



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending April 22, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 23, 2012, 4 pm

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

Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. The weather was ideal for field work last week except for the rain and snow late in the week. The rain however was beneficial to pastures and alfalfa growth. Farm activities for the week included manure spreading, machinery maintenance, as well as planting and seeding. Spring plowing continues and is 76% complete, which is ahead of the 13% reported at this time last year and the 5-year average of 39%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Apr 22, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
8	42	46	4

Crop Progress: Corn planting continued and is 15% complete, ahead of 1% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 6%. Barley is 46% headed, which is ahead of last year's 4%, and the average of 5%. This year's oat crop is 86% planted, ahead of 5% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 43%. Oats are 46% emerged, compared with 1% last year and the average of 12%. Tobacco beds are 77% planted, ahead of the 76% last year, and ahead of the average of 59%. Potatoes are 35% planted, compared to last year's 1%, and the average of 7%. Apples are 99% in the pink, compared to 7% last year, and the average of 35%. Ninety-six percent are in full bloom or past full bloom, compared to 0% last year, and the 20% average.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 55% good, and 25% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 14% poor, 36% fair, 39% good, and 11% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 49% good, and 14% excellent. Timothy/clover conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 46% fair, 39% good, and 13% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 4% very poor, 11% poor, 37% fair, 34% good and 14% excellent. Peach conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 7% fair, 21% good, and 71% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 15, 2012: Corn: Nationally, 17 percent of this year's corn crop was planted by April 15, twelve percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Warm, mostly dry weather promoted rapid fieldwork in several States during the week. Most notably, progress was 22 percentage points or more ahead of normal in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Winter Wheat: Warmer-than-normal weather provided ideal conditions for rapid development of the Nation's winter wheat crop as dormancy broke this spring. By week's end, 29 percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 18 percentage points ahead of last year and 21 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 64 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 3 percentage points from ratings last week and 28 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Small Grains: Oat producers seeded 76 percent of the Nation's crop by week's end, 32 percentage points ahead of last year and 28 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Advancing 12 points or more during the week, seeding was 23 percentage points or more ahead of normal in all estimating States except Texas, where progress was complete. Overall, 51 percent of the oat crop was emerged by April 15, fifteen percentage points ahead of last year and 14 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm weather aided a rapid crop development pace throughout much of the major growing areas. One-third of the Nation's barley crop was seeded by week's end, 21 percentage points ahead of last year and 16 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. While seeding was well ahead of normal in four of the five major estimating States, progress in Washington was slow and behind the average pace as unfavorably wet fields continued to dry out. Nationally, 5 percent of the barley crop was emerged by April 15, three percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 22, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 22, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	33	56	9	0.62	3	0.83	-1.56	8	71	57	176
