



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 4, 2010

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

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: spring plowing, spreading manure and fertilizer, sowing oats, and tobacco bed planting. Spring plowing is 18 % complete

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 4, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	78	20

Crop Progress: Oats are 14% planted , ahead of the average of 10%. Tobacco beds are 20% planted which is ahead of last years'average of 15%, and the 5-year average of 3%. Peaches are 15% in or past pink which is ahead of the average of 6%. Cherries are 17% in or past pink, above the average of 5%.

Crop Condition: State-wide wheat condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 33% fair, 54% good, and 9% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are 2% poor, 24% fair, 60% good, and 14% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 70% good, and 11% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 4% very poor, 8% poor, 39% fair, 39% good and 10% excellent.

Nationwide as of March 28, 2010: Below average temperatures persisted across much of the southern half of the country, with locations in the central Rocky Mountains, Texas, and Southeast falling to as many as 8 degrees below normal. In contrast, areas in the northern Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes, and mid-Atlantic Coast States recorded temperatures as many as 10 degrees above average. With the exception of coastal areas in the Pacific Northwest, much of the western half of the country was dry during the week. Elsewhere, portions

of the eastern Corn Belt, the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, New England, and Florida received more than 200 percent of their normal precipitation during the week. In Georgia, warmer temperatures and dry weather led to increased fieldwork with many producers planting their spring crops. Although nearly 20 percent of the State's corn crop was planted during the week, overall progress remained well behind last year and the 5-year average. Nearly half of the winter wheat crop was jointed and some fields have entered the boot stage. As weather conditions allowed, producers in the Northern High Plains of Texas were busy top dressing their winter wheat crop. Corn planting in the Blacklands was hampered by excessive rainfall, while a few fields along the Upper Coast were expected to recover following a recent hail storm. Despite below average soil temperatures in the Coastal Bend, sorghum producers continued to plant their crop. Winter wheat was reported in mostly good to excellent condition, with 4 percent of the crop at or beyond the jointing stage. Spring planting continued at a rapid pace in Washington. Producers in the two major producing counties had seeded 38 and 50 percent of their barley and spring wheat crops, respectively, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Emergence was evident on nearly 20 percent or more of the acreage. Freezing temperatures overnight necessitated frost protection measures for fruit and vegetable crops in the Yakima Valley. Hop plants were emerging and producers were stringing up their yards. In California, alfalfa fields were cut for hay and green chopped for silage. Some winter wheat fields were also harvested for silage. Heading was evident in other small grain crops. Rice producers continued field maintenance activities including herbicide application and straw burning. Pre-planting operations continued for a number of row crops. Orchard producers were busy harvesting grapefruit, lemons, Navel and Valencia oranges, and tangerines. Strawberry fields in the San Joaquin Valley were setting fruit, while warmer temperatures along the Central Coast aided budding in wine grape vineyards.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 4, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 4, 2010					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	28	54	13	0.10	2	0.00	-0.40	0	59	59	99
