



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 31, 2009

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Fair Week for Field Work: On and off rainstorms throughout the state slowed field work to a total of 3 days with suitable conditions. Primary activities included thinning fruit, planting tobacco, soybeans, corn, and potatoes, as well as starting to cutting alfalfa and timothy. Plowing is close to completion, and is now 95% completed. This is compared to last week's 93%, last year's 93%, and the five year average of 96%. The rain came through and provided relief to low soil moisture areas.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 31, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	70	28

Crops: Corn condition is 0% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 63% good, and 12% excellent. Eighty-five percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 80%, and the five year average of 89%. Corn is now 63% emerged, compared to last year's 51%, and the average of 65%. The emerged corn has an average height of 5 inches, which is the same as last year and just one inch ahead the five year average. Soybean planting is now 57% planted statewide, compared with last year's 47%, and the average of 65%. Thirty-four percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 17%, and the average of 33%. The wheat condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 53% good, and 29% excellent. Ninety-three percent of the wheat has headed, which is compared to last year's 96%, but ahead of the five-year average of 87%. Nine percent of the wheat has turned yellow, compared to 3% last year, and the average 2%. Ninety-seven percent of barley has headed, which compares to last year's 100% and the average of 97%. Forty percent of the barley has yellowed, compared to last year's 41%, and the average of 38%. Oat conditions are reported at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 25% fair, 54% good, and 21% excellent. Seven percent of the oats have headed, compared with last year's 3%, and the average of 2%. Potato planting is now 94% complete, ahead of this time last year, when 79% of the potatoes were planted. This is fairly close to the average of 91%. Tobacco is 51% transplanted, compared to last year's 49%, and the 53% average.

Fruit: The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 1% fair, 73% good, and 26% excellent. The apple conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 51% good, and 49% excellent.

Livestock: Pasture quality stayed about the same as the previous week. Pastures are 1% very poor, 2% poor, 14% fair, 58% good, and 25% excellent. Alfalfa crop conditions are 0% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 55% good, and 27% excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa is 57% completed, compared with last year's 49%, and the average of 51%. Timothy clover crop conditions continue to do well and are 0% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 56% good, and 23% excellent. Twenty-eight percent of the timothy/clover cutting is complete, which is ahead of last year's 23%, and the overall average of 19%. Overall quality of hay is 2% very poor, 0% poor, 13% fair, 56% good, and 29% excellent.

U.S. as of May 24, 2009: As much as 1 to 2 feet of rain drenched east-central and northeastern Florida, eradicating drought but causing local flooding. By week's end, the low-pressure system responsible for Florida's heavy rain reached the central Gulf Coast States, resulting in downpours as far north and west as the northern Delta. Prior to the return

of showers during the Memorial Day weekend, producers planted as quickly as field conditions permitted across the South and Midwest. Corn, soybean, and cotton planting that had been significantly delayed by spring wetness advanced rapidly, especially during the mid- to late-week period. Farther west, cool weather lingered across the northern Plains, further delaying summer-crop emergence and development. In contrast, warm, mostly dry weather for much of the week on the central and southern Plains favored winter wheat maturation and summer crop planting and development. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather promoted fieldwork and crop development in the Northwest, but unseasonably heavy showers developed in the Four Corners States. Unusual warmth also prevailed across the central Plains and the upper Midwest. Prior to the heat's arrival, scattered frost was reported in the upper Midwest, Great Lakes region, and interior Northeast on May 17-19. From the Great Lakes States into the Northeast, producers monitored the effects of the cold weather on blooming fruit trees and other temperature-sensitive crops. Early in the week, chilly air across the Midwest and Northeast contrasted with hot weather in the West. Record lows for May 18 dipped to 30 degrees Fahrenheit in both Youngstown, Ohio, and Erie, Pennsylvania. Farther west, heat reached the northern Plains and the upper Midwest, resulting in record highs for states such as Nebraska and Minnesota. During the second half of the week, warmth overspread the Northeast, while cool weather returned to the Northwest. In the Midwest, planting accelerated despite lingering lowland flooding. Meanwhile, unusually heavy showers peppered the Southwest, with several Arizona areas receiving their wettest May day since the early 1900's. The Southeast experienced several dry days, followed by a return to showery weather at week's end. Warm weather returned to much of Alaska, although cool weather and showers lingered across the southwestern part of the state. Farther south, cool weather returned to Hawaii, accompanied by mostly dry conditions.

Corn: By week's end, 82 percent of this year's corn acreage was planted, 4 points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 52 percent complete, 4 points ahead of the previous year, but 19 points behind normal.

Soybeans: Forty-eight percent of the Nation's soybean crop was planted by May 24, one point slower than last year and 17 points behind normal. By week's end, 17 percent of this year's crop had emerged, compared with 12 percent a year ago and 31 percent for the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 68 percent complete, 7 points ahead of last year, but 3 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 45 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 48 percent a week ago and 47 percent last year.