Franklin_AG	83	33	54	7	0.34	2	0.70	-1.88	6	44	30	150
Meadville-Port	80	33	56	10	0.44	2	0.86	-1.56	6	63	56	182
Clarion	82	33	54	6	0.43	3	0.88	-1.82	7	36	16	133
Springboro	80	30	52	5	0.55	4	1.07	-1.25	9	39	22	125
Warren	84	32	55	9	0.45	4	0.66	-1.92	8	45	37	144
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	30	53	10	0.40	2	0.64	-1.80	6	46	43	140
Oswayo	82	25	51	6	0.41	1	0.86	-1.42	5	28	22	95
Kane	83	33	53	11	0.38	2	0.77	-1.87	7	37	34	114
Laporte	80	32	54	6	0.74	1	1.35	-1.01	6	43	22	142
Lock Haven	90	35	58	10	0.40	2	0.69	-1.52	7	68	46	232
Coudersport_1SW	83	28	51	6	0.63	3	0.97	-1.31	9	26	20	97
Renovo	89	36	58	10	0.42	2	0.65	-1.56	7	62	40	220
Ridgway	82	30	53	9	0.29	2	0.60	-1.87	6	32	27	133
Stevenson Dam	86	35	57	12	0.35	2	0.73	-1.74	6	49	44	195
Towanda	86	34	57	9	0.33	1	0.94	-1.15	5	54	34	173
Wellsboro	83	32	54	10	0.58	1	0.96	-0.71	6	38	33	133
Williamsport	89	35	60	10	0.24	1	0.44	-1.92	6	105	67	280
Northeast												
Hawley	86	30	55	10	0.23	1	0.45	-2.04	5	46	39	141
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	36	60	11	0.37	1	0.75	-1.37	6	95	71	241
Susquehanna	86	33	56	12	0.05	1	0.82	-1.80	5	53	47	164
West Central												
Butler	82	37	56	7	0.59	2	1.02	-1.29	6	49	27	189
New Castle	83	37	56	9	0.38	2	0.73	-1.47	6	54	42	197
Slippery Rock	81	37	56	9	0.37	1	0.66	-1.60	5	49	40	191
Central												
Altoona/Blair	88	42	60	10	0.13	1	0.26	-2.03	5	104	69	279
DuBois	82	36	56	9	0.24	1	0.63	-1.79	7	62	51	186
Lewistown	89	42	61	10	0.21	1	0.78	-1.32	8	91	46	278
Middletown	86	44	63	10	0.41	2	0.72	-1.58	6	131	74	331
Prince Gallitzi	83	39	56	10	0.23	1	0.49	-2.59	4	46	34	172
Selingsgrove	88	39	59	10	0.42	1	0.69	-1.62	5	72	39	232
State College	87	39	59	11	0.23	1	0.60	-1.51	8	77	55	243
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	90	42	62	12	0.48	1	0.84	-1.68	5	118	80	292
Lehighnton	87	43	60	11	0.42	1	0.72	-1.59	4	82	50	234
Matamoras	87	40	60	11	0.44	1	0.82	-2.04	4	78	54	235
Mt_Pocono	83	35	58	15	0.43	1	0.91	-2.04	5	78	74	202
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	39	59	9	0.24	1	0.83	-1.46	6	90	56	267
Indiana_PA	82	39	58	9	0.26	1	0.74	-1.90	5	73	41	218
Myersdale	81	35	54	6	0.18	1	0.85	-2.01	5	33	14	144
Chalk_Hill	84	36	55	5	0.13	1	1.89	-0.89	7	44	2	158
Pittsburgh Intl	82	40	59	9	0.30	2	0.91	-1.37	7	94	54	263
Connellsville	85	41	59	8	0.21	1	1.22	-1.56	5	75	33	250
Waynesburg	84	39	57	8	0.13	1	0.69	-1.82	4	56	28	212
South Central												
Biglerville	86	43	61	9	0.17	2	0.92	-1.50	5	108	51	303
Everett	88	38	58	9	0.21	1	0.62	-1.78	5	67	40	225
Hanover	87	41	61	9	0.71	2	1.26	-1.16	6	95	38	277
Harrisburg_AP	87	45	63	10	0.47	2	0.89	-1.41	6	144	85	346
South Mountain	82	40	57	7	0.53	3	1.13	-1.16	6	57	25	204
York	86	40	60	7	0.40	3	1.03	-1.61	7	97	39	268
Southeast												
Green Lane	88	44	62	12	0.63	2	0.84	-1.84	5	107	73	292
Hamburg	88	44	61	12	0.84	2	1.01	-1.71	4	97	77	275
West_Chester	89	44	62	10	0.40	2	0.63	-2.14	3	106	53	278
Lancaster	88	43	62	11	0.39	2	0.61	-1.87	6	114	74	295
Neshaminy Falls	88	45	61	11	2.08	2	2.31	-0.57	5	113	74	307
New Holland	87	44	60	9	2.02	4	2.24	-0.24	6	120	80	320
Philadelphia	89	50	65	12	0.15	1	0.52	-2.12	3	169	104	378
Philadelphia NE	88	45	64	11	0.16	2	0.37	-2.27	5	140	75	338
Reading	90	46	64	14	0.43	2	0.62	-2.13	4	141	109	334
Sellersville	87	38	60	10	0.93	2	1.16	-1.52	5	91	57	248
Doylestown_AG	89	45	63	12	0.52	3	0.80	-2.08	6	115	76	298

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.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

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)

Adams County producers are gearing up for corn and soybean planting. Wheat and barley are looking really good with these warmer temperatures, but could use some rain. Oats are coming along now. Harvesting of forage crops will be done a little earlier than normal, since everything is two and a half to three weeks ahead of schedule. Vegetables are too early to get going since cold temperatures are still possible. Some producers planted sweet corn earlier this week. Strawberries had damage from the cold temperatures back in March. Apples are at full or past bloom. If you want a pretty drive, now is the time to do so as the blossoms will be over before the May 5-6 Apple Blossom Festival. Apples will see minimal damage due to cold temperatures. Tree pruