



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 23, 2010

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had a total of 4 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: plowing, planting corn, potatoes and soybeans, and cutting dry hay, ryeleg and haylage. Spring plowing continues, and is 91% completed, behind last year's estimate and the five year average of 92%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 23, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent 0	Percent 4	Percent 78	Percent 18

Crop Progress: Corn is 81% planted, well ahead of last year's 69% and the average of 77%. Corn emergence is 42%, compared to 41% last year and the 46% average. Corn is 4 inches tall, compared to last year's 3 inch, and the 5 year average of 2 inch. Barley is 92% headed, ahead of last year's 90%, and behind the average estimate of 93%. Barley is 30% yellow, which is ahead of last year's 26% and the average of 16%. Winter Wheat is 80% headed, ahead of both last year's estimate and the average of 66%. Eighty-nine percent of oats have emerged which is behind last year's estimate of 92%, yet ahead of the average of 88%. Soybeans are 54% planted, ahead of both last year's 45% and the average of 49%. Soybeans are 21% emerged, ahead of last year's 18%, and the average of 16%. Tobacco is 15% transplanted into fields, which is behind last year's 19%, and the average of 25%. Potatoes are 87% planted, ahead of both last year's 69% and the average of 74%. Alfalfa first cutting is 44% complete which is ahead of last year's estimate of 40% and the average of 32%. Timothy/Clover first cutting is 21% complete, compared to 18% last year, and the average of 11%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn condition is 2% poor, 20% fair, 57% good, and 21% excellent. Wheat condition is 0% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 58% good, and 23% excellent. Oat condition is 1% poor, 14% fair, 67% good, and 18% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 53% good, and 27% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 0% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 63% good, and 20% excellent. The quality of hay made is 3% poor, 30% fair, 39% good, and 28% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 2% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 56% good and 20% excellent. Peach conditions are 3% fair, 56% good, and 41% excellent. Apples condition is 27% fair, 60% good, and 13% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 16, 2010: With the exception of the Southeast, Delta, much of Texas, and portions of the Pacific Northwest, temperatures across the country was abnormally cool during the week. Most notably, average temperatures in areas of the central Rocky Mountains and Great Plains, as well as in the Northeast dipped to as many as 10 degrees or more below normal, slowing the emergence of some spring-planted crops.

