



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 26, 2009

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Another Fair Week for Field Work: The weather throughout Pennsylvania was highly variable last week. The week started off rainy and cool. Later in the week, conditions ranged from frost in the morning to 80 degree temperatures in the afternoons. There was a total of 4 days suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included planting oats, corn, potatoes, mixed grasses, and tobacco in beds. Farmers also spent time with activities such as spreading manure, and spraying. The weather continued to promote favorable plowing conditions, as plowing is now 50 percent complete. Soil moisture conditions declined slightly last week.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 26, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	13	73	13

Crops: Corn planting has officially begun. Seven percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 18%, and the five year average of 15%. The wheat crop condition improved last week. The wheat condition is 0% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 62% good, 13% excellent. Oat planting is still moving along strongly, as the oats are now 66% planted. This is compared to last year's 77%, and the five year average of 67%. Oats are emerging ahead of schedule, as 32% of the oats have surfaced. This is compared to last year's 14%, and the average of 19%. Potato planting was also started last week. Five percent of the potatoes were finished planting last week, compared with last year's 24%, and the average of 20%. Tobacco progress continues firmly, as 90% of the state's tobacco is planted into beds. This is compared with the average of 61%. Alfalfa crop conditions look good and are 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 56% good, 16% excellent. Timothy clover crop conditions are also doing well and are 1% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 68% good, 8% excellent.

Fruit: Peaches are at 94% in pink, compared to last year's 100%, and the average of 95%. Peaches are rapidly blooming at 92% in full bloom. This is compared to last year's 71%, and the average of 68%. Cherries and apples are behind schedule, yet both are blooming. Cherries are 68% in pink, compared to last year's 99%, and the average of 94%. Forty-four percent of the cherries are in full bloom, compared to last year's 87%, and the average of 74%. Apples are 62% in pink, compared to last year's 59%, and the average of 69%. Apples are now 32% in full bloom, compared to last year's 49%, and the average of 42%.

Livestock: The rain toward the beginning of last week, followed by sunny days improved the pasture conditions. The overall pasture conditions are as follows, 4% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 42% good, and 14% excellent.

U.S. as of April 19, 2009: Two more rounds of heavy rain soaked the South, curtailing fieldwork and causing additional lowland flooding. As much as 4 to 10 inches of rain drenched the western and central Gulf Coast regions. Farther north, significant rain (at least an inch) also fell across the southern and eastern Corn Belt, further delaying the onset of most spring fieldwork. In contrast, mild, mostly dry weather permitted some initial corn planting and other early-season fieldwork across the upper Midwest. Meanwhile, wet weather slowed fieldwork but provided

widespread drought relief on the central and southern Plains. Only light rain fell in the Dakotas, but major lowland flooding persisted in several areas, including the Red and James River basins. Elsewhere, heavy snow blanketed parts of the Great Basin, Intermountain West, and central Rockies, while cool weather prevailed for much of the week across the remainder of the West. Toward week's end, however, much warmer weather arrived in the Pacific Coast States and the Desert Southwest, promoting fieldwork and crop development. Prior to the arrival of warm weather in the Northwest, chilly conditions peaked from April 14-16. As needed, Northwestern producers used freeze-protection measures and monitored blooming fruits and other temperature-sensitive crops for signs of injury. Early in the week, torrential rainfall lingered across the Deep South. Early-week wetness also affected the Mid-South and the lower Midwest, resulting in record amounts for April 12. Meanwhile, a new storm arriving in the Northwest produced daily-record totals for April 12. In contrast, Northeastern daily-record lows for April 13 included 18 degrees Fahrenheit in Watertown, NY, and 24 degrees Fahrenheit in Allentown, PA. At mid-week, the Western storm dumped heavy precipitation across the Intermountain region and contributed to low temperatures in the Pacific Coast States. In contrast, Midwestern temperatures soared in advance of the storm's arrival. Farther northwest, however, river crests at a few locations in the north-central U.S. were higher than those observed in late March. Late in the week, heavy rain erupted across the central and southern Plains and the western Gulf Coast region.

Corn: Nationwide, 5 percent of the 2009 corn crop was planted, 1 point ahead of last year, but 9 points, or slightly more than a week, behind the 5-year average. Planting was underway in Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska, with 6 percent, 1 percent, and 3 percent of the crop in the ground, respectively. However, because wet fields delayed the start of spring fieldwork, progress remained behind normal in all three States.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 14 percent, 7 points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal. Heading in California, at 90 percent, was nearing completion, ahead of last year's and the normal pace. Arkansas's crop showed the most increase, advancing 25 points during the week. Heading was evident in 1 percent of the fields in Kansas, the largest wheat-producing State. Overall, 43 percent of the United States winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 42 percent a week ago and 45 percent last year. Conditions in Texas continued to decline, with nearly three-quarters of winter wheat stands rated in very poor or poor condition. Russian aphids, green bugs, and freezing temperatures negatively impacted the crop.

