



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 22, 2011

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

Very Poor Week for Field Work:

Pennsylvania had an average of 1 day suitable for field work. The rainy weather returned to most of the state this week, bringing many farm activities to a screeching halt. Primary field activities for the week included planting and manure hauling when permissible, and some hay baling. Spring plowing continued while weather permitted and is 62% complete, still behind the 90% last year and the five year average of 90%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 22, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	35	65

Crop Progress:

Corn planting is 40% completed, compared to 79% last year, and the five year average of 74%. Corn is 17% emerged, well behind last year's 40% and the five year average of 43%. Barley is 88% headed, which is behind last year's 91% and the 5-year average of 93%. Barley is 34% yellow, ahead of last year's 26%, and the five year average of 17%. Winter Wheat is at 61% headed, which is behind last year's 76% and the 5-year average of 68%. Oats are 72% planted, behind last year's 99% and the average of 98%. Oats are 44% emerged, well behind last year's 88%, and the average of 86%. Soybean planting is 16% complete, well behind last year's 51% and the 5-year average of 44%. Potato planting is 30% completed compared to last year's 84%, and the average of 72%. Alfalfa cutting has begun and is 25% completed, behind last year's 42%, and the 5-year average of 32%.

Crop Condition:

State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 55% good, and 22% excellent. Oats conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 35% fair, 52% good, and 13% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 60% good, and 21% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 65% good, and 18% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 0% very poor, 13% poor, 31% fair, 48% good, and 8% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 1% very poor, 12% poor, 22% fair, 40% good and 25% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 32% good and 68% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 3% fair, 65% good and 32% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 15, 2011:

Above-normal temperatures and drier weather blanketed much of the country from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Coast during the week, allowing producers in many areas to make significant headway planting their summer row crops. Most notably, weekly temperatures throughout much of the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley averaged at least 8°F above average. Elsewhere, temperatures were considerably below normal across portions of the northern Great Plains and the Pacific Coast States.

Corn:

Favorable weather conditions continued in the major corn producing areas of the country for much of the week, allowing producers ample time to plant 23 percent of the nation's crop. By week's end, 63 percent of the corn crop was in the ground, compared with 87 percent last year and 75 percent for the 5-year average. Double-digit planting progress was evident in 15 of the 18 major estimating states. Emergence advanced to 21 percent by May 15, thirty-two percentage points behind last year and 18 points behind the 5-year average. Warmer weather coupled with drier conditions promoted emergence of 32 percent of Iowa's corn during the week.

Soybeans:

By week's end, soybean producers had planted 22 percent of this year's crop. This was 15 percentage points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Producers in Indiana, Kentucky, North Dakota, and Ohio began planting during the week. Despite late-week precipitation in Iowa that slowed or halted fieldwork in most areas, planting progress advanced 37 points during the week.

Winter Wheat:

Heading of the winter wheat crop had advanced to 54 percent complete by week's end, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Warmer weather in the Midwest promoted increased crop development during the week. Overall, 32 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 34 percentage points below the same time last year. The portion of the crop rated in good to excellent condition in Arkansas and Illinois declined 11 points during the week, as flooding and soggy field conditions negatively impacted the crop.