Persistent rainstorms delivered precipitation totaling 400 percent or more above normal to areas in the Rocky Mountains, Corn Belt, and Texas, improving soil moisture levels in places and causing localized flooding in others. **Corn:** Nationally, corn producers had planted 87 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 26 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. With below average temperatures and above average precipitation restricting the number of days suitable for fieldwork during the week, planting progress was limited to 5 percentage points or less in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota, 4 of the 5 largest corn-producing States. Emergence had advanced to 55 percent complete by May 16, well ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Despite cooler temperatures, double-digit emergence was evident across much of the major corn-producing region during the week. Overall, 67 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 38 percent of the 2010 soybean crop was planted, 15 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. While planting progress in Iowa, the largest soybean-producing State, surpassed the halfway point during the week, producers in some northernmost areas of Indiana were expecting to replant a small portion of their soybean crop because of frost damage incurred during recent cold spells. Overall, emergence advanced 6 percentage points during the week, leaving progress, at 13 percent complete, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. **Winter Wheat:** By May 16, heading of the winter wheat crop had advanced to 52 percent complete, slightly behind last year and 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Despite rapid head development in Kansas and Texas, the two largest winter wheat-producing States, overall progress remained slightly behind normal. Overall, 66 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 18 percentage points better than ratings from this time last year. In Texas, high temperatures and strong winds burned a portion of the winter wheat crop in the Northern High Plains, while some producers in the Southern High Plains cut and baled their crop. **Small Grains:** Producers had seeded 92 percent of the Nation's oat crop by week's end, 6 percentage points ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. With the exception of the Dakotas, seeding was nearly complete across much of the major growing region. Despite progress of 24 percentage points during the week, overall progress in North Dakota remained nearly one week behind normal. Nationally, 81 percent of the oat crop had emerged, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 78 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from ratings last week and 32 percentage points better than this time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 23, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 23, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	45	61	3	0.73	4	5.85	0.15	24	370	187	798
Franklin	80	44	59	2	1.24	4	7.10	0.84	22	318	137	747
Meadville	79	45	59	2	1.31	4	6.59	0.55	23	308	155	731
Mercer	79	46	59	2	1.52	5	6.62	0.55	23	340	151	780
Springboro	78	42	57	-2	0.88	4	6.46	1.01	23	278	83	658
Warren	83	42	58	0	0.96	4	6.15	-0.22	20	276	106	686
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	38	56	3	0.63	3	4.92	-1.32	21	231	125	586
Oswayo	83	34	56	2	0.74	4	5.98	0.19	23	193	59	535
Kane	79	38	56	3	0.67	3	5.34	-1.24	19	186	84	531
Laporte	79	42	57	-2	0.22	4	5.28	-0.89	31	275	85	666
Lock Haven	85	43	61	2	0.77	3	4.98	-0.78	16	376	161	844
Port Allegany	82	38	57	3	0.66	3	5.47	-0.32	21	226	92	597
Renovo	86	42	60	2	0.88	4	5.66	-0.10	19	349	134	815
Ridgway	82	42	57	3	0.93	3	6.53	-0.09	20	224	100	606
Stevenson Dam	85	42	59	4	0.84	3	5.53	-1.09	16	287	163	734
Towanda	83	39	59	2	0.16	2	3.92	-1.51	18	292	96	723
Wellsboro	80	38	57	3	0.54	3	4.86	0.16	20	231	123	619
Williamsport	87	44	63	3	0.29	3	4.66	-1.36	16	497	227	995
Northeast												
Hawley	84	37	58	2	0.88	2	5.72	-0.64	18	243	108	637
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	44	62	2	0.32	2	3.78	-1.84	19	411	177	861
Susquehanna	83	39	60	5	0.56	2	4.77	-1.80	23	280	159	700
West Central												
Butler	78	44	59	0	1.60	5	6.35	0.19	23	311	104	750
New Castle	79	44	61	2	1.38	4	6.55	0.99	22	367	168	821
Slippery Rock	83	43	59	2	1.02	4	6.12	0.33	22	340	163	791
Central												
Altoona/Blair	79	48	60	-1	1.78	3	7.85	2.03	19	411	162	871
DuBois	80	45	58	0	1.35	4	5.81	-0.42	21	356	173	797
Lewistown	84	50	62	0	1.53	3	5.90	-0.03	20	402	108	893
Middletown	84	49	63	1	0.56	3	6.59	0.21	16	514	174	1,025
Prince Gallitzi	80	46	58	2	1.40	3	6.89	-0.84	22	272	110	701
Selingsgrove	85	48	61	2	0.35	2	4.03	-1.94	15	364	120	843
State College	82	47	60	0	1.00	2	4.61	-0.91	18	407	176	875
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	87	47	62	2	0.81	3	7.25	0.59	18	429	143	909
Lehighton	83	46	62	1	0.34	2	6.45	-0.08	17	383	112	856
Matamoras	85	41	60	0	0.81	2	5.21	-1.97	15	306	82	743
Mt_Pocono	80	42	58	4	1.16	2	6.07	-1.41	18	303	202	715
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	49	62	2	2.08	5	5.96	-0.38	20	538	285	1,011
Indiana_PA	79	46	58	-2	1.71	5	7.00	0.13	22	329	85	778
Myersdale	76	39	54	-5	2.16	5	7.35	0.18	24	206	0	602
Mount Pleasant	79	48	60	3	1.28	4	6.48	-0.71	21	397	229	843
Pittsburgh Intl	79	48	61	0	2.06	6	5.84	0.06	20	499	223	968
Connellsville	82	48	61	-1	1.99	5	7.38	0.43	25	463	173	932
Waynesburg	78	48	60	2	1.61	5	5.91	-0.48	20	402	169	852
South Central												
Biglerville	85	48	62	-2	0.40	2	4.37	-1.75	14	454	115	945
Everett	80	45	58	-2	1.28	3	6.88	0.81	20	316	83	771
Hanover	85	47	61	-2	1.08	3	4.43	-1.69	17	468	129	956
Harrisburg_AP	84	49	63	0	0.92	3	6.85	0.47	16	510	164	1,014
South Mountain	79	46	58	-3	1.56	4	5.53	-0.29	17	322	80	768
York	85	48	62	-2	0.91	3	4.66	-1.65	16	444	95	927
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	48	62	2	0.75	4	5.26	-1.48	18	456	191	956
Hamburg	86	48	63	4	0.43	2	6.59	-0.87	14	461	248	955
West_Chester	88	48	62	-2	0.92	3	5.76	-1.32	15	427	96	917
Lancaster	87	49	63	2	0.29	2	4.55	-1.71	15	462	172	953
Neshaminy Falls	88	48	63	2	0.95	3	5.06	-2.31	17	471	189	978
New Holland	85	49	63	2	0.29	2	5.18	-1.08	17	484	194	974
Philadelphia	87	51	65	2	0.71	3	4.98	-1.43	18	637	259	1,164
Philadelphia NE	86	50	64	-1	0.65	3	4.59	-1.82	28	555	177	1,073
Reading	88	50	64	3	0.44	3	6.84	-0.19	16	537	267	1,046
Sellersville	86	47	61	0	0.94	3	6.01	-0.73	18	405	140	879
Willow Grove	86	48	62	1	0.90	3	4.44	-2.93	17	516	234	1,025

