



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 3, 2009

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

Another Fair Week for Field Work: The weather throughout Pennsylvania was very hot at the beginning of the week, with cooler and wetter conditions at the end of the week. Temperatures reached above 90 degrees throughout central Pennsylvania last week. The warmer, drier weather at the beginning of the week allowed for a productive week of field work. 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 continued with activities like cleaning barns, painting fences, spreading manure, and spraying. The weather continued to promote favorable plowing conditions, as plowing is now 70 percent complete. This is compared to last year's 76%, and the 5 year average of 73%. Soil moisture conditions improved slightly last week.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 3, 2009

| Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 1 | 7 | 78 | 14 |

Crops: Corn planting made a huge jump last week. Twenty-two percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 31%, and the five year average of 32%. Soybean planting has begun, and is now 6 percent planted statewide, compared with last year's 5%, and the average of 5%. The wheat condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 55% good, and 17% excellent. The barley crop has begun to develop heads. Seventeen percent of the barley has headed, this is compared to last year's 34%, and the average of 33%. Oats have favorable conditions at this point, with 0% very poor, 0% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, and 14% excellent. Oats are 80% planted. This is compared to last year's 90%, and the five year average of 80%. Oats continue to emerge ahead of schedule, as 38% have surfaced. This is compared to last year's 25%, and the average of 32%. Twenty-three percent of the potatoes are planted, compared with last year's 31%, and the average of 35%. Tobacco progress if fully completed compared to last year's 99%, and the average of 88%.

Fruit: Peaches are at 99% in pink, compared to last year's 100%, and the average of 99%. Peaches are at 95% in full bloom. This is compared to last year's 81%, and the average of 89%. Cherries are 95% in pink, compared to last year's 100%, and the average of 99%. Ninety-three percent of the cherries are in full bloom, compared to last year's 96%, and the average of 94%. Apples are 95% in pink, compared to last year's 95%, and the average of 90%. Apples are now 87% in full bloom, compared to last year's 92%, and the average of 77%.

Livestock: Pastures are greening up in the Northwest part of the state. Pastures in the Northeast part of the state in Susquehanna County were not as fortunate because the pastures received less rain. Alfalfa crop conditions look good and are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 65% good, 17% excellent. Timothy clover crop conditions are also doing well and are 1% very poor, 8% poor, 20% fair, 60% good, 11% excellent. Farmers throughout the state are putting their cattle on pasture rotations. The overall pasture conditions are as follows, 3% very poor, 7% poor, 22% fair, 52% good, and 16% excellent.

U.S. as of April 26, 2009: Showers fell early in the week and again at week's end in the Midwest. Meanwhile, generally dry weather across the South promoted an acceleration of fieldwork. Farther west, there were several days of warm, dry weather on the Plains. Fieldwork finally commenced in parts of the Dakotas, although cool, damp conditions returned to the north-central United States toward week's end. Elsewhere, a record-setting, early-season heat wave in the West was replaced by markedly cooler weather late in the week. Snow accompanied the surge of cool air across the northern Rockies and northern Intermountain West. The cool air brought scattered freezes to the Northwestern fruit belt. Prior to the arrival of the late-week chill, the warmest weather of the year affected much of the United States. Readings above 100 degrees Fahrenheit were common in the Desert Southwest. Temperatures topped 90 degrees Fahrenheit in parts of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Corn: Producers made significant planting progress as warm temperatures coupled with strong winds helped dry out wet soils, allowing fieldwork to proceed at a rapid pace. By week's end, 22 percent of the 2009 corn crop was in the ground, 13 points ahead of last year, but 6 points behind the 5-year average pace.

Soybeans: Growers had planted 3 percent of their acreage, 1 point ahead of last year, but 2 points behind the normal pace.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 21 percent, 7 points ahead of last year, but 2 points slower than the average. Overall, 45 percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 43 percent a week ago and 46 percent last year.