Small Grains: Nationwide, 69 percent of the oat crop was seeded by week's end, 23 percentage points behind last year and 22 points behind the 5-year average. Although producers seeded at least 17 percent of their crop during the week, overall progress in Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin remained 29 percentage points or more behind last year and at least 28 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence advanced 8 percentage points during the week, leaving progress—at 49 percent complete—32 percentage points behind last year and 24 points behind the 5-year average. By May 15, barley producers in the five major estimating states had seeded 43 percent of the nation's crop. This was 33 percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Seeding was most active in Montana, where—despite considerable precipitation—producers had an average of 4 days suitable to complete fieldwork activities during the week. By week's end, 17 percent of the barley crop was emerged, 26 percentage points behind last year and 23 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 22, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 22, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	72	43	54	-4	2.83	5	10.84	5.25	33	230	57	596
Franklin_AG	81	46	58	1	1.83	5	13.67	7.54	33	271	99	646
Meadville-Port	76	44	57	1	1.85	4	12.04	6.13	37	293	149	664
Mercer	78	46	57	-2	1.59	5	11.68	5.74	40	261	82	658
Springboro	76	42	53	-6	0.99	4	11.87	6.52	37	198	13	538
Warren	79	45	57	-1	1.91	5	12.82	6.58	35	227	66	589
North Central												
Bradford Region	74	41	54	1	3.05	6	13.76	7.66	36	171	71	477
Oswayo	77	43	56	2	2.66	6	11.51	5.85	33	162	35	486
Kane	77	41	55	2	2.49	4	15.38	8.94	33	164	68	482
Laporte	73	46	56	-2	2.83	6	16.95	10.92	34	170	-11	502
Lock Haven	77	51	62	3	3.35	7	12.45	6.82	32	318	113	724
Port Allegany	77	45	57	2	2.38	6	12.47	6.81	36	175	48	505
Renovo	78	49	61	3	4.70	7	15.17	9.54	36	308	103	708
Ridgway	78	45	57	2	1.73	6	12.39	5.92	34	211	94	567
Stevenson Dam	77	48	60	6	3.13	5	15.01	8.54	32	262	145	643
Towanda	77	48	59	2	2.11	7	14.26	8.94	32	237	51	612
Wellsboro	76	43	56	3	3.12	7	13.38	8.80	34	166	64	484
Williamsport	80	52	63	3	2.30	6	14.16	8.27	32	354	96	784
Northeast												
Hawley	77	47	60	4	3.36	6	12.58	6.35	32	220	93	582
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	76	50	61	2	1.32	6	9.65	4.15	32	336	113	747
Susquehanna	75	49	59	4	2.97	6	12.96	6.52	31	214	100	579
West Central												
Butler	78	51	61	3	1.12	5	11.56	5.54	36	332	135	747
New Castle	83	48	58	-2	2.35	4	11.45	6.01	34	294	105	711
Slippery Rock	82	46	58	1	1.77	5	12.39	6.73	34	285	117	693
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	49	61	2	1.90	5	11.19	5.49	31	374	136	799
DuBois	77	45	58	-1	1.35	6	11.74	5.65	34	277	104	652
Lewistown	82	52	63	3	3.30	6	13.03	7.24	29	361	79	796
Middletown	79	53	64	2	3.37	6	14.07	7.83	29	431	105	904
Prince Gallitzi	76	46	58	2	1.74	5	10.43	2.85	33	267	113	635
Selinsgrove	79	51	62	3	2.70	6	13.87	8.03	36	317	84	737
State College	77	51	60	0	3.14	6	10.06	4.66	29	329	109	735
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	80	51	64	3	1.98	7	8.99	2.47	30	399	126	850
Lehighton	75	51	62	1	2.05	7	10.43	4.04	30	312	53	742
Matamoras	75	51	60	0	3.80	7	11.24	4.20	30	253	40	645
Mt_Pocono	75	49	58	5	3.41	7	13.79	6.46	30	228	133	594
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	50	60	0	1.48	4	9.24	3.04	39	434	192	886
Indiana_PA	77	48	59	-1	2.06	6	11.95	5.23	39	356	123	772
Myersdale	76	46	57	-3	4.02	5	12.14	5.11	33	229	33	604
Chalk_Hill	75	44	56	-6	1.93	5	15.90	9.09	36	263	-14	647
Pittsburgh Intl	79	49	59	-2	1.01	4	9.02	3.36	34	419	155	867
Connellsville	78	49	60	-2	1.86	5	11.27	4.46	42	395	118	840
Waynesburg	79	48	59	0	2.24	4	13.45	7.19	35	359	137	803
South Central												
Biglerville	79	52	64	2	2.77	5	14.26	8.26	22	402	77	860
Everett	79	47	60	1	3.29	5	11.96	6.00	29	302	80	728
Hanover	79	49	64	2	2.87	5	11.14	5.14	29	417	92	869
Harrisburg_AP	81	52	65	2	3.63	6	15.29	9.05	31	446	114	917
South Mountain	77	49	59	-1	2.07	6	12.63	6.93	30	288	57	702
York	80	51	64	2	3.31	6	11.03	4.84	27	428	93	897
Southeast												
Green Lane	79	52	63	3	2.60	6	10.79	4.18	31	393	140	851
Hamburg	80	53	63	4	4.39	6	13.33	6.04	31	373	171	819
West_Chester	80	50	64	2	1.88	7	8.40	1.46	24	409	92	870
Lancaster	80	52	65	4	4.01	6	11.18	5.05	29	432	155	894
Neshaminy Falls	80	50	63	2	2.16	7	10.28	3.05	23	443	174	904
New Holland	79	53	65	4	2.01	6	10.07	3.94	27	403	126	856
Philadelphia	81	56	66	3	1.09	6	7.16	0.87	23	551	188	1,039
Philadelphia NE	79	52	64	1	1.28	7	9.88	3.59	25	485	122	966
Reading	81	51	65	5	3.74	6	11.15	4.26	30	466	209	942
Sellersville	79	49	62	2	3.01	7	11.23	4.62	30	362	109	800
Doylestown_AG	78	52	64	3	1.59	6	8.96	1.73	26	438	169	908