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) - Corn and soybeans that were planted earlier are now emerged, and are about 2-4 inches high. Each sunny day you can see more crops emerging. Wheat and barley are headed. Some wheat that was planted later isn't looking good. Wheat and barley for silage were chopped last past week. Haylage continues to be chopped. Oats are looking pretty good. Producers will be starting dry, baled hay pretty soon when the weather permits. Fieldwork will be delayed a little from this weekend's rainfall. Apples are about the size of a 50 cent piece down to thumbnail size. Peaches are formed, and are growing. Some tart cherries can be seen. The earlier cold temperatures will have an effect on the yield for tart cherries. Vegetables are being planted, and strawberries are being picked. Everything is still 2-3 weeks ahead of normal.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Growers are now actively thinning peaches. It appears as though we have a full crop. The state may actually increase its volume over last year's full crop, due to the increase in the amount of bearing surface. Apples appear to have a full crop, except for some blocks of Red and Golden Delicious. Thinners seem to be working and there has been rapid fruit growth.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - The field work continued between showers. There was 1.5 inches of rain in my gage for the week. The first cutting of grass hay and alfalfa was short. The unusual early spring warmth that accelerated fruit blossoms and the subsequent frost/freeze conditions has brought uncertainty to our fruit industry. These conditions are starting to show their adverse effects on Strawberries. Stone fruit and apple producers have not reported any loss yet. It is anticipated that our unusual spring weather will have an impact on those crops as well.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - The orchard and other mixed grasses are heading. Farmers are harvesting the hay as haylage. The previous freezing temperatures frost affected the apple, peach, and strawberry crops. The rainy days have stopped spring planting. There are reports of corn seed rotting in the ground.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Cooler and damper conditions last week slowed field work. There were about four days that were workable. Mowing forage, primarily for silage, has started. Planting soybeans has just begun. Pastures are in good condition. Grazers are rotating cattle to get the best utilization from their grasses.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - It was a tough week for hay making. The forage harvest is nearly complete for the first cutting of alfalfa, which the majority of it was harvested as haylage. The dry hay harvest is waiting for sufficient drying weather. Some growers cut hay late last week, but the weekend showers ruined these efforts. All other field crops are looking good.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The wet and cool weather early in the week held up hay making. The heavy rains on Saturday night caused some surface erosion and flooding of low lying areas. There were some grass silage and hay making toward end of week, but quality was not great.

The corn and soybean planting continued last week. Most full season corn is now planted. Wheat is shaping up to be a good crop. Pastures have now fully recovered from the winter damage.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - We had over 0.8 inches of rain this past week. We got some oats and corn sprayed. We are almost done planting corn and have started planting soybeans. We hope to plant some more beans this week. We are looking to get the disc-bine out, and maybe cut some hay this week too. The weather looks to be promising.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Growers in the northeastern counties continue to report heavy losses of tree fruit due to freeze damage. The Central Susquehanna Valley tree fruit crop came through the cold weather with minimal damage.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill (EXT) - Tobacco planting is proceeding rapidly. The full season soybean planting is finishing. We will probably see some direct cut barley beginning next week.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST - On Saturday we had 0.7 inches of rainfall and 0.6 inches earlier in the week. The topsoil has a surplus of moisture. It looks like it will dry out this week. A lot of hay was cut on Sunday and Monday morning.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Growers are concerned that the rain showers have been missing Schuylkill County lately. This past weekend, there were several days of forecasted rain and very few areas benefitted from significant rainfall. Pear producers report that there will be a very light harvest in 2010. Light bloom, poor pollination weather, and subsequent frosts have pretty much wiped out the 2010 crop.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Recent warm temperatures have made an improvement on the color of the corn. There is some evidence of slug damage. Soybeans have emerged, but it is too early to assess the stand. Haymaking has started. A few pastures are very weedy, and mowing has begun. Main activities for the week were planting, spraying and haymaking.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA) - Field conditions vary widely throughout the county. Crops are planted and corn is up in some spots where soils are well drained. Crops have yet to be planted where soils are heavier and poorly drained.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - It was another wet, cold week that made for almost no planting progress. The hay harvest was limited to chopping and not baling. Planted crops are languishing waiting on warmer conditions.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - The very wet conditions this past week have slowed corn and soybean planting. The wetness is starting to show a negative effect on corn and soybeans. Hay is getting behind its prime due to wetness.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 23, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	91	92	92
Corn, planted	81	69	77
Corn, emerged	42	41	46
Corn average height, inches	4	3	2
Barley, heading or headed	92	90	93
Barley, turning yellow	30	26	16
Wheat, heading or headed	80	66	66
Oats, emerged	89	92	88
Soybeans, planted	54	45	49
Soybeans, emerged	21	18	16
Tobacco, transplanted	15	19	25
Potatoes, planted	87	69	74
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	44	40	32
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	21	18	11

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 23, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	2	20	57	21
Wheat	0	1	18	58	23
Oats	0	1	14	67	18
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	18	53	27
Timothy clover stand	0	2	15	63	20
Quality of hay made	0	3	30	39	28
Pasture	2	2	20	56	20
Peaches	0	0	3	56	41
Apples	0	0	27	60	13

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