Small Grains: Seventeen percent of the Nation's barley acreage was sown by April 26, 15 points behind last year and 17 points behind normal. Nationwide, producers had sown 61 percent of the oat acreage, 9 points ahead of last year, but 4 points slower than the average pace. Emergence advanced to 37 percent, 5 points ahead of last year, but 3 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 3, 2009

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - May 3, 2009 | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|-----------------------|-------|------|--------------|-----|----------|
| | Temperature | | | | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | Base 40F |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | Total |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 86 | 41 | 60 | 9 | 0.65 | 3 | 3.18 | -0.39 | 17 | 139 | 94 | 349 |
| Franklin | 87 | 42 | 61 | 11 | 1.25 | 3 | 4.20 | 0.31 | 17 | 120 | 76 | 318 |
| Meadville | 83 | 41 | 62 | 13 | 0.85 | 3 | 3.90 | 0.27 | 20 | 135 | 103 | 326 |
| Mercer | 86 | 42 | 61 | 10 | 1.07 | 3 | 4.06 | 0.35 | 17 | 126 | 81 | 329 |
| Springboro | 86 | 39 | 59 | 9 | 0.87 | 3 | 4.36 | 0.91 | 18 | 109 | 60 | 288 |
| Warren | 88 | 39 | 60 | 10 | 1.61 | 3 | 4.83 | 0.94 | 18 | 109 | 73 | 297 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 83 | 34 | 57 | 10 | 0.92 | 3 | 3.10 | -0.64 | 16 | 98 | 79 | 262 |
| Oswayo | 86 | 33 | 56 | 8 | 1.01 | 3 | 2.93 | -0.55 | 17 | 71 | 43 | 225 |
| Kane | 85 | 35 | 56 | 10 | 1.15 | 3 | 4.17 | 0.17 | 16 | 68 | 50 | 214 |
| Laporte | 86 | 37 | 59 | 8 | 0.50 | 3 | 4.26 | 0.63 | 17 | 96 | 42 | 272 |
| Lock Haven | 93 | 42 | 63 | 12 | 0.37 | 3 | 2.93 | -0.48 | 15 | 145 | 85 | 365 |
| Port Allegany | 86 | 36 | 58 | 9 | 0.81 | 3 | 2.58 | -0.90 | 16 | 85 | 57 | 251 |
| Renovo | 92 | 41 | 62 | 10 | 0.79 | 3 | 3.62 | 0.21 | 14 | 133 | 73 | 352 |
| Ridgway | 85 | 36 | 58 | 10 | 0.85 | 3 | 3.54 | -0.28 | 16 | 81 | 57 | 240 |
| Stevenson Dam | 90 | 40 | 61 | 12 | 1.17 | 3 | 3.65 | -0.17 | 14 | 111 | 87 | 304 |
| Towanda | 93 | 40 | 61 | 10 | 0.53 | 3 | 2.89 | -0.34 | 14 | 118 | 64 | 323 |
| Wellsboro | 88 | 36 | 58 | 11 | 0.76 | 3 | 3.03 | 0.41 | 15 | 91 | 70 | 253 |
| Williamsport | 94 | 43 | 64 | 11 | 0.21 | 3 | 3.87 | 0.31 | 14 | 195 | 108 | 462 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 93 | 37 | 60 | 11 | 0.18 | 1 | 2.91 | -0.88 | 11 | 105 | 76 | 297 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 93 | 42 | 64 | 12 | 0.49 | 1 | 2.02 | -1.28 | 11 | 188 | 123 | 436 |
| Susquehanna | 90 | 39 | 60 | 12 | 0.50 | 3 | 2.33 | -1.65 | 11 | 106 | 82 | 298 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 86 | 42 | 61 | 10 | 1.31 | 3 | 4.09 | 0.53 | 19 | 113 | 55 | 316 |
| New Castle | 88 | 44 | 63 | 11 | 1.60 | 3 | 3.99 | 0.66 | 18 | 138 | 93 | 351 |
| Slippery Rock | 89 | 42 | 62 | 12 | 1.80 | 3 | 4.47 | 1.00 | 16 | 133 | 94 | 333 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 85 | 43 | 62 | 9 | 0.91 | 4 | 2.46 | -1.04 | 18 | 153 | 75 | 372 |
