



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending May 1, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 2, 2011, 4 pm

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

## Very Poor Week for Field Work:

Yet, there was another week of heavy rainfall throughout much of Pennsylvania. Some of the storms produced flooding rains, and high winds. A tornado was reported in Central Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had an average of 1 day suitable for field work. The day or 2 of sunshine did not seem to dry the fields out enough to get field work going strong. Primary field activities for the week included moving cattle around, some seeding of no till oats, and some pesticide spraying. Spring plowing was at a standstill and remains 14% complete, well behind the 71% last year and the five year average of 68%.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 1, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	13	87

## Crop Progress:

Barley progress is 14% headed, which is well behind last year's 52% and the 5-year average of 30%. Winter Wheat is about the same as last week at 12% headed which is above the 5-year average of 7%. Oats are 9% planted, well behind last year's 81% and the average of 77%. Tobacco beds are 90% planted, which is behind last year's 100%, but ahead of the average of 89%. Peaches are 99% pink, behind last year's 100%, and ahead of the average of 98%. Peaches are 95% in full bloom or past, behind last year's 99%, and ahead of the average of 88%. Cherries are 98% in pink, below last year's 100%, and ahead of the average of 89%. Cherries are 95% in full bloom or past, behind last year's 100%, and ahead of the 5 year average of 89%. Apples are 78% in pink, below last year's 99%, and behind the average of 86%. Apples are 70% in full bloom or past, behind last year's 99%, and behind the 5 year average of 73%.

## Crop Condition:

State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 35% fair, 53% good, and 6% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 55% good, and 19% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 14% fair, 59% good, and 22% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 4% very poor, 15% poor, 30% fair, 35% good and 16% excellent.

## Nationwide as of April 24, 2011:

Cool, wet weather blanketed much of the northern half of the United States during the week, limiting spring planting in many areas while compounding the effects of local flooding in others. Temperatures averaged as much as 15°F below normal on northern Great Plains. Conversely, hot, dry weather in the southern half of the country favored summer row crop planting, but worsened already limited soil moisture availability from the southern Great Plains into the western Delta.

## Corn:

by April 24, producers had planted 9 percent of the nation's corn crop, 37 percentage points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. Continued wet weather and localized flooding throughout much of the Corn Belt hampered fieldwork, limiting planting progress to 2 percent or less in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska—four of the five largest corn-producing states. In Minnesota, planting had not yet begun.

## Winter Wheat:

Nationally, 23 percent of the winter wheat crop was headed by week's end, 9 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures continued to promote the rapid development of the crop in Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas. Overall, 35 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 34 percentage points below the same time last year.

## Small Grains:

Nationwide, 41 percent of the oat crop was seeded by April 24, thirty-four percentage points behind last year, 18 points behind the 5-year average, and the slowest pace since 2003. With wet weather limiting fieldwork, progress in five of the nine major estimating states was 41 percentage points or more behind last year and 26 points or more behind normal. Emergence advanced to 31 percent by week's end, 16 percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Fifteen percent of the barley crop was seeded by week's end, 21 percentage points behind last year and 13 points behind the 5-year average. With the exception of Idaho, where—despite wet fields—producers managed to seed 10 percent of their crop, progress was well behind both last year and normal in all estimating states.

