



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 24, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 26, 2009, 4 pm

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

Excellent Week for Field Work: Conditions for field work were ideal, with six out of seven days suitable to be in the field. Primary activities included planting soybeans, corn, and potatoes, as well as starting to make first cuttings of alfalfa and timothy. Plowing is wrapping up, and is now 93% completed. This is compared to last week's 84%, last year's 85%, and the five year average of 92%. Topsoil moisture decreased, and rain will likely arrive this week, providing some relief to locations in need.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 24, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4	13	73	10

Crops: Seventy-two percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 68%, and the five year average of 80%. Corn is now 44% emerged, compared to last year's 42%, and the average of 52%. The emerged corn has an average height of 3 inches, which is the same as last year and the average. Soybean planting increased, and is now 49% planted statewide, compared with last year's 36%, and the average of 50%. Eighteen percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 13%, and the average of 19%. The wheat condition is 0% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 57% good, and 26% excellent. Seventy-one percent of the wheat has headed, which behind is compared to last year's 84%, but well on track with the five-year average of 71%. Seven percent of the wheat has turned yellow, compared to 3% last year, and the average 1%. Ninety-three percent of barley has headed, which compares to last year's 99% and the average of 95%. Thirty percent of the barley has yellowed, compared to last year's 27%, and the average of 14%. Oat conditions are reported at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 20% fair, 61% good, and 19% excellent. Oats are 95% emerged. This is compared to last year's 89%, and the average of 85%. Potato planting is now 72% complete, ahead of this time last year, when 57% of the potatoes were planted. Both of these figures are compared to the average of 78%.

Fruit: The condition of peaches and apples increased compared with last week's report, and both look to be in good to excellent condition. The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 72% good, and 28% excellent. The apple conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 76% good, and 24% excellent.

Livestock: Pasture quality decreased slightly due to the drier conditions. Pastures are 1% very poor, 4% poor, 17% fair, 54% good, and 24% excellent. Alfalfa crop conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 19% fair, 50% good, and 25% excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa is well under way, and 43% are now complete, compared with last year's 29%, and the average of 32%. Timothy clover crop conditions continue to do well and are 0% very poor, 6% poor, 22% fair, 47% good, and 25% excellent. Twenty percent of the timothy/clover cutting is complete, which is well ahead of last year's

12%, and the overall average of 10%. Overall quality of hay is 0% very poor, 2% poor, 7% fair, 34% good, and 57% excellent.

U.S. as of May 17, 2009: A pair of cold fronts produced heavy rain in a similar area along and east of a line from Texas into the Great Lakes region. Weekly rainfall totaled at least 4 inches in the Corn Belt from northern Missouri into Indiana, triggering lowland flooding and maintaining a sluggish pace of corn and soybean planting in the heart of the Midwest. Meanwhile, only light rain fell across the upper Midwest, although cool weather continued to hamper summer crop emergence and development. Locally heavy showers also disrupted fieldwork across the South, although warmth promoted crop emergence and growth. Rainfall was especially heavy in the Delta, totaling 2 to 4 inches in most locations. Farther west, late-season cold snaps held weekly temperatures as much as 10 degrees F below normal on the northern Plains and resulted in freezes (on May 14 and 16) as far south as central Nebraska. The northern Plains' cool weather limited the emergence of recently planted summer crops. In contrast, heavy rain continued to pelt the southeastern Plains. Elsewhere, cool, showery conditions in the Northwest were followed by a late-week warming trend, while hot, dry weather promoted fieldwork and crop development in California and the Southwest. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees F above normal in portions of southern California and the Desert Southwest.

Corn: Sixty-two percent of the Nation's corn crop was planted by May 17, eight points slower than the previous year and 23 points, or more than a week, behind the 5-year average pace. Planting progress was behind the average in all States except Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Carolina. Emergence advanced to 30 percent complete, 6 points ahead of last year, but 19 points behind normal.

Soybeans: Nationally, 25 percent of this year's soybean acreage was planted by week's end, on par with the pace in 2008, but 19 points, or 1 week, slower than the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: The winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage on 56 percent of this year's acreage, compared with 47 percent last year and 60 percent for the 5-year average. Nationwide, 48 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared to 46 percent a week ago, and 45 percent a year ago.