Oats: Forty-eight percent of the Nation's oat acreage was sown by April 19, 7 points ahead of last year, but 4 points behind the average pace. As fields dried out, producers in Iowa made the biggest push in planting progress, seeding 35 percent of the crop during the week. In North Dakota, the second largest oat-producing State, soggy fields kept producers from seeding any of their acreage. Emergence was apparent in 31 percent of the crop compared with 30 percent last year and 33 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 26, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 26, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	86	38	55	7	0.61	5	2.53	-0.29	14	69	48	209
Franklin	87	34	52	4	1.06	4	2.95	-0.10	14	42	22	170
Meadville	83	33	52	5	0.95	5	3.05	0.19	17	52	39	173
Mercer	86	35	53	4	1.18	5	2.99	0.05	14	49	29	182
Springboro	85	35	52	4	1.00	5	3.49	0.75	15	41	17	150
Warren	87	33	52	5	0.61	5	3.22	0.17	15	36	22	154
North Central												
Bradford Region	82	26	49	4	0.48	4	2.18	-0.73	13	45	39	143
Oswayo	84	25	48	2	0.38	4	1.92	-0.79	14	21	10	108
Kane	85	28	48	4	0.88	4	3.02	-0.10	13	26	20	104
Laporte	82	33	49	0	0.87	4	3.76	0.97	14	31	2	139
Lock Haven	89	31	51	2	0.59	4	2.56	-0.08	12	49	18	199
Port Allegany	85	29	49	2	0.35	4	1.77	-0.94	13	28	17	124
Renovo	90	31	51	2	0.61	4	2.83	0.19	11	45	14	194
Ridgway	84	28	49	3	0.72	4	2.69	-0.25	13	25	17	116
Stevenson Dam	87	29	50	5	0.62	4	2.48	-0.46	11	36	28	159
Towanda	89	28	50	2	0.76	4	2.36	-0.12	11	38	10	173
Wellsboro	85	30	48	3	0.44	4	2.27	0.28	12	31	23	124
Williamsport	90	32	54	3	0.68	3	3.66	0.87	11	92	42	289
Northeast												
Hawley	86	27	49	3	1.12	3	2.73	-0.22	10	33	21	156
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	31	55	4	0.55	3	1.53	-1.00	10	87	54	265
Susquehanna	87	30	50	5	0.28	2	1.83	-1.27	8	37	28	159
West Central												
Butler	86	33	52	3	0.90	5	2.78	0.03	16	35	4	168
New Castle	89	35	54	5	0.77	6	2.39	-0.21	15	48	29	191
Slippery Rock	87	35	53	5	1.02	4	2.67	-0.03	13	47	32	177
Central												
Altoona/Blair	84	33	52	1	0.66	5	1.55	-1.18	14	71	26	220
DuBois	84	32	52	4	0.85	5	3.34	0.48	15	74	56	195
Lewistown	88	33	52	0	1.01	4	3.91	1.40	14	57	-2	220
Middletown	88	35	55	1	1.51	4	3.68	0.92	14	91	18	297
Prince Gallitzi	85	27	48	-1	0.53	4	2.42	-1.22	14	29	11	127
Selinsgrove	89	31	51	1	0.84	3	3.61	0.87	13	45	2	195
State College	86	36	53	3	0.71	5	3.02	0.51	15	62	31	214
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	86	32	54	2	0.84	3	2.60	-0.40	13	79	29	257
Lehighton	88	31	53	2	1.04	2	2.59	-0.18	7	57	13	215
Matamoras	89	28	49	-2	1.31	3	2.84	-0.56	11	34	1	160
Mt_Pocono	83	32	50	6	1.19	3	3.59	0.10	12	48	41	163
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	38	56	5	0.67	4	2.63	-0.11	16	103	58	288
Indiana_PA	84	34	53	2	0.55	2	1.21	-1.92	7	68	26	210
Myersdale	82	28	48	-3	1.15	5	3.35	-0.04	16	22	-6	107
Mount Pleasant	87	32	53	6	0.69	4	2.19	-1.37	16	55	39	216
Pittsburgh Intl	87	34	56	5	0.55	5	2.09	-0.62	17	106	53	290
Connellsville	88	35	54	2	0.89	4	2.72	-0.57	16	45	-10	224
Waynesburg	88	32	53	3	0.71	5	2.55	-0.44	16	47	10	207
South Central												
Biglerville	89	34	53	-2	1.90	4	4.43	1.55	16	77	4	255
Everett	78	30	48	-4	1.33	5	3.61	0.76	17	15	-21	109
Hanover	89	32	55	2	1.88	3	4.35	1.47	14	78	5	265
Harrisburg_AP	89	34	55	2	1.44	4	4.36	1.60	15	101	25	305
South Mountain	85	30	52	2	1.45	4	4.23	1.50	16	43	1	186
York	88	30	54	0	1.50	4	3.61	0.50	14	83	8	266
Southeast												
Green Lane	88	34	54	3	0.55	3	3.09	-0.09	14	73	28	253
Hamburg	89	34	55	5	0.95	4	3.14	-0.10	14	80	51	268
West_Chester	90	30	54	0	0.75	3	4.09	0.81	12	69	0	233
Lancaster	85	32	53	1	0.93	4	4.12	1.17	13	73	20	252
Neshaminy Falls	92	36	56	5	1.03	3	4.27	0.84	10	86	34	267
New Holland	88	39	55	3	1.08	4	3.90	0.95	13	80	27	266
Philadelphia	90	40	58	4	1.03	3	3.89	0.76	13	129	45	355
Philadelphia NE	88	36	56	2	1.08	3	3.73	0.60	13	108	24	313
Reading	87	34	55	4	0.78	4	2.40	-0.86	14	96	53	290
Sellersville	87	31	53	1	0.47	4	2.92	-0.26	14	63	18	230
Willow Grove	88	37	56	4	1.18	3	6.13	2.70	11	104	52	299