### Weather Data For Week Ending May 1, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 1, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	84	32	55	6	1.40	3	6.37	3.02	21	101	64	282
Franklin_AG	83	35	57	7	1.29	6	9.37	5.72	22	102	66	281
Meadville-Port	80	34	57	9	1.20	6	7.86	4.45	24	116	90	293
Mercer	81	34	57	7	1.29	7	7.37	3.88	26	102	65	301
Springboro	80	30	54	4	1.73	6	8.44	5.19	24	73	32	235
Warren	83	35	56	7	1.17	6	8.75	5.10	24	88	60	253
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	77	34	55	9	1.61	6	7.60	4.10	23	74	59	202
Oswayo	80	38	55	7	1.69	5	7.10	3.84	20	52	30	192
Kane	80	32	55	9	1.90	6	9.81	6.05	23	61	47	196
Laporte	76	38	56	6	4.47	6	11.57	8.18	23	57	11	192
Lock Haven	85	44	62	11	2.66	4	7.90	4.71	19	118	68	319
Port Allegany	80	37	56	8	2.29	6	8.44	5.18	23	70	48	211
Renovo	84	42	61	9	3.93	6	9.86	6.67	23	114	64	310
Ridgway	81	37	56	9	1.75	6	8.44	4.88	24	84	66	246
Stevenson Dam	78	40	58	10	4.43	6	11.39	7.83	23	88	70	262
Towanda	82	40	58	8	4.38	6	10.44	7.43	20	86	40	260
Wellsboro	79	38	56	9	3.94	6	9.33	6.89	21	61	44	185
Williamsport	82	44	62	10	2.79	5	10.10	6.76	21	136	61	359
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	82	35	58	10	2.40	6	7.86	4.31	22	78	55	242
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	43	62	10	2.72	6	6.51	3.43	22	140	85	348
Susquehanna	81	38	58	11	3.93	6	8.32	4.58	21	74	55	239
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	82	41	60	9	1.63	7	7.56	4.24	22	127	78	340
New Castle	83	35	57	7	1.55	7	7.28	4.15	22	117	81	336
Slippery Rock	82	34	58	8	1.19	6	7.79	4.54	19	115	84	325
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	85	39	63	10	2.78	3	7.77	4.49	20	168	101	387
DuBois	79	36	58	9	2.02	6	8.17	4.71	24	119	85	295
Lewistown	85	45	64	11	2.11	4	7.65	4.59	16	151	64	376
Middletown	83	45	65	10	2.01	4	9.58	6.21	18	189	84	452
Prince Gallitzi	80	35	59	10	1.37	7	7.49	3.10	21	121	89	298
Selingsgrove	82	43	62	10	3.08	5	8.41	5.12	22	124	59	338
State College	84	41	62	10	1.18	5	5.71	2.70	17	125	73	325
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	83	42	65	12	1.23	4	6.00	2.35	18	171	95	413
Lehighton	82	42	63	9	1.70	5	6.97	3.57	18	120	51	344
Matamoras	84	36	60	8	1.21	5	6.46	2.36	20	97	43	289
Mt_Pocono	78	39	59	13	2.04	4	9.07	4.87	19	94	79	262
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	39	62	10	0.38	7	5.84	2.50	25	213	145	462
Indiana_PA	81	34	62	10	1.56	6	7.74	3.96	24	170	106	387
Myersdale	81	37	57	7	1.30	5	6.80	2.71	22	105	59	284
Mount Pleasant	82	37	61	11	1.31	6	7.35	3.11	22	150	120	374
Pittsburgh Intl	84	35	61	8	0.57	6	5.13	1.87	21	206	128	453
Connellsville	86	38	63	9	1.15	7	7.17	3.23	27	187	105	428
Waynesburg	85	35	61	9	0.91	6	7.55	3.96	22	164	106	406
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	84	44	65	10	3.61	3	10.24	6.76	13	172	67	420
Everett	85	40	62	10	1.84	4	7.22	3.77	19	139	82	358
Hanover	85	45	67	11	1.59	3	7.15	3.67	18	198	93	441
Harrisburg_AP	84	46	67	12	2.84	5	10.70	7.33	19	200	92	461
South Mountain	81	37	62	10	2.43	3	8.73	5.45	17	137	73	347
York	85	43	66	12	0.98	2	6.61	2.90	16	210	102	469
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	82	42	65	12	1.73	6	6.84	3.01	20	171	102	420
Hamburg	82	43	65	14	2.22	5	7.57	3.62	19	156	108	394
West_Chester	86	39	65	11	0.15	1	5.14	1.17	13	184	84	437
Lancaster	82	44	66	12	2.04	4	6.25	2.70	17	194	114	448
Neshaminy Falls	87	40	65	12	0.75	2	6.61	2.48	12	210	132	461
New Holland	82	44	66	12	1.50	3	7.11	3.56	16	170	90	415
Philadelphia	85	46	68	12	0.06	2	5.28	1.53	14	260	141	538
Philadelphia NE	85	43	68	12	1.50	3	7.05	3.30	15	234	115	505
Reading	84	45	67	14	1.54	6	6.13	2.18	19	212	144	478
Sellersville	83	40	65	12	1.66	5	6.80	2.97	19	166	97	396
Willow Grove	82	43	66	13	0.78	4	6.11	1.98	18	194	116	457

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)**

Early Thursday morning there were strong thunderstorms, and the majority of the county received at least 3" of rainfall within a short period of time. Around lunchtime that day, it finally cleared out and was sunny into the 70's. Our county is very wet, and farmers are just getting into some light fieldwork. Wheat, barley, oats and triticale are now looking better with the sunshine and warm temperatures we had last week. Triticale is about knee high, and will pose a concern for harvesting if it stays wet. Some wheat was topdressed last week before the rains. Producers had to be careful as to how much fertilizer they loaded in their spreaders due to excess weight and wet field conditions. No corn or soybeans have been planted yet. Cherries, peaches etc. are all in full bloom. Some early varieties of apples are also now in bloom. The fruit growers are busy spraying and trying to not rut up their orchards. They are also preparing for the Annual Apple Blossom Festival, which will be held May 7-8 near Arendtsville. Not many vegetables have been planted due to wet soil conditions. The producers are eager to get started with planting, but the weather and soil conditions are not cooperating. Hopefully we will get some warmer and dry days so they can get started.

### **BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)**

Our soils are still too wet to get much field work done. Towards the end of the week some of the drier farms were able to spread fertilizer and spray wheat. No field corn planted yet, and very little sweet corn in the ground, which is about two weeks later than average.