Small Grains: By May 17, barley producers had sown 50 percent of the Nation's acreage, 39 points slower than last year's pace and 37 points, or more than 2 weeks, behind the 5-year average. Emergence reached 20 percent complete in the United States crop by week's end, 26 points behind last year and 34 points behind normal. Nationally, producers had sown 88 percent of the 2009 oat acreage, compared with 92 percent last year and 95 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 71 percent complete, 4 points ahead of the previous year, but 8 points behind normal. Overall, 46 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared to 45 percent a week ago and 57 percent a year ago.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 24, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 24, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	30	59	1	0.00	0	4.07	-1.75	24	322	129	723
Franklin	85	30	59	1	0.00	0	6.43	0.04	24	295	104	690
Meadville	81	34	60	3	0.00	0	4.64	-1.53	26	307	145	694
Mercer	84	29	59	0	0.10	1	5.70	-0.50	25	296	97	695
Springboro	83	27	57	-3	0.00	0	5.48	-0.08	25	245	40	607
Warren	86	30	58	-1	0.00	0	6.24	-0.27	22	269	89	646
North Central												
Bradford Region	82	23	54	0	0.00	0	4.69	-1.69	23	217	105	546
Oswayo	85	24	55	-2	0.08	1	4.77	-1.15	24	188	46	517
Kane	84	25	55	2	0.00	0	6.14	-0.58	23	181	73	500
Laporte	79	33	57	-2	0.00	0	7.32	1.01	25	218	18	582
Lock Haven	87	32	60	1	0.00	0	5.54	-0.35	23	330	104	757
Port Allegany	85	26	56	0	0.05	1	4.29	-1.63	24	218	76	563
Renovo	89	27	59	-1	0.00	0	5.25	-0.64	22	308	82	729
Ridgway	84	27	55	-1	0.00	0	4.91	-1.86	23	198	67	535
Stevenson Dam	86	29	58	3	0.00	0	5.29	-1.48	21	266	135	660
Towanda	87	29	59	0	0.00	0	6.52	0.98	22	272	66	675
Wellsboro	83	28	57	2	0.00	0	5.27	0.45	21	198	84	542
Williamsport	87	33	61	0	0.01	1	6.60	0.45	23	410	128	884
Northeast												
Hawley	85	28	55	-2	0.00	0	6.83	0.34	18	226	83	610
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	30	60	-2	0.07	1	5.03	-0.71	18	391	146	840
Susquehanna	85	30	58	3	1.72	1	7.13	0.43	22	250	122	635
West Central												
Butler	85	30	58	-1	0.00	0	5.69	-0.61	26	274	57	675
New Castle	87	32	60	1	0.01	1	4.91	-0.77	25	328	118	747
Slippery Rock	86	30	58	-1	0.05	1	5.91	-0.01	26	297	110	697
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	33	60	0	0.31	1	4.50	-1.44	28	336	76	756
DuBois	82	30	59	0	0.00	0	6.30	-0.07	25	319	126	703
Lewistown	86	35	61	0	0.00	0	7.88	1.81	26	351	44	794
Middletown	85	39	64	0	0.00	0	7.96	1.44	25	460	106	946
Prince Gallitzi	85	27	57	-2	0.00	0	4.24	-3.64	26	236	65	588
Selinsgrove	84	34	60	-2	0.05	1	7.43	1.33	23	315	60	742
State College	85	37	62	3	0.00	0	5.66	0.02	26	349	106	779
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	85	32	60	-2	0.24	1	6.44	-0.36	24	394	95	847
Lehighton	84	32	59	-3	0.00	0	7.23	0.56	19	324	40	756
Matamoras	86	34	58	-3	0.00	0	6.03	-1.29	20	254	19	654
Mt_Pocono	83	28	58	4	0.02	1	6.23	-1.40	24	268	161	645
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	35	63	3	0.00	0	5.79	-0.69	27	443	178	905
Indiana_PA	82	30	59	-2	0.00	0	2.71	-4.31	17	346	91	753
Myersdale	83	26	54	-6	0.31	1	7.59	0.28	30	192	-24	522
Mount Pleasant	83	29	59	2	0.19	1	6.61	-0.72	29	341	164	768
Pittsburgh Intl	84	33	62	1	0.07	1	4.68	-1.22	29	446	158	904
Connellsville	87	33	61	-1	0.00	0	7.72	0.63	30	369	66	824
Waynesburg	84	31	59	-2	0.04	1	7.33	0.81	30	328	84	760
South Central												
Biglerville	86	37	62	-2	0.00	0	9.27	3.03	28	395	42	852
Everett	87	28	53	-8	0.45	1	8.45	2.27	30	206	-38	553
Hanover	85	35	61	-3	0.00	0	8.73	2.49	27	407	54	872
Harrisburg_AP	86	37	63	0	0.00	0	8.32	1.80	26	471	110	955
South Mountain	83	32	59	-2	0.00	0	9.61	3.67	31	283	30	695
York	86	34	61	-3	0.00	0	8.02	1.59	26	422	58	883
Southeast												
Green Lane	84	36	61	0	0.00	0	8.06	1.19	26	399	122	857
Hamburg	86	36	62	3	0.68	1	8.41	0.78	28	415	191	881
West_Chester	86	33	60	-4	0.00	0	8.93	1.71	24	382	37	823
Lancaster	85	35	62	0	0.00	0	7.47	1.08	25	403	100	860
Neshaminy Falls	84	34	62	1	0.25	1	9.25	1.74	22	417	122	878
New Holland	84	39	63	1	0.00	0	8.41	2.02	24	418	115	884
Philadelphia	87	44	65	1	0.01	1	7.76	1.23	28	544	150	1,050
Philadelphia NE	85	40	63	-3	0.00	0	7.13	0.60	25	472	78	957
Reading	87	36	63	2	0.17	1	6.58	-0.60	27	470	187	942
Sellersville	83	33	60	-2	0.00	0	7.66	0.79	24	358	81	801
Willow Grove	84	37	62	1	0.22	1	12.42	4.91	23	464	169	937

