



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending May 29, 2011

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. Finally, there were more days suitable for field work throughout the state than were not suitable. Despite those warm sunny days, there were severe weather events like tornadoes, hail, and flash flooding. Primary field activities for the week included planting crops, manure hauling, cleaning up after storm damage, and harvesting hay. Spring plowing is still behind, yet strongly continued while weather permitted, and is 77% complete, as compared to 96% last year and the five year average of 95%.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 29, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	51	49

**Crop Progress:** Corn planting is 61% completed, compared to 91% last year, and the five year average of 86%. Corn is 32% emerged, well behind last year's 63% and average of 62%. Barley is 98% headed, which is the same as last year and the average. Barley is 42% yellow, behind last year's 55%, and the five year average of 39%. Winter Wheat is at 86% headed, which is behind last year's 92% and the average of 88%. Oats are 88% planted, behind last year's 100% and the average of 99%. Oats are 64% emerged, well behind last year's 94%, and the average of 93%. Soybean planting is 28% complete, well behind last year's 75% and the average of 62%. Soybeans are 7% emerged, well behind last year's 43%, and the average of 32%. Tobacco transplanting has begun, and is 50% complete, compared to 58% last year, and the average of 52%. Potato planting is 58% completed compared to last year's 97%, and the average of 88%. Alfalfa first cutting is 41% completed, behind last year's 57%, and the 5-year average of 51%. Timothy/Clover first cutting is 16% complete, behind last year's 30%, and the average of 21%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 63% good, and 12% excellent. Winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 65% good, and 13% excellent. Oats conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 42% fair, 46% good, and 12% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 65% good, and 16% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 56% good, and 28% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 0% very poor, 2% poor, 36% fair, 42% good, and 20% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 2% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 46% good and 24% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 7% fair, 47% good and 46% excellent. Apple conditions are; 6% very poor, 13% poor, 16% fair, 49% good and 16% excellent.

**Nationwide as of May 22, 2011:** Cooler-than-normal weather prevailed across much of the country during the week, with weekly temperatures more than 10°F below average in portions of California and the Great Basin. In contrast, warm, windy weather in parts of

Texas quickly dried out many irrigated corn and cotton fields. Unusually dry weather continued across much of the southern United States, intensifying already dry conditions. Elsewhere, showers and thunderstorms delivered rainfall totaling 2 inches or more touch of the Great Plains, providing some relief to areas where soil moisture levels have been abnormally low.

**Corn:** Nationally, 79 percent of this year's corn crop was planted by week's end. This was 13 percentage points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Aided by nearly ideal weather conditions, producers in Minnesota and North Dakota planted at least 34 percent of their crop during the week. Overall, emergence advanced to 45 percent complete, 24 percentage points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. In Iowa, producers were hoping for warmer weather to help speed the emergence of recently planted corn, although good stands were reported where the crop had emerged. **Soybeans:** Producers planted 19 percent of their soybean crop during the week, leaving overall progress—at 41 percent complete—10 percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. The most rapid progress was evident in Illinois and Iowa, where producers took advantage of mostly favorable conditions and planted 31 percent of their crop during the week. By May 22, emergence was evident in 12 percent of soybean fields across the country. This was 10 percentage points behind last year, and 7 percentage points behind the 5-year average. **Winter Wheat:** By week's end, 62 percent of the nation's winter wheat crop was headed, slightly ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Cool, damp weather in portions of the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, and Great Plains slowed crop development, pushing nationwide heading progress behind the average pace for the first time this season. Overall, 32 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 34 percentage points below the same time last year. **Small Grains:** Oat producers had seeded 80 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 16 percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. In Ohio, where seeding was 58 percentage points behind last year and 59 points behind normal, cool weather and continued rainfall kept many producers out of their fields for a fourth consecutive week. Emergence advanced to 61 percent complete by May 22, twenty-seven percentage points behind last year and 24 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 56 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 80 percent at the same time last year. By week's end, 57 percent of the barley crop was seeded, 33 percentage points behind last year and 32 points behind the 5-year average. In North Dakota, producers worked between rain storms to seed 15 percent of their barley crop during the week; however, progress remained over 25 days behind last year. Nationally, 27 percent of the barley crop was emerged by May 22, thirty-three percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average.