Oats: By week's end, 95 percent of this year's oat acreage was sown, compared with 97 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average. Seeding was complete or nearly complete in most states. Emergence advanced to 82 percent complete, on par with last year, but 7 points behind normal. Heading was evident in 29 percent of the Nation's crop, equaling the maturation of the previous year's crop, and 1 point ahead of normal. Overall, 57 percent of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 31, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 31, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	50	64	3	1.28	5	5.35	-1.33	29	420	148	891
Franklin	82	49	65	5	1.78	4	8.21	0.89	28	399	132	864
Meadville	79	47	62	4	1.43	4	6.07	-1.04	30	395	164	852
Mercer	82	48	64	4	1.62	6	7.32	0.17	31	395	119	864
Springboro	82	47	62	1	0.95	5	6.43	0.09	30	328	43	760
Warren	80	48	62	3	2.76	4	9.00	1.48	26	357	103	804
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	41	58	3	2.58	4	7.27	-0.14	27	276	113	675
Oswayo	76	41	60	2	2.00	6	6.77	-0.15	30	257	55	656
Kane	78	42	60	4	2.67	3	8.81	1.07	26	250	92	639
Laporte	76	44	57	-4	1.75	5	9.07	1.77	30	272	-2	706
Lock Haven	83	44	62	1	1.19	3	6.73	-0.11	26	416	108	913
Port Allegany	78	41	59	2	4.06	5	8.30	1.38	28	285	83	700
Renovo	83	44	62	1	1.09	4	6.34	-0.50	26	393	85	884
Ridgway	79	42	61	4	1.80	4	6.71	-1.11	27	278	89	685
Stevenson Dam	83	44	62	5	1.56	4	6.85	-0.97	25	351	162	815
Towanda	81	40	62	1	1.23	3	7.75	1.38	25	354	71	827
Wellsboro	79	41	57	-1	1.92	4	7.19	1.51	25	247	81	659
Williamsport	82	45	63	0	1.49	4	8.09	1.00	27	503	128	1,047
Northeast												
Hawley	79	39	59	0	1.23	3	8.06	0.66	21	287	82	741
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	79	45	62	-2	1.97	5	7.00	0.38	23	472	140	991
Susquehanna	78	41	59	1	1.72	4	8.85	1.23	26	314	127	769
West Central												
Butler	84	48	65	5	1.09	5	6.78	-0.50	31	379	82	850
New Castle	84	52	67	6	0.66	4	5.57	-0.96	29	447	155	936
Slippery Rock	86	51	66	6	0.92	4	6.83	-0.03	30	407	146	877
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	49	62	-1	2.10	3	6.60	-0.22	31	422	74	912
DuBois	80	49	62	2	1.49	5	7.79	0.41	30	405	136	859
Lewistown	82	48	63	-2	1.78	5	9.66	2.61	31	442	38	955
Middletown	84	50	65	-2	2.72	5	10.68	3.18	30	565	101	1,121
Prince Gallitzi	85	45	62	3	1.50	4	5.74	-3.19	30	320	82	742
Selinsgrove	81	46	62	-1	3.46	4	10.89	3.82	27	401	57	898
State College	85	49	63	0	1.08	5	6.74	0.20	31	439	108	939
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	82	47	62	-3	0.86	4	7.30	-0.42	28	482	82	1,005
Lehighton	82	46	61	-4	1.49	5	8.72	1.07	24	399	18	901
Matamoras	81	44	61	-2	0.74	3	6.77	-1.46	23	330	10	800
Mt_Pocono	79	41	58	2	1.32	5	7.55	-1.06	29	328	169	773
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	54	67	5	1.12	6	6.91	-0.52	33	565	212	1,097
Indiana_PA	81	50	65	3	1.19	4	3.90	-4.17	21	451	109	928
Myersdale	79	46	61	0	1.49	6	9.08	0.83	36	271	-26	671
Mount Pleasant	83	48	66	6	2.11	6	8.72	0.39	35	453	203	950
Pittsburgh Intl	83	54	68	5	1.51	5	6.19	-0.55	34	573	191	1,101
Connellsville	84	54	68	4	2.52	7	10.24	2.17	37	494	94	1,019
Waynesburg	83	53	67	5	1.54	6	8.87	1.44	36	449	119	951
South Central												
Biglerville	83	49	64	-2	2.32	5	11.59	4.47	33	496	33	1,023
Everett	83	46	63	2	2.84	6	11.29	4.34	36	300	-30	717
Hanover	83	50	65	-2	1.22	4	9.95	2.83	31	511	48	1,046
Harrisburg_AP	84	50	65	-2	1.19	5	9.51	2.01	31	575	104	1,129
South Mountain	78	46	61	-2	1.99	4	11.60	4.78	35	363	22	845
York	83	50	65	-2	1.48	4	9.50	2.18	30	526	52	1,057
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	49	64	0	1.54	5	9.60	1.88	31	497	126	1,025
Hamburg	84	48	63	2	1.03	5	9.44	0.68	33	508	200	1,044
West_Chester	83	48	65	0	1.38	4	10.31	2.11	28	489	37	1,000
Lancaster	83	50	65	2	1.05	5	8.52	1.22	30	513	110	1,040
Neshaminy Falls	82	49	64	0	0.71	2	9.96	1.48	24	517	122	1,048
New Holland	84	48	66	2	1.06	4	9.47	2.17	28	530	127	1,066
Philadelphia	85	52	69	2	1.05	4	8.81	1.44	32	676	165	1,252
Philadelphia NE	83	50	66	-2	0.93	4	8.06	0.69	29	585	74	1,140
Reading	85	50	65	2	0.71	3	7.29	-0.92	30	578	197	1,120
Sellersville	82	43	63	-2	2.11	6	9.77	2.05	30	447	76	960
Willow Grove	82	49	65	1	1.71	4	14.13	5.65	27	569	174	1,112