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 interesting week of weather conditions. Some of the later seeded wheat and barley still do not look good. Corn and soybeans continue to be planted. Still, a lot of acreage needs to be planted before the RMA deadlines. Some early planted corn that never emerged is being replanted due to the poor weather conditions. Haylage continues to be chopped. Fruit looks good so far. Spraying continues to be done throughout the county, with chemical thinner being applied now. The warmer temperatures and sunshine will help a lot with the future of our crops.

BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA) - Several consecutive dry days early in the week were just what dairy farmers needed to make good quality forages. Rye grown for straw was cut in some areas, and yields definitely don't look as favorable as last year. Meanwhile, the corn is on a roll with these hot, humid days and the rain showers we seem to be getting every few days. More rain showers are expected for this week, which should be the jumpstart second cutting alfalfa will need.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - We were hit with a freeze one night and a heavy frost the second night. What little corn that was up got hit with the freeze. The first cutting of hay is just beginning.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work. The first cutting of hay making is well under way.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - It was a great week for plowing, planting, spraying and hay making.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - There were ideal weather conditions for planting spring crops, with a frost on Monday morning. Many acres of hay were harvested for haylage, baleage and dry hay.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - It was an excellent week for field work. Most producers have finished corn planting and are working on beans. It is unusually dry for this time of year, which makes field work go smoothly. Pastures are still in good shape but are showing slower re-growth due to lack of rain.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Weather was not the complaint this week, low milk prices were. It was a very good week for all field activities. There were no signs of frost early this past week.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - We need some rain. The ground is dry and dusty. If we get some rain, we may plow some of the fields that we took the hay off of.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - The freeze early in the week destroyed a significant portion of the tree fruit. Only the orchards in protected areas survived.

LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby (EXT) - Farmers took advantage of very good weather to catch up on field work through most of the week. An intense rain event on the evening of May 23 is now limiting field work.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Many of the local dairy farmers were full steam ahead chopping their first cutting of forages. We are in need or rain this Tuesday morning.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - It was another very dry week. There was a lot of haylage and some dry hay made. Corn planting is about finished. We could use some rain.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The corn and soybeans are slow to emerge, with some losses in the poorly drained areas. The very cold temperatures on Monday and Tuesday did some minor damage.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - After the morning frosts on Monday and Tuesday mornings, the temperatures warmed. Conditions stayed dry allowing for the best week of field work this spring.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 24, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	93	85	92
Corn, planted	72	68	80
Corn, emerged	44	42	52
Corn average height, inches	3	3	3
Barley, heading or headed	93	99	95
Barley, turning yellow	30	27	14
Wheat, heading or headed	71	84	71
Wheat, turning yellow	7	3	1
Oats, emerged	95	89	85
Soybeans, planted	49	36	50
Soybeans, emerged	18	13	19
Tobacco, transplanted	22	24	33
Potatoes, planted	72	57	78
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	43	29	32
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	20	12	10

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 24, 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	15	57	26
Oats	0	0	20	61	19
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	19	50	25
Timothy clover stand	0	6	22	47	25
Quality of hay made	0	2	7	34	57
Pasture	1	4	17	54	24
Peaches	0	0	0	72	28
Apples	0	0	0	76	24

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