### Weather Data For Week Ending May 29, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 29, 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	82	50	66	6	3.52	5	14.36	7.94	38	342	94	778
Franklin_AG	82	52	68	9	0.80	5	14.47	7.43	38	401	157	846
Meadville-Port	80	50	68	9	1.61	6	13.65	6.82	43	417	207	858
Mercer	81	53	68	8	1.57	5	13.25	6.38	45	388	136	855
Springboro	81	46	65	5	2.20	6	14.07	7.96	43	308	47	718
Warren	82	44	67	8	1.56	4	14.38	7.16	39	345	113	777
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	76	42	63	8	1.54	6	15.30	8.19	42	267	120	643
Oswayo	82	45	65	9	2.08	4	13.58	6.96	37	273	89	667
Kane	79	44	65	10	1.70	5	17.08	9.64	38	265	123	653
Laporte	82	53	65	6	3.48	4	20.43	13.42	38	275	23	677
Lock Haven	89	58	70	10	1.28	5	13.73	7.17	37	460	177	936
Port Allegany	82	50	66	9	1.72	6	14.19	7.57	42	289	105	689
Renovo	89	53	69	9	1.51	7	16.68	10.12	43	440	157	910
Ridgway	81	51	66	9	1.08	5	13.47	5.95	39	325	154	751
Stevenson Dam	87	46	68	12	1.44	6	16.45	8.93	38	389	218	840
Towanda	86	54	68	9	3.43	4	17.69	11.56	36	367	108	812
Wellsboro	82	47	65	9	1.70	6	15.08	9.66	40	270	120	658
Williamsport	87	58	71	9	2.18	3	16.34	9.53	35	501	154	1,001
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	84	52	64	7	0.95	3	13.53	6.39	35	322	136	754
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	54	69	8	1.09	3	10.74	4.38	35	472	166	953
Susquehanna	85	51	67	10	1.32	6	14.28	6.93	37	332	163	767
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	81	55	69	9	0.53	6	12.09	5.09	42	464	191	949
New Castle	82	56	70	10	2.38	7	13.83	7.55	41	436	169	923
Slippery Rock	86	53	68	9	0.86	6	13.25	6.67	40	413	174	891
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	87	60	71	10	2.07	5	13.26	6.70	36	522	200	1,017
DuBois	80	51	67	7	0.64	5	12.38	5.30	39	396	150	841
Lewistown	90	59	71	9	2.85	4	15.96	9.19	34	513	138	1,023
Middletown	89	60	72	8	0.85	3	14.92	7.70	32	587	156	1,130
Prince Gallitzi	84	55	68	10	1.20	6	11.63	3.00	39	396	178	834
Selinsgrove	88	58	70	9	1.13	4	15.00	8.21	40	456	139	946
State College	86	60	70	9	1.37	5	11.43	5.15	34	470	165	946
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	89	56	71	8	0.89	3	9.88	2.42	33	546	176	1,067
Lehighton	85	55	67	5	1.89	4	12.32	4.95	34	434	82	934
Matamoras	85	52	66	5	0.67	3	11.91	3.94	33	366	72	828
Mt_Pocono	84	51	67	11	1.24	4	15.03	6.70	34	347	204	783
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	60	70	9	0.57	5	9.81	2.64	44	576	249	1,098
Indiana_PA	82	57	70	9	1.34	6	13.29	5.52	45	496	180	982
Myersdale	82	50	66	6	1.58	4	13.72	5.73	37	344	71	785
Chalk_Hill	82	52	67	4	1.59	5	17.49	9.70	41	381	10	835
Pittsburgh Intl	83	60	70	8	0.57	3	9.59	3.09	37	562	208	1,080
Connellsville	87	58	72	9	0.55	4	11.82	4.03	46	547	176	1,062
Waynesburg	85	55	70	9	0.35	4	13.80	6.63	39	500	196	1,014
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	90	60	72	8	0.86	6	15.12	8.24	28	559	129	1,087
Everett	86	56	69	8	2.38	4	14.34	7.61	33	436	132	932
Hanover	89	60	73	8	0.32	3	11.46	4.58	32	576	146	1,098
Harrisburg_AP	90	62	73	9	0.05	2	15.34	8.12	33	608	170	1,149
South Mountain	85	56	68	7	1.11	4	13.74	7.18	34	417	102	901
York	89	59	73	9	0.77	4	11.80	4.74	31	592	151	1,131
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	88	57	71	9	0.04	2	10.83	3.35	33	540	197	1,068
Hamburg	87	57	70	9	0.76	4	14.09	5.65	35	516	234	1,032
West_Chester	90	58	71	7	0.09	1	8.49	0.57	25	558	138	1,089
Lancaster	86	59	72	9	0.26	2	11.44	4.40	31	586	213	1,118
Neshaminy Falls	91	55	74	10	0.25	1	10.53	2.32	24	609	244	1,140
New Holland	86	58	72	9	0.41	2	10.48	3.44	29	555	182	1,078
Philadelphia	94	59	75	9	0.03	1	7.19	0.06	24	724	248	1,282
Philadelphia NE	90	56	73	7	0.20	1	10.08	2.95	26	646	170	1,197
Reading	89	59	72	9	0.35	3	11.50	3.57	33	622	271	1,168
Sellersville	87	54	69	7	0.02	1	11.25	3.77	31	500	157	1,008
Doylestown_AG	89	57	72	9	0.13	2	9.09	0.88	28	591	226	1,131