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

Adams County had a week of wet weather. No fieldwork was completed this week as fields are full of standing water. What little corn was planted is now emerging which producers are glad to see since we had this week of wet soil conditions. Wheat, barley, rye continue to mature and hay crops are also growing. There will be a later harvest due to poor field conditions. Fruit crops are now apparent on trees with little fruit forming on trees. Spraying in orchards has been interesting also due to wet weather. Scab disease is a concern due to wet weather conditions. Strawberries are blooming and some early berries are being harvested with more to come in next few weeks. Other vegetables have been planted but more should be planted once weather changes. Overall the county is wet. The producers are awaiting the conditions to be fit to do fieldwork. They will have some long days ahead of them and also be up against final plant dates for crop insurance before we know it.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Terrible week for field work. We had well over 2" of rain and it rained every day. More showers Sunday night will keep equipment parked until at least Wednesday. Wheat is heading and starting to flower, and should be sprayed with a fungicide to prevent scab, but it will be tough getting it accomplished on time.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Heavy rains during the week which allowed little field time with little progress made in planting.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Poor week for field work, 4.5 inches of rainfall in my gauge.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Wheat crop looks good. Some corn is up. The Counties have many acres yet to plant. The hay is in head and needs to be harvested. The forecast is calling for more rain this coming week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Rain almost every day kept farmers off the fields until the weekend. Conditions were good enough to get back into the drier fields on Saturday and resume planting. Pastures have taken off with the rains and now warmer temperatures.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

It was a poor week for field work. Nothing much accomplished due to more than 5 inches of rainfall, the majority toward the end of the week. Wheat just beginning to head out. Serious concerns regarding risk of head scab infection. Corn emerging with rows evident from the roadside. No hay harvested and maturity increasing every day.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter

Hay prices have gone through the roof as field conditions continue to be excessively wet. Manure storages are filling back up rapidly. Lots of soil erosion on soybean stubble ground and fields that were tilled!

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

This week was a total washout. The fields are extremely saturated. Even higher lying areas will take a few days to dry out IF the weather cooperates. Despite the wet weather, corn that was planted the week before is emerging.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

We had only three non rain days this week. Field work was limited to one day and only in a few fields. Producers report water still lying in some fields. The Amish laid plastic and planted vegetables with their horses on Saturday.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

Custom operators report that they ran their rigs (corn planting and manure tankers) 24 hours a day for 6 straight days during the week of May 9-14. And yet, they are still far behind schedule with yet another week of continuous rain this week. Less than 5% of 1st cutting has been harvested, and producers are becoming frustrated with the decreasing quality of the crop that they know is happening due to the harvest delay.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman

Apples are just in blossom right now and frost seems to be over with.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Rainfall in the amount of five inches for the week has caused further delay in the planting of corn and soybeans, and the making of haylage and hay. The corn that has been planted has emerged and looking well in spite of the unfavorable weather condition. Very few field activities undertaken for the week.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Rain, Rain, Rain. Some no-till corn was mudded in. Some hay was baled and wrapped on high ground.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

Very little corn planted as of the weekend. Hay needs to be cut to get dairy quality feed. Weather reports are calling for thunderstorms all week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Almost no crop planting or harvesting progress was made for the week. Saturday was the only day all week with no rain, but it was still too wet to get into the fields.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling

Continual wet conditions are ideal for disease development and it's difficult to get sprays on fruit. Obviously field work has been seriously delayed.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 22, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	62	90	90
Corn, planted	40	79	74
Corn, emerged	17	40	43
Barley, heading or headed	88	91	93
Barley, turning yellow	34	26	17
Wheat, heading or headed	61	76	68
Oats, planted	72	99	98
Oats, emerged	44	88	86
Soybeans, planted	16	51	44
Potatoes, planted	30	84	72
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	25	42	32

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 22, 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	2	21	55	22
Oats	0	0	35	52	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	17	60	21
Timothy clover stand	0	1	16	65	18
Quality of hay made	0	13	31	48	8
Pasture	1	12	22	40	25
Peaches	0	0	0	32	68
Apples	0	0	3	65	32

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