



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending May 8, 2011

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**Fair Week for Field Work:**

The overall situation improved throughout Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had an average of 3 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities for the week included spraying, manure spreading, planting corn and potatoes as well as cutting rye and alfalfa. Spring plowing moved on and is 29% complete, well behind the 78% last year and the five year average of 78%.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 8, 2011**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	37	63

**Crop Progress:**

Corn planting has finally begun, and is 10%, compared to 52% last year, and the five year average of 44%. Barley is 51% headed, which is well behind last year's 72% and the 5-year average of 59%. Barley is 6% yellow, compared to the five year average of 2%. Winter wheat is about the same as last week at 19% headed, which is ahead of last year's 17% and above the 5-year average of 18%. Oats are 32% planted, well behind last year's 91% and the average of 88%. Oats are 9% emerged, well behind last year's 66%, and the average of 49%. Tobacco beds are 98% planted, which is behind last year's 100%, but ahead of the average of 91%. Potato planting has also begun, and is 9% completed, compared to last year's 49%, and the average of 40%. Apples are 100% in pink, which is the same as last year and the average. Apples are 96% in full bloom or past, behind last year's 100%, and ahead of the 5 year average of 91%.

**Crop Condition:**

State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 50% good, and 23% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 54% good, and 23% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 69% good, and 14% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 2% very poor, 11% poor, 26% fair, 44% good and 17% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 79% good and 21% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 3% fair, 73% good and 24% excellent.

**Nationwide as of May 1, 2011:**

Temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal in areas along the Atlantic Coast, while many areas west of the Mississippi River were cooler than normal. Most notably, portions of the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains experienced temperatures more than 10°F below average. A strong storm system brought heavy rainfall, localized flooding, and several tornadoes to parts of the Delta and Southeast late in the week.

Much of the northern Delta and southern Corn Belt received rainfall totaling 6 inches or more. Conversely, the Southwest remained dry.

**Corn:**

Producers planted 4 percent of this year's corn crop during the week, leaving progress—at 13 percent, 53 percentage points, or over 2 weeks, behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Little progress was made in the Corn Belt, Great Lakes region, and the Ohio Valley, as rain-drenched fields prevented much planting. Planting in twelve of the eighteen major estimating states was 20 percentage points or more behind normal. By week's end, 5 percent of the corn crop was emerged, 13 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average.

**Winter Wheat:**

By May 1, heading of the winter wheat crop had advanced to 33 percent complete, 7 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 34 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. The most significant decline was evident in Washington, where mold negatively impacted a portion of the crop.

**Small Grains:**

Oat seeding advanced 4 percentage points during the week to 45 percent complete by May 1. This was 37 percentage points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Persistently wet weather in the major producing areas continued to limit the number of days suitable for fieldwork. Thirty-five percent of the crop was emerged by week's end, 24 percentage points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delays were evident in Minnesota and Wisconsin, where progress was 57 and 51 points behind last year and 22 and 20 points behind the 5-year average, respectively. Nationwide, barley producers had seeded 18 percent of the nation's crop by week's end, 33 percentage points behind last year and 25 points behind the 5-year average. In North Dakota, the largest barley-producing state, seeding had yet to begin—as weekend rain, snow, and low temperatures further delayed the start of fieldwork. By May 1, emergence was evident in 6 percent of the nation's barley fields, 10 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. In Minnesota, emergence had yet to begin and was well behind both last year and normal. Ten percent of the spring wheat crop was seeded by May 1, 47 percentage points behind last year and 33 points behind the 5 year average. Progress was well behind both last year and normal in all major estimating states, as wet conditions and unusually low temperatures limited seeding.