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) - We are starting to see corn emerging, but some is spotty coming up. There is still a lot of corn and soybeans to get planted by the RMA final plant dates. Hay and barley is being chopped for forage. Some dry hay was cut at the beginning of the week. Fruit crops continue to look ok for now. Apples are being chemically thinned and peaches are being hand thinned. Vegetables are looking better, and strawberries are being harvested. Overall, the crops that are planted are looking ok, but a lot could change.

BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA) - The mid-week light showers and overcast conditions gave most producers an opportunity to work on equipment and catch up on indoor activities. By Saturday, the humid, damp weather pattern moved out of the area and farmers timidly returned to fields. While some places were still wet, rye was cut and baled for straw. Some hay was also cut, with hopes of getting it off before the next round of showers.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Joe Shevchik (NRCS) - Hay was made and corn was planted in between the scattered rain storms.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There was light rain & showers on most days last week. I had a total of 1.1 inches of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - Many of the spring planted crops and hay had ideal growing conditions. Haylage is being harvested and we are finishing off spring planting.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William Clouser - There was good field conditions for the most part of last week. The recent spell of dry weather has had a negative impact on pasture condition. Much of the hay harvested is well past peak maturity.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Last week was another wet week. We had nearly 4 inches of rain. This has producers questioning early season Nitrogen application availability. Delay in earlier season forage harvesting has alfalfa and orchard grass quality rapidly decreasing. Corn looks great. Bean emergence is spotty. Weeds are keeping up with the grain crops. Wheat was flowering during this latest wet period. Head scab issues may arise later in season.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The showers and cool weather this week made hay making difficult during the mid-week. There was good quality hay made early in the week. We need a little warmer weather now.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - The first batch of oats and corn we planted is looking good. The second batch is coming along. The hay fields are nice and green. We will be trying to make some hay this week if the weather permits. We are going to try and plant some more soybeans.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - The freeze on May 18 caused more damage to tree fruit than originally thought. Many orchards in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties had a total loss.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Corn is at different heights. Some is over a foot tall. Most of the first cutting of alfalfa was made. Tobacco planting is coming along. Small grain seems to be standing still due to the cool weather.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Monday thru Friday all field work was on going. Some hay was baled on Thursday afternoon. On Friday night, we had 1.1 inches of rainfall.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT) - Last week had a couple days of rain that slowed down progress. There was a frost overnight on June 1.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - This past week was a lost one. Very heavy rainfall, cool temperatures, and cloudy skies caused nearly everything to come to a halt, except, the flea beetles feeding on the corn in the already stressed areas. There are major emergence issues with the corn and soybeans in the poorly drained areas. The quality of the hay is deteriorating. Hopefully, conditions will improve.

WESTMORELAND John Lohr (FSA) - Some much-needed rain should help newly-planted crops get off to a good start. Many corn and soybean producers still need to get additional acreage planted.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 31, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	95	93	96
Corn, planted	85	80	89
Corn, emerged	63	51	65
Corn average height, inches	5	5	4
Barley, heading or headed	97	100	97
Barley, turning yellow	40	41	38
Wheat, heading or headed	93	96	87
Wheat, turning yellow	9	3	2
Oats, heading or headed	7	3	2
Soybeans, planted	57	47	65
Soybeans, emerged	34	17	33
Tobacco, transplanted	51	49	53
Potatoes, planted	94	79	91
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	57	49	51
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	28	23	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 31, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	1	24	63	12
Wheat	0	3	15	53	29
Oats	0	0	25	54	21
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	15	55	27
Timothy clover stand	0	2	19	56	23
Quality of hay made	2	0	13	56	29
Pasture	1	2	14	58	25
Peaches	0	0	1	73	26
Apples	0	0	0	51	49

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