Franklin	84	28	51	11	0.33	1	0.00	-0.44	0	40	40	78
Meadville	84	28	51	12	0.30	1	0.00	-0.44	0	40	40	78
Mercer	84	29	52	11	0.34	1	0.00	-0.48	0	41	41	79
Springboro	83	26	50	10	0.34	2	0.00	-0.38	0	39	39	75
Warren	87	26	50	12	0.22	2	0.00	-0.44	0	39	39	76
North Central												
Bradford Region	82	26	49	13	0.16	1	0.00	-0.44	0	36	36	73
Oswayo	85	27	49	12	0.22	1	0.00	-0.40	0	30	30	67
Kane	83	24	47	11	0.35	1	0.00	-0.48	0	24	24	58
Laporte	75	28	48	8	1.01	4	0.01	-0.39	1	30	30	66
Lock Haven	83	36	53	11	0.52	1	0.00	-0.40	0	39	39	79
Port Allegany	85	27	50	12	0.17	1	0.00	-0.40	0	32	32	70
Renovo	87	34	53	11	1.01	1	0.00	-0.40	0	41	41	81
Ridgway	83	25	48	10	0.34	1	0.00	-0.44	0	26	26	59
Stevenson Dam	83	32	52	14	0.88	1	0.00	-0.44	0	36	36	76
Towanda	83	34	51	10	0.40	1	0.00	-0.36	0	35	35	73
Wellsboro	81	30	49	12	0.82	1	0.00	-0.28	0	32	32	72
Williamsport	81	39	56	13	0.87	2	0.00	-0.40	0	51	48	91
Northeast												
Hawley	76	31	47	8	1.93	3	0.00	-0.41	0	19	19	50
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	35	52	11	1.78	2	0.00	-0.36	0	41	41	78
Susquehanna	79	31	49	12	1.74	3	0.00	-0.45	0	28	28	63
West Central												
Butler	85	28	51	9	0.32	1	0.00	-0.44	0	34	34	72
New Castle	88	22	51	11	0.32	1	0.00	-0.40	0	39	39	78
Slippery Rock	86	27	51	11	0.32	1	0.00	-0.44	0	37	37	76
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	33	54	11	0.92	2	0.00	-0.44	0	44	41	84
DuBois	82	28	54	13	0.39	1	0.00	-0.44	0	53	53	93
Lewistown	79	38	53	9	0.93	1	0.00	-0.36	0	36	32	76
Middletown	75	40	54	8	1.11	3	0.00	-0.40	0	35	31	75
Prince Gallitzi	83	31	50	10	0.80	2	0.00	-0.56	0	32	32	70
Selinsgrove	76	36	52	9	0.91	3	0.00	-0.40	0	28	26	68
State College	83	35	54	12	0.89	2	0.00	-0.40	0	50	50	90
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	75	36	52	8	2.16	3	0.00	-0.44	0	28	25	68
Lehighton	74	33	51	7	2.22	4	0.01	-0.39	1	25	25	64
Matamoras	77	31	49	7	2.44	3	0.00	-0.48	0	24	24	59
Mt_Pocono	72	34	48	12	2.27	3	0.00	-0.50	0	27	27	60
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	33	57	14	0.56	2	0.00	-0.40	0	65	61	105
Indiana_PA	83	31	52	8	0.58	1	0.00	-0.48	0	38	35	77
Myersdale	82	30	48	7	0.83	2	0.00	-0.52	0	24	24	61
Mount Pleasant	86	27	53	13	0.53	2	0.00	-0.52	0	39	39	78
Pittsburgh Intl	85	30	55	11	0.43	1	0.00	-0.44	0	58	54	98
Connellsville	89	30	54	9	0.37	2	0.00	-0.48	0	46	42	85
Waynesburg	87	28	52	8	0.44	1	0.00	-0.48	0	36	35	74
South Central												
Biglerville	77	39	53	8	0.98	2	0.00	-0.44	0	40	36	80
Everett	83	33	51	9	0.92	1	0.00	-0.41	0	29	29	69
Hanover	76	36	53	7	1.24	3	0.00	-0.44	0	31	27	71
Harrisburg_AP	77	40	55	9	0.94	2	0.00	-0.40	0	40	36	80
South Mountain	74	33	50	7	1.11	2	0.00	-0.44	0	22	21	62
York	75	34	53	7	1.19	3	0.00	-0.47	0	28	24	68
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	34	51	7	1.78	3	0.00	-0.44	0	26	25	66
Hamburg	76	35	52	9	2.57	3	0.00	-0.47	0	33	33	73
West_Chester	74	36	51	5	2.23	3	0.00	-0.48	0	22	18	62
Lancaster	73	38	53	8	0.74	3	0.00	-0.44	0	28	24	68
Neshaminy Falls	76	37	55	10	1.86	2	0.00	-0.52	0	37	33	77
New Holland	74	34	52	7	1.44	3	0.00	-0.44	0	34	30	74
Philadelphia	74	39	54	8	2.34	3	0.00	-0.48	0	34	29	74
Philadelphia NE	74	37	53	6	3.08	4	0.01	-0.47	1	27	22	67
Reading	77	38	54	10	1.33	3	0.00	-0.48	0	38	38	78
Sellersville	74	30	50	6	2.62	3	0.00	-0.44	0	22	21	61
Willow Grove	74	38	53	8	2.88	3	0.00	-0.52	0	29	25	69