### **CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)**

Again, very little field work was completed this week. We had only two days (Monday and Saturday) that were warm and sunny, but it wasn't enough to dry out the fields. We will get one sunny day and then 4 days of rain. Amazingly, approximately 60 acres of oats got planted this last week. Other activities this week included general maintenance, machine repair, manual hauling, spreading of fertilizer, and a little plowing. The end planting date for oats is fast approaching (May 10), and it is projected to rain all week -- again.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Cold, wet conditions are slowing spring planting and crop growth. We need some dry, warm weather to get corn and soybeans in the ground and germinated.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA)**

Many streams are flooded. Rivers are flooding also. The ground is saturated. Fields in low areas are flooded. Farmers are spreading manure as needed. Some farmers did some very minimal spring tilling. It is still too wet to do anything.

### **CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)**

The fields are still saturated with the constant rains, making it almost impossible to do any field work. Yards were mowed over the weekend, but that was about it for any activity.

### **ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA)**

The vineyards and orchards are totally saturated. The tree fruits do have green tissue and a producer has reported spraying. Another producer reported that he is due to put fungicide and insecticide on, but cannot get equipment into the fields. The warm, damp weather is very favorable for the development of disease. The grape buds have become swollen and fuzzy, but no green tissue is showing. Fruit is OK at this time, but we do not need any more moisture. Some producers reported being 16 days behind last year's start. Producers also indicate that they have never seen so much water standing in the vineyards. One producer said "We have deep, gravelly loam soil and can usually get in the fields when other farmers cannot, but this spring it is too wet even for us."

### **FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas**

Most of the operators in this area tried to run at least one day this week. I seriously doubt if the soil conditions during that day could have been classified better than "should not be here".

### **INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff**

Well, it was another week of rain and not being able to get much plowing done. We had another 1" of rain this past week. If it is going to be nice weather, there is going to be a lot of long days to get all of the plowing done. They will be planting oats, corn, and soybeans around the clock. The only good thing is that all of this rain is making the grass grow for hay making in June. Have a great and safe work week!

### **LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler (FSA)**

A couple of warm, breezy, and sunny days started the drying out process in the fields. Rye was mowed for forage early in the week. A series of storms from Tuesday night through Friday caused a setback. The storms contained high winds and tornados. A storm Tuesday night in the northeast part of the county downed trees in cropland and destroyed a maintenance shed. Thursday morning, a tornado with winds exceeding 100 miles per hour destroyed a dairy barn, a cattle barn and severely damaged chicken houses. This was in the northwest section of the county. No livestock was lost, but debris is scattered everywhere. The rain that accompanied the system saturated the ground again. Burn down of cover crop was started in fields where spray trucks were able to get in. The rye cut for forage earlier in the week was harvested. Some planting of corn has been completed.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

The first field corn was planted on Saturday in our area. Also, the first sweet corn was planted on Saturday. Farmers had to be very selective to find fields to work in. We received more rain on Sunday, with more in the forecast for Monday.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)**

Wet field conditions continue to delay field work. Between 0.25 and 1.50 inches of rain fell Thursday, putting an end to most field work for the week. No field corn has been planted; a few farmers got their first sweet corn planted Wednesday. Hay fields and small grains have grown significantly as a result of the warmer weather. The demand for hay has slowed, since livestock are now on pasture. Straw supplies are still tight. Rye is beginning to head, and straw harvest is a couple weeks away.

### **PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT)**

Heavy rain again prevented field work for another week. Field operations are up to 4 weeks behind schedule due to the incessant, heavy rainfall. Farmers are transferring manure from storages at capacity to other farm's storages that have some excess capacity, because it is impossible to field apply manure due to saturated soils. Pasture grass finally started to take advantage of the soil moisture and grew several inches this week, due to the warm overnight temperatures. Several barns in the county lost sections of their roofs and framing from the severe storm very early on Thursday, April 28, 2011.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

Last week was another week of heavy rainfall of over three inches. The winter grain in poorly drained areas is beginning to turn yellow. Hay fields, as well as the rye fields have made significant growth in the past week, and some are nearly ready to be harvested. Very little field work has been completed.

### **SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney**

We still have lots of rain. Ground conditions are still too wet to do anything. Even pasturing is not a good option.

### **TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA)**

We are saturated to the point many areas are flooded. We received 5-6" of rain on 4-26 and 4-27. There was one report of a tornado touching down in the northwest part of our county on 4-27. Rain is predicted for the first week or so of May. No plowing or field work has been started. Manure pits are in danger of going over. We need dry weather and sunshine.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)**

Last week was another week with no planting or tillage progress. Some spraying and fertilizer application happened on better drained fields. Very little additional oats will be planted now that we have reached May and into prime corn planting time

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 1, 2011**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	14	71	14
Barley, heading or headed	14	52	30
Wheat, heading or headed	12	0	7
Oats, planted	9	81	77
Tobacco beds, planted	90	100	89
Peaches, in pink	99	100	98
Peaches, in full bloom or past	95	99	88
Cherries, in pink	98	100	95
Cherries, in full bloom or past	95	100	89
Apples, in pink	78	99	86
Apples, in full bloom or past	70	99	73

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 1, 2011**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	5	35	53	6
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	20	55	19
Timothy clover stand	1	4	14	59	22
Pasture	4	15	30	35	16

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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