### Weather Data For Week Ending May 8, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 8, 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	65	38	49	-4	1.33	4	7.70	3.63	25	113	44	349
Franklin_AG	68	32	50	-4	1.16	4	10.53	6.08	26	116	48	351
Meadville-Port	66	37	50	-2	1.27	5	9.13	4.93	29	134	81	368
Mercer	66	34	51	-3	1.20	5	8.57	4.31	31	121	50	378
Springboro	65	31	49	-5	1.52	5	9.96	6.01	29	85	10	299
Warren	67	34	49	-4	1.53	5	10.28	5.79	29	99	40	321
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	61	29	46	-4	1.63	5	9.23	4.89	28	77	43	250
Oswayo	67	28	48	-3	1.34	4	8.44	4.41	24	63	17	255
Kane	64	29	47	-3	1.76	4	11.57	6.97	27	67	35	249
Laporte	72	36	51	-4	2.31	4	13.88	9.65	27	77	-2	269
Lock Haven	71	37	55	0	1.08	4	8.98	5.02	23	157	69	423
Port Allegany	65	29	48	-3	1.49	5	9.32	5.29	28	66	20	260
Renovo	71	36	54	-2	0.58	5	10.44	6.48	28	147	59	407
Ridgway	68	30	49	-2	1.27	3	9.71	5.24	27	95	54	311
Stevenson Dam	69	35	52	2	0.46	3	11.85	7.38	26	108	67	348
Towanda	70	36	52	-2	1.62	4	12.06	8.28	24	110	30	345
Wellsboro	63	35	49	-2	0.77	5	10.10	7.00	26	69	33	247
Williamsport	78	38	56	1	1.61	3	11.71	7.55	24	183	61	473
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	78	31	52	0	1.10	3	8.96	4.55	25	104	57	326
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	79	38	55	0	1.70	3	8.21	4.36	25	184	87	455
Susquehanna	67	35	51	2	1.17	3	9.49	4.87	24	96	56	321
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	70	36	53	-2	0.93	5	8.49	4.33	27	156	71	431
New Castle	70	31	51	-3	1.09	4	8.37	4.50	26	139	66	416
Slippery Rock	69	32	51	-3	1.23	6	9.02	5.00	25	135	72	403
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	78	39	55	0	1.27	4	9.04	4.99	24	211	101	496
DuBois	69	31	50	-4	0.92	3	9.09	4.79	27	135	67	370
Lewistown	78	39	56	-2	1.88	5	9.53	5.62	21	191	53	486
Middletown	79	40	58	-1	0.89	4	10.47	6.19	22	245	82	578
Prince Gallitzi	72	33	53	1	0.46	4	7.95	2.51	25	155	93	390
Selinsgrove	78	39	55	-1	2.57	6	10.98	6.88	28	163	56	443
State College	75	40	55	1	0.95	4	6.66	2.89	21	171	77	437
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	82	36	57	1	0.58	3	6.58	2.02	21	223	97	534
Lehighton	80	37	56	-1	0.83	3	7.97	3.62	21	163	45	453
Matamoras	79	30	53	-3	0.88	2	7.34	2.26	22	127	34	379
Mt_Pocono	75	37	52	3	1.00	3	10.07	4.84	22	123	91	349
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	38	54	-3	0.92	6	6.76	2.51	31	248	136	560
Indiana_PA	72	34	52	-4	1.00	6	8.74	4.02	30	199	92	475
Myersdale	77	31	50	-4	0.32	3	7.12	2.05	25	128	45	360
Mount Pleasant	73	35	53	1	0.92	6	8.27	3.10	28	181	120	467
Pittsburgh Intl	72	35	53	-3	0.97	6	6.10	2.07	27	241	115	549
Connellsville	74	35	54	-3	0.96	6	8.13	3.28	33	223	91	529
Waynesburg	78	32	54	-2	0.96	5	8.51	4.07	27	198	99	503
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	81	39	57	-2	0.80	3	11.04	6.72	16	221	58	539
Everett	80	35	53	-2	0.91	3	8.13	3.84	22	166	68	452
Hanover	81	37	57	-2	0.70	5	7.85	3.53	23	246	83	558
Harrisburg_AP	81	39	58	0	0.78	5	11.48	7.20	24	257	91	588
South Mountain	78	35	53	-2	0.83	4	9.56	5.51	21	168	62	442
York	81	36	56	-3	0.66	3	7.27	2.73	19	257	88	586
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	81	39	57	2	0.89	3	7.73	2.96	23	225	109	543
Hamburg	79	38	57	3	0.72	4	8.29	3.27	23	206	120	512
West_Chester	84	35	57	-2	0.86	3	6.00	1.05	16	236	80	557
Lancaster	79	38	57	0	0.51	4	6.76	2.37	21	245	115	567
Neshaminy Falls	84	36	59	3	0.78	2	7.39	2.24	14	274	147	595
New Holland	78	42	57	1	0.67	4	7.78	3.39	20	223	93	536
Philadelphia	83	46	61	3	0.47	2	5.75	1.14	16	340	157	688
Philadelphia NE	82	40	59	0	0.64	2	7.69	3.08	17	301	118	642
Reading	81	39	59	3	0.61	4	6.74	1.81	23	274	159	610
Sellersville	82	35	56	-1	1.02	3	7.82	3.05	22	210	94	508
Willow Grove	81	41	58	2	0.77	3	6.88	1.73	21	253	126	586