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 another week with not much field work completed. Thursday evening saw thunderstorms and windy conditions roll through the county. Some producers will have to wait a little to get back in fields where others will have to wait a few days. Corn and soybeans are getting planted, but very slowly. We are definitely behind last year's plantings. Corn is now emerging, but there is still some that is just sitting there and could possibly be rotting due to the wet soil conditions. Wheat and barley are maturing, but some stands may have lodged throughout due to windy conditions Thursday evening. Hay continues to be made when weather and field conditions permit. Some hay fields were also lodged from windy conditions. We need some more sunny and warm days to help the producers with their plantings of corn and soybeans. The producers will be up against the crop insurance last plant date for their 2011 corn and soybeans. Some sweet corn has been planted, but more will be planted when conditions permit. Other vegetables have also been planted, but some still need to be planted. Strawberries are being, but the rains may be affecting them. Fruit crops continue to show signs of small fruit. Producers are still concerned about the effects of stink bugs and how to possibly get rid of those pests. Overall, the county is surviving. Long field work days are occurring when weather and field conditions permit. Producers need to get their corn and soybeans planted or will have to look at shorter day crops.

### **BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier**

The fields dried up enough by mid week to get back to planting. We've had several days of good weather, and more is predicted for the remainder of the week. Corn planted before the prolonged rainy weather is up, and some stands are spotty. We are seeing some cutworm activity.

### **CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little**

Last week was wet again at the beginning of the week, and then hot and humid for the weekend. Some farmers are reporting that they are still trying to get their oats planted. Planting corn, potatoes, and soybeans took priority over the oats getting planted.

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

Field work continued between rain showers. It was a difficult planting time. We had another 1 1/2 inch of rainfall for the week per my gauge.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner**

Producers are planting springs crops. In many places the soil is still too wet. Farmers are spreading manure.

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

The rain during most of the week kept the farmers out of their fields again. Hay fields are quickly reaching maturity, and forage quality is dropping daily. Still, a lot needs to be done, and the weather is not cooperating.

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

The county suffered a severe storm with hail on Thursday. Wind and heavy rain happened in over 80% of the county. The Mercersburg area had hail up to 1.5 inches in diameter. There were many reports of dents and dings in vehicles. Chambersburg and Scotland had up to 3 inches of rain in 45 minutes. There was a small tornado southeast of Chambersburg. Corn fields were stripped, barley was laid flat, and wheat heads were shattered by hail. Fruit was heavily damaged; however, thinning had not yet taken place, so most of the damaged fruit can be removed during thinning. It is too early to estimate a dollar loss.

### **JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler**

It has been a very destructive spring. Juniata County experienced its second tornado causing more farmstead damage.

### **LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler**

A slight break in the weather allowed some field work to begin again. Alfalfa was cut where the mowers could get through the wet ground. No-till planting continued. A severe storm rolled through the county Thursday, which knocked trees down and left some areas without electricity through Friday.

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

Corn that was planted when we had an open window around May 11th is finally turning green from the warm days over Memorial Day weekend. The early planted sweet corn still has a sick yellow color from the wet cold weather. Field corn seed that is 88-93 day is almost impossible to find.

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

It was another week of heavy rainfall, causing further delay in the already late planting of corn and soybeans. However, the early plantings are looking good; except, in the poorly drained areas. Also, in some areas there is damage from slugs and black cutworms. Severe storms have caused lodging of the forage crops. That will make for a difficult harvest. Some planting, spraying of herbicides, and making haylage were the few field activities undertaken for the week.

### **UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker**

It was very wet. About the time it is fit to plant, we get more rain. I'm not sure, but I believe this the most difficult year that I remember to get planting done. Some of our tiles have been running since early March when normal is often a few days.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

We finally got a few days dry enough for some field work. Many fields are still too wet to till or plant.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 29, 2011**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	77	96	95
Corn, planted	61	91	86
Corn, emerged	32	63	62
Barley, heading or headed	98	98	98
Barley, turning yellow	42	55	39
Wheat, heading or headed	86	92	88
Oats, planted	88	100	99
Oats, emerged	64	94	93
Soybeans, planted	28	75	62
Soybeans, emerged	7	43	32
Tobacco, transplanted	50	58	52
Potatoes, planted	58	97	88
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	41	57	51
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	16	30	21

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 29, 2011**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	1	24	63	12
Wheat	1	3	18	65	13
Oats	0	0	42	46	12
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	2	16	65	16
Timothy clover stand	1	2	13	56	28
Quality of hay made	0	2	36	42	20
Pasture	2	5	23	46	24
Peaches	0	0	7	47	46
Apples	6	13	16	49	16

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