather, there were late frosts reported throughout the state. This kind of weather led to 4 days suitable for field work. Farmers continue to keep busy with spreading lime and fertilizer. Principal farm activities included: trimming fruit trees, as well as planting oats, tobacco in beds, and mixed grasses. Farmers also spent time with activities such as equipment maintenance and building repairs. The weather seemed to promote favorable plowing conditions, as plowing is now 44 percent complete. Soil moisture conditions improved slightly last week.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 19, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
2	10	74	14

**Crops:** Wheat remains similar to the previous week. The wheat condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 40% fair, 45% good, and 12% excellent. Oat planting is still moving along strongly, as they are now 45% planted. This is compared to last year's 50%, and the five year average of 44%. Oats are emerging ahead of schedule, as 12% of the oats have surfaced. This is three percentage points ahead of the average. Tobacco progress continues solidly, as 50% of the state's tobacco is planted into beds. This is compared with the average of 26%. Alfalfa crop conditions look good and are 1% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 57% good, and 13% excellent. Timothy clover crop conditions are also doing well and are 0% very poor, 1% poor, 29% fair, 64% good, and 6% excellent. Peaches are behind schedule at 48% in pink, compared to last year's 85%, and the average of 73%. The peach trees are also behind in the blooming process at 12% in full bloom. This is compared to last year's 37%, and the average of 41%. Cherries and apples are also behind schedule. Cherries are 22% in pink, compared to last year's 82%, and the average of 66%. Apples are 20% in pink, compared to the average of 32%.

**Livestock:** Pastures seem like they are in need of some more moisture. The pasture conditions declined slightly last week. The overall pasture conditions are as follows, 5% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 41% good, and 6% excellent.

**U.S. as of April 12, 2009:** Near-to above-normal temperatures returned to the Northwest, following 2 weeks of very cool weather. Farther east, cold, dry weather prevailed on the northern Plains, while freezes (from April 5-7) threatened jointing to heading winter wheat from Kansas into Texas. Weekly temperatures generally averaged 4 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit below normal from the Dakotas southward into Oklahoma and northern Texas. Toward week's end, rain across the southern half of the Plains slowed fieldwork but provided much-needed moisture for drought-stressed pastures and winter grains. Prior to the arrival of the rain, several wind-driven fires consumed a few hundred buildings across Oklahoma and Texas. Meanwhile, a pair of slow moving storms hampered spring fieldwork across the central and eastern Corn Belt. Favorably dry weather prevailed across the upper Midwest. Elsewhere, severe thunderstorms struck the South, causing local wind and hail damage and spawning isolated tornadoes.

**Corn:** Nationally, producers have planted 2 percent of their corn acreage for the 2009 crop season, equaling progress made during this same week last year, but 4 points behind the 5-year average. Due to cool, wet conditions that have pushed the start of spring fieldwork back to a slower than normal pace, planting was not yet underway in Iowa, Illinois, or Nebraska, the three largest corn-producing States.

**Winter Wheat:** Heading was evident in 9 percent of this year's winter wheat acreage. Development was 5 points ahead of the previous year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fields in Texas and Oklahoma had progressed well ahead of last year and the 5-year average, while winter wheat in Kansas had not yet begun to put on heads. Overall, winter wheat conditions declined slightly from a week ago, with 42 percent of the crop rated in good to excellent condition.

**Small Grains:** Nationally, producers had sown 3 percent of this year's barley acreage. Progress lagged last year by 9 points and was 10 points behind the 5-year average. In North Dakota, the largest barley producing State, seeding was not yet underway.

Thirty-seven percent of the Nation's oat acreage was sown by the end of the week, 3 points ahead of last year's pace, but 4 points behind the average. Emergence was evident in 29 percent of the crop, equaling last year's development, but just slightly behind normal.