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) - On Wednesday and Friday mornings, we had a frost. The wheat, barley, oats are now looking pretty good because of the past two days of hot weather. The fruit growers are preparing for the Apple Blossom Festival this coming weekend at the South Mountain Fairgrounds. Please come to Adams County to see the hopeful start of a successful fruit season.

BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA) - The weather spurred much of the activity in the fields across the county. More corn is going in the ground.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA) - April showers have not yet arrived. Conditions are dry for this time of year. It is a colder than normal April.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Finally, some dry weather & sunshine! Some sweet corn is in the ground, with little or no field corn yet. Timothy mites are a problem in many established stands.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The week started out cold with snow showers, but ended with warm breezy weather. Farmers were busy seeding their oats and hay.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work. We had 2.5 inches of total rainfall for the week.

CHESTER COUNTY, Cheryl Fairbairn (EXT) - Last week was very wet, and we are behind in planting!

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - There was no rain at the beginning of the week. This allowed for farmers to carefully spread manure on extremely wet ground.

CLARION COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The long range forecast is looking good for next week. It appears that this week will let the planters get to work.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William R. Clouser - Most spring manure application and tillage was completed. A lot of oats were planted last week. Most local farmers are getting ready to plant corn.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - High temperatures and winds helped to dry out fields from the wet weather last week. Producers are letting their cows out for exercise and a little grazing.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - Spring plowing is just beginning in the drier fields.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It does not appear that the winter has affected the fruit crop thus far, but the frost free date is still several weeks away. A quick bloom presents challenges for producers.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - A few sprayers and fertilizer spreaders are running in this area. I don't know of any planters running.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - What a switch! At first, it was cold, and then today we would appreciate a shade tree. Some pastures are looking exceptional, but others show the stress of hard winter-grazing.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Rain and cool weather held off planting until the end of the week. Cutting ryelege, spraying fields, spreading manure, and some corn planting are the activities farmers participated in last week.

LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby (EXT) - The warm weather late last week has kicked field work into high gear. Corn planting is now moving forward at an increased pace.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - Temperatures have remained cool. The county received some much needed rainfall this week. Spring plowing seems to be in full swing.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - The soil temperature at 2 inch planting depth is 70 degrees. Several field corn growers were planting this weekend.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT) - We had 4 good, high temperature days that dried out the soils for tillage operations. Apples are in blossom in Cameron County, but not bloomed yet in Potter County.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The warmer temperatures, along with ample soil moisture, have stimulated the growth of alfalfa and other forage crops. The strong winds are making the application of spray materials difficult.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - We went from cold rain and snow to hot dry sun in a few days. Corn planters were in a few valley fields. We need rain, it is very dry. Some farmers are running out of haylage.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The temperatures in the 80's on Friday and Saturday brought out the first corn planters of the season. Grass grew more this week than any other time this spring.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Warm, dry weather has allowed spring tillage and corn planting to move full speed ahead. The warm weather is causing surface soil conditions to dry out rapidly.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 26, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	50	65	62
Corn, planted	7	18	15
Oats, planted	66	77	67
Oats, emerged	32	14	19
Tobacco beds, planted	90	-	61
Potatoes, planted	5	24	20
Peaches, in pink	94	100	95
Peaches, in full bloom or past	92	71	68
Cherries, in pink	68	99	94
Cherries, in full bloom or past	44	87	74
Apples, in pink	62	59	69
Apples, in full bloom or past	32	49	42

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 26, 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	2	23	62	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	23	56	16
Timothy clover stand	1	2	21	68	8
Pasture	4	10	30	42	14

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