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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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 various temperatures this week. Early in the week morning temps were in the 20's and the end of the week were in the mid 40's. Daytime temperatures were in the 50's at the beginning and 70 to 80's by the end of the week. Most of the county had an inch of rainfall Sunday into Monday and some additional showers Monday into Tuesday but with little accumulation. Ground conditions are still wet but drying with the warmer temperatures. Wheat and barley are looking greener but still not doing well where the crops were underwater and drowned out last fall and winter. We do not have nearly the acreage of wheat that we normally do in the county due to wet conditions last fall. Some oats are being seeded in the county. Apple trees are being pruned and cherry trees are progressing into blooming stages. Buds are apparent on the trees now throughout the county. Overall, the producers in the county are anxiously awaiting on getting planting the corn and soybean crops for 2010 and hoping for good weather conditions.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - The last three days of the week were beautiful days to be in the field working. Producers in the county are getting equipment ready, spring plowing, and spreading of lime. It is likely that some oat planting was done.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work with only a half inch of rainfall.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - The main activity this week was the spreading of lime and fertilizer. The tillage equipment is being used for work in the fields.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - We are starting to see cows out on the pasture and farmers in the field. The weather has been unusually warm and dry for this time of year.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Mark Goodhart - The field corn planting has started due to the exceptional field conditions and weather.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Coltsfoot is blooming and alfalfa weevil larva are hatching. This is occurring too soon for any treatments. The wet soils are holding back many field operations. There are lots of manure still to haul. Some forage and oat seeding has begun.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - A sudden warm up this week has pushed the buds of the fruit ahead of normal. Apricots and pears are the most advanced as usual. Warm temperature and sunny weather in the 70's and lows in upper 40's could cause problems later if there should be a freeze. Peaches, apples, and cherries are all at risk. This week was a good one for applying fertilizer, hauling manure, and seeding oats and alfalfa.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - Farmers have begun planting oats and spreading fertilizer. The weather gave us several great days of to work in the fields. The warm days allowed for some drying of last year's lime pile to it can be spread on the fields before plowing. Currently, the lime is still too wet to spread yet.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Several Sweet Corn producers planted Sweet Corn this week. Some of their acres are under covers. This is the earliest data for sweet corn. The Amish have about 60 percent of their plowing completed. The soil temperature was 61 degrees due to the recent high temperatures with several days breaking records of 87 degrees and night temperatures of 60 degrees.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters - The county is experiencing very warm weather with the exception of a few cold and very wet early days earlier in the week. Due to a more open winter there may be some alfalfa problems but this is not yet known.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Winter grain has some small areas of winterkill. Alfalfa and clover is emerging and looking good. The main activities for the week were spraying, spreading manure and fertilizer, plowing and sowing oats.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - The dry weather made for excellent field conditions toward the end of the week. Most field work centered around manure spreading, oats and alfalfa seeding, and primary tillage.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (NR) Tom Sierzega - There were very warm and dry conditions in the past week which allowed for much drying of soil to occur. Farmers are able to get into many fields to start spring activities.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 4, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	18	23	18
Oats, planted	14	0	10
Tobacco beds, planted	20	15	3
Peaches, in pink	15	0	6
Cherries, in pink	17	0	5

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 4, 2010

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	33	54	9
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	24	60	14
Timothy clover stand	1	3	15	70	11
Pasture	4	8	39	39	10

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