| DuBois | 85 | 40 | 61 | 11 | 1.23 | 3 | 4.57 | 0.87 | 18 | 153 | 111 | 344 |
| Lewistown | 94 | 47 | 64 | 10 | 0.53 | 4 | 4.44 | 1.14 | 18 | 156 | 56 | 389 |
| Middletown | 92 | 51 | 67 | 11 | 0.58 | 3 | 4.26 | 0.63 | 17 | 211 | 91 | 487 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 88 | 42 | 60 | 10 | 0.21 | 3 | 2.63 | -2.06 | 17 | 100 | 60 | 268 |
| Selinsgrove | 91 | 45 | 63 | 10 | 0.56 | 1 | 4.15 | 0.64 | 14 | 135 | 60 | 355 |
| State College | 90 | 44 | 64 | 11 | 0.36 | 3 | 3.38 | 0.16 | 18 | 159 | 97 | 381 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 91 | 46 | 64 | 10 | 0.56 | 3 | 3.16 | -0.75 | 16 | 177 | 88 | 425 |
| Lehighton | 91 | 46 | 63 | 9 | 0.52 | 2 | 3.11 | -0.55 | 9 | 146 | 65 | 374 |
| Matamoras | 91 | 40 | 61 | 8 | 0.11 | 2 | 2.95 | -1.43 | 13 | 111 | 47 | 307 |
| Mt_Pocono | 87 | 41 | 60 | 13 | 0.33 | 2 | 3.92 | -0.56 | 14 | 122 | 103 | 307 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 86 | 50 | 65 | 12 | 0.83 | 3 | 3.46 | -0.14 | 19 | 210 | 131 | 465 |
| Indiana_PA | 84 | 45 | 62 | 10 | 0.41 | 3 | 1.62 | -2.42 | 10 | 157 | 82 | 369 |
| Myersdale | 86 | 45 | 58 | 7 | 0.93 | 5 | 4.28 | -0.09 | 21 | 81 | 26 | 235 |
| Mount Pleasant | 87 | 47 | 63 | 13 | 1.88 | 4 | 4.07 | -0.45 | 20 | 147 | 109 | 378 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 87 | 47 | 65 | 12 | 0.67 | 4 | 2.76 | -0.72 | 21 | 214 | 124 | 468 |
| Connellsville | 89 | 51 | 65 | 11 | 2.27 | 5 | 4.99 | 0.79 | 21 | 153 | 58 | 402 |
| Waynesburg | 88 | 48 | 63 | 11 | 1.64 | 5 | 4.19 | 0.36 | 21 | 137 | 69 | 367 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 90 | 48 | 64 | 8 | 0.57 | 3 | 5.00 | 1.28 | 19 | 174 | 54 | 422 |
| Everett | 87 | 43 | 60 | 8 | 0.83 | 4 | 4.44 | 0.75 | 21 | 88 | 21 | 252 |
| Hanover | 90 | 49 | 64 | 9 | 0.84 | 4 | 5.19 | 1.47 | 18 | 180 | 60 | 437 |
| Harrisburg_AP | 90 | 52 | 66 | 11 | 0.52 | 3 | 4.88 | 1.25 | 18 | 217 | 94 | 491 |
| South Mountain | 86 | 45 | 60 | 7 | 0.78 | 4 | 5.01 | 1.51 | 20 | 112 | 38 | 325 |
| York | 90 | 50 | 66 | 10 | 0.66 | 3 | 4.27 | 0.32 | 17 | 194 | 70 | 447 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 91 | 45 | 64 | 11 | 1.05 | 4 | 4.14 | 0.05 | 18 | 177 | 96 | 427 |
| Hamburg | 93 | 50 | 65 | 13 | 0.42 | 3 | 3.56 | -0.69 | 17 | 187 | 129 | 445 |
| West_Chester | 92 | 48 | 64 | 9 | 0.53 | 4 | 4.62 | 0.37 | 16 | 169 | 55 | 403 |
| Lancaster | 88 | 50 | 64 | 10 | 0.36 | 3 | 4.48 | 0.69 | 16 | 174 | 81 | 423 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 91 | 41 | 62 | 8 | 1.10 | 4 | 5.37 | 0.96 | 14 | 174 | 84 | 425 |
| New Holland | 92 | 49 | 65 | 11 | 0.74 | 4 | 4.64 | 0.85 | 17 | 187 | 94 | 443 |
| Philadelphia | 93 | 49 | 67 | 10 | 0.34 | 5 | 4.23 | 0.22 | 18 | 249 | 114 | 545 |
| Philadelphia NE | 91 | 42 | 66 | 9 | 0.31 | 4 | 4.04 | 0.03 | 17 | 219 | 84 | 494 |
| Reading | 92 | 51 | 67 | 13 | 0.49 | 3 | 2.89 | -1.34 | 17 | 217 | 137 | 481 |
| Sellersville | 91 | 44 | 63 | 10 | 0.91 | 2 | 3.83 | -0.26 | 16 | 157 | 76 | 394 |
| Willow Grove | 90 | 45 | 66 | 13 | 0.69 | 3 | 6.82 | 2.41 | 14 | 220 | 130 | 485 |