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 Behney (FSA)**

Overall, the county is behind normal for planting of spring crops. This is due to the very wet spring that we have had this year. Producers are really trying to get to planting when field conditions permit between the rain events. There will be some very long days ahead for the producers when the weather finally does change.

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter**

Apple blooming is almost finished. Still a bit too early to predict set, but it looks favorable at this time.

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

Finally, we had a few continuous days of sunshine with minimum rainfall. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday were sunny and warm with a brief shower on Saturday evening. Farmers are trying to get their potatoes and corn planted. Many are trying to decide if they should forget the oats, and start planting their corn. A small percentage of crops were planted with just three days of sunshine.

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

Cool and wet weather has slowed corn planting and general field work. We had 1-1/2 inches of rainfall for the week.

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

Some farmers are working soil and planting new seedings and oats. There is also some spraying for field prep and manure spreading going on.

### **DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)**

Finally, some dry enough conditions to get into the fields to get manure hauled and corn planting started. However, many fields still have standing water. The rye harvest was completed around too many showers. Orchardgrass was heading last week. The alfalfa harvest will be close behind.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

Showers last week were not as heavy, so the fields had a good chance to dry out. With the dry days, there is a decision of what to do first, cut alfalfa or plant corn.

### **JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter**

Still Wet!!

### **LANCASTER COUNTY, Christopher Burkhart**

A few days of dry weather last week allowed farmers in southern Lancaster and Chester counties to cut rye, work fields and start corn planting. More dry weather is needed to dry out low fields and to give farmers time to continue planting. They also need a chance to take off the first cutting alfalfa.

### **LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT)**

The planters really started rolling on Saturday, even though soils are still wet underneath.

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

There were some sunny and warm days this past week. There was rain overnight on Tuesday that brought chillier temperatures. Cover crop burn down continues where the fields are drier. Some corn has been planted. Manure from pits and cattle pens was spread.

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

Finally, we had some field activities going on during Friday and Saturday. A lot of field corn was planted on Friday thru the 2 PM rain on Saturday. Lots of plastic was laid, as well as cabbage and other hardy plants were planted. The soil temperature is still cold. Temperatures in the mid 70's are in this week's forecast.

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

Field conditions are improving. Field activities are just getting started. A sunny forecast in the next four days should help farmers make progress with all the jobs they need to get done.

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

Nearly three inches of rain fell during the beginning of the week. It dried off somewhat at the end of the week. This allowed farmers to get some field work done. Spreading manure, spraying, harvesting rye, and planting were the field activities. Alfalfa weevil damage is beginning to show up in some areas. Barley has started to head and is looking good in most fields.

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

Finally, the second half of the week was a little dryer. Alfalfa looks very good. Some additional oats were planted. Corn planting was still limited to the very well-drained fields.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 8, 2011**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	29	78	78
Corn, planted	10	52	44
Barley, heading or headed	51	72	59
Barley, turning yellow	6	0	2
Wheat, heading or headed	19	17	18
Oats, planted	32	91	88
Oats, emerged	9	66	49
Tobacco beds, planted	98	100	91
Potatoes, planted	9	49	40
Apples, in pink	100	100	100
Apples, in full bloom or past	96	100	91

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 8, 2011**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	24	50	23
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	20	54	23
Timothy clover stand	1	1	15	69	14
Pasture	2	11	26	44	17
Peaches	0	0	0	79	21
Apples	0	0	3	73	24

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