### Weather Data For Week Ending April 19, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 19, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	65	26	46	-1	0.69	3	1.92	-0.13	9	20	13	105
Franklin	73	24	45	-2	0.33	3	1.89	-0.32	10	6	-1	86
Meadville	70	26	46	2	0.40	3	2.10	0.01	12	14	11	90
Mercer	72	25	46	0	0.53	2	1.81	-0.36	9	10	4	92
Springboro	71	22	43	-4	0.57	3	2.49	0.52	10	7	-2	67
Warren	73	20	43	-3	0.65	2	2.61	0.40	10	0	-3	71
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	68	16	43	1	0.31	2	1.70	-0.39	9	10	10	73
Oswayo	71	15	41	-4	0.19	2	1.54	-0.40	10	0	-2	49
Kane	71	18	41	-2	0.55	2	2.14	-0.14	9	0	0	44
Laporte	72	24	44	-4	0.44	2	2.89	0.87	10	5	-8	73
Lock Haven	80	24	47	-2	0.81	2	1.97	0.07	8	20	7	118
Port Allegany	71	18	42	-3	0.22	2	1.51	-0.43	10	3	1	60
Renovo	77	24	46	-2	0.71	2	2.22	0.32	7	15	2	112
Ridgway	72	19	42	-2	0.38	2	1.97	-0.13	9	0	-1	53
Stevenson Dam	76	23	45	2	0.60	2	1.86	-0.24	7	9	8	88
Towanda	75	23	45	-2	0.17	1	1.60	-0.18	7	12	0	98
Wellsboro	73	21	43	0	0.42	2	1.83	0.41	8	7	6	63
Williamsport	80	28	51	2	1.02	2	2.98	0.96	8	51	25	186
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	73	23	45	0	0.30	1	1.61	-0.50	7	13	10	86
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	76	29	50	2	0.16	1	0.98	-0.83	7	40	26	162
Susquehanna	72	24	45	3	0.22	1	1.55	-0.70	6	11	9	85
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	72	25	45	-4	0.27	3	1.88	-0.10	11	2	-12	82
New Castle	74	26	46	0	0.47	2	1.62	-0.28	9	7	2	94
Slippery Rock	73	24	46	0	0.16	2	1.65	-0.31	9	7	3	89
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	72	23	46	-3	0.19	3	0.89	-1.07	9	33	9	134
DuBois	71	22	46	0	0.35	2	2.49	0.40	10	29	24	108
Lewistown	78	27	47	-4	1.04	3	3.14	1.35	10	24	-8	129
Middletown	76	30	50	-3	0.78	3	2.17	0.21	10	50	9	192
Prince Gallitzi	73	18	43	-4	0.55	3	1.89	-0.77	10	7	1	68
Selinsgrove	77	25	46	-4	1.43	3	2.77	0.80	10	18	-4	114
State College	74	27	47	-1	1.37	3	2.31	0.50	10	25	12	123
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	77	24	48	-3	0.33	3	1.76	-0.39	10	41	15	161
Lehighton	77	26	47	-3	0.47	2	1.55	-0.41	5	24	4	125
Matamoras	75	22	45	-4	0.12	1	1.53	-0.89	8	14	-1	95
Mt_Pocono	72	25	45	3	0.31	2	2.40	-0.11	9	18	18	91
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	31	50	2	0.49	3	1.96	0.01	12	51	27	176
Indiana_PA	72	23	46	-3	0.26	1	0.66	-1.62	5	28	6	121
Myersdale	70	21	41	-8	0.69	3	2.20	-0.27	11	0	-11	49
Mount Pleasant	73	24	47	2	0.31	3	1.50	-1.08	12	17	12	123
Pittsburgh Intl	73	32	50	1	0.54	3	1.54	-0.45	12	50	22	176
Connellsville	75	25	47	-4	0.51	3	1.83	-0.55	12	10	-20	128
Waynesburg	74	25	47	-2	0.58	3	1.92	-0.23	12	12	-7	116
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	76	28	48	-4	0.76	3	2.53	0.44	12	40	-1	160
Everett	70	22	42	-7	0.71	3	2.28	0.22	12	2	-15	53
Hanover	76	25	47	-6	0.82	3	2.47	0.38	11	37	-4	161
Harrisburg_AP	77	29	50	-2	1.26	3	2.92	0.96	11	56	14	199
South Mountain	73	22	44	-6	0.72	4	2.78	0.82	12	9	-12	97
York	76	22	46	-6	0.86	3	2.11	-0.16	10	41	-1	167
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	77	28	47	-3	0.41	3	2.54	0.27	11	35	13	154
Hamburg	80	28	49	1	0.37	3	2.19	-0.12	10	38	26	163
West_Chester	78	24	45	-7	1.20	3	3.34	0.97	9	30	-8	136
Lancaster	74	28	47	-4	1.23	3	3.19	1.08	9	37	9	159
Neshaminy Falls	76	25	47	-4	1.08	2	3.24	0.77	7	34	7	152
New Holland	77	28	48	-3	1.09	3	2.82	0.71	9	38	10	159
Philadelphia	78	34	51	-2	1.19	3	2.86	0.58	10	70	23	226
Philadelphia NE	77	32	50	-3	1.07	3	2.65	0.37	10	58	11	198
Reading	77	27	49	-1	0.28	3	1.62	-0.73	10	52	32	182
Sellersville	77	23	46	-5	0.42	3	2.45	0.18	10	31	9	140
Willow Grove	76	29	49	-1	0.74	2	4.95	2.48	8	55	28	186

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 a cold week until Friday through Sunday. Thursday had a heavy frost and sunny conditions. Wheat and barley continue to look ok for now. Oats are emerging and starting to grow. No corn or soybeans have been planted because the soil the temperature is still too cool and the ground conditions are not right for planting. Hay and pastures continue to green, and are starting to grow. Apple trees are being pruned. Peach trees are in bloom. Cold morning temperatures and frost could be a factor with the crop. Apple blossoms are a couple of weeks away, with cherries almost ready to bloom. Overall, Adams County is looking ok for now, but soil moisture level is still below average for the year.

**BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA)** - Cooler temperatures and light rain showers early in the week gave way to a gorgeous spring weekend. Windy conditions are keeping fields dry. A small amount of corn has been planted. The winter wheat crop in the area doesn't seem to look as nice as it has in previous years. We are anxiously awaiting the rain showers that are expected this week.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - The first of the sweet corn was scheduled to be planted over the weekend. Soils have been slow to warm up this year. More rain last week is pushing field work well behind schedule. The rain predicted for Monday & Tuesday will only add to the already saturated soils, and delay field work even more.

**BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA)** - Alfalfa, hay, and pastures are in need of moisture. The weather this week was suitable for planting. New alfalfa, hay, and pasture seeding have begun. The later part of the week yielded warmer than normal temperatures.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - The week started out cold and wet, but turned beautiful by Thursday. There was four good days of planting oats and new seedings of hay.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - During the last few days, a lot of field work was completed. There was 2 inches of rainfall for the week.

**CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA)** - The ground is wet; however, breezes and wind are sufficient enough to dry the ground temporarily. Rainy weather seems to be occurring every other day, so it's difficult to schedule work in the field. Some wheat and barley spraying happened at the end of the week. Spring work is all going to come at once!

**CLARION COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - The weather for seeding, planting oats, and some corn was great. Many acres of small grains were planted this past week. Most farms with stored manure applied it to the fields.

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William R. Clouser** - Major activities include: manure application, tillage, planting oats and grazing.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, David Reedy (FSA)** - Soil temperatures are slow to rise, but we are seeing moisture levels coming to adequate and above after a fairly dry winter.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - The beginning of the week was extremely wet, but Thursday brought sunshine and warmer weather for the weekend. Lime and fertilizer trucks were running most of the weekend. The farmers were busy tilling for upcoming crops, and planting oats. Pastures

are growing, but still are very short. Most livestock producers have only put their cows out for exercise and not for grazing. New calves are dotting the landscape in beef operations around the county.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - Nearly 2 inches of rain near the beginning of the week put the kibosh to any idea of early planting corn. Timothy mites and alfalfa weevils are increasing in numbers. Oat planting is winding down. Spring alfalfa seedings are just beginning to emerge, as are the weeds.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - The early week frost did little damage to peaches and apples, but did affect the plum and sweet cherries. The late week warm and sunny weather promoted some of the peaches and tart cherries to show pink, with a few blooms. Overall, the fruit bloom is a few days later than normal. Other farm work this week included spreading fertilizer, alfalfa seeding, oats planting, and a few early acres of no-till corn planting.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart** - Wet weather has severely hampered spring planting. A few farmers were able to start corn planting late last week. Most have not started corn planting, and are still waiting for good weather to seed alfalfa.

**LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA)** - Producers are getting equipment ready for planting, but the cool temperatures have kept the tractors parked. Pasture growth has been slow, but many producers have turned the cattle out. Precipitation has been lacking in some parts of the county.

**MERCER COUNTY, Gary W. Micsky (EXT)** - It was a good weekend for field activity.

**POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT)** - Last week, we had warmer, drier weather. Farmers began turning over winter cover crops, but these strips are still limited. Morning frosts occurred on most days. Serviceberry has not yet blossomed in this region, but did in the Ridge & Valley section around Williamsport.

**SNYDER COUNTY, Mary A. Kiel (FSA)** - Farmers are spraying fields, and preparing for no till plantings. The lack of snow cover this winter affected wheat stands and some alfalfa stands.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA)** - Weather conditions are right for planting; however, hay and pastures are in need of moisture. The nights are cool. Weather has been cooperative to plant new grass/hay seedings. Some dry cows have already been turned out to pasture this week.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - During the end of the week, lots of seedings and small grains went in. It is dry for this time of year. It was cold and raining Monday morning, with some ice mixed in.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - There were finally some warm temperatures toward the end of the week. Grass and newly-seeded oats needed the warmth. Some early sweet corn was planted this week. Fertilizer spreading and spraying continued in preparation for corn planting.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 19, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	44	46	46
Oats, planted	45	50	44
Oats, emerged	12	-	9
Tobacco beds, planted	50	-	26
Peaches, in pink	48	85	73
Peaches, in full bloom or past	12	37	41
Cherries, in pink	22	82	66
Apples, in pink	20	-	32

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 19, 2009**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	40	45	12
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	6	23	57	13
Timothy clover stand	0	1	29	64	6
Pasture	5	9	39	41	6

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