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) - Corn was planted in Adams County on the better soils at the beginning of last week. Apples and strawberries are blooming; however the rainy and cloudy days will not help with pollination. Overall the planting season is later this year due to wet weather and cooler temperatures. Time will tell how things will grow here in the county.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - With the warm temperatures, peaches moved post bloom and apples came into bloom rapidly. Most apple varieties were in full bloom by mid-week. Bee activity and the weather would seem to indicate that crop prospects for apples are good.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Rain started out Saturday night and is expected to continue for several days. Corn planting and field work will be pushed back at least another week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work.

CENTRE COUNTY, Jan Pruss - Sporadic rains are now keeping farmers out of the field.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - The warm weather has brought the dormant plants a refreshing look. The apple crop will be well ahead of last year's bloom if we do not get the killer frost of past Mays.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William R. Clouser - Pasture and hay stands are coming along very nicely. Other than the short spell of unseasonably warm weather, cool and wet conditions prevail.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Wet conditions this week slowed farming activities. Fields had just started to dry out over the weekend, but more rain is expected the upcoming week. Pastures are greening up nicely and farmers are starting on rotational grazing.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Timothy mites are severe in some areas. Alfalfa weevil injury is becoming more easily found.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Very warm weather pushed the fruit blooms into and past full bloom. There has been no cold weather yet that will affect the crop.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - All of our oats have been planted and have emerged. We are waiting for the ground to dry out to finish planting corn.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Corn planting was in full swing for a couple of days; then the rain brought things to a halt. Hilly pastures are doing well. Some of the low land is too wet.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - A significant number of dairymen did not get rye harvested last week. They are facing difficulties with rye deteriorating in the field.

MERCER COUNTY, Gary Micsky (EXT) - There were several days of above normal temperatures early in the week followed by wet and cooler temperatures from Thursday until Sunday.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST - Lots of field activity happened through Thursday. A considerable amount of field corn was planted.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT) - Apples were blossoming in Cameron County last week. Unusually dry and warm weather last week brought pastures to life.

POTTER COUNTY, Dave Stratton (FSA) - Many seedings were planted last week. The ground is being worked to start planting corn this coming week. Soil moisture is fairly dry for this time of year.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The weather was favorable for field work. The winter grains and alfalfa are growing well and appear to be healthy; however, there are signs of initial weevil activity.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - We had between 1/4 and 1/2 inch of much needed rain Friday. Corn planters are running. The ground temperature is 55 degrees plus.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Temperatures were in the 80's at the beginning of the week. There were excellent planting conditions until the rains began on Tuesday.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Soil was marginally fit for planting early in the week. Planting was progressing rapidly before showers moved in. Rye continued being mowed and chopped for silage.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 3, 2009

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Spring plowing | 70 | 76 | 73 |
| Corn, planted | 22 | 31 | 32 |
| Barley, heading or headed | 17 | 34 | 33 |
| Oats, planted | 80 | 90 | 80 |
| Oats, emerged | 38 | 25 | 32 |
| Soybeans, planted | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Tobacco beds, planted | 100 | 99 | 88 |
| Potatoes, planted | 23 | 31 | 35 |
| Peaches, in pink | 99 | 100 | 99 |
| Peaches, in full bloom or past | 95 | 81 | 89 |
| Cherries, in pink | 95 | 100 | 99 |
| Cherries, in full bloom or past | 93 | 96 | 94 |
| Apples, in pink | 95 | 95 | 90 |
| Apples, in full bloom or past | 87 | 92 | 77 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 3, 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 | 24 | 55 | 17 |
| Oats | 0 | 0 | 28 | 58 | 14 |
| Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand | 1 | 3 | 14 | 65 | 17 |
| Timothy clover stand | 1 | 8 | 20 | 60 | 11 |
| Pasture | 3 | 7 | 22 | 52 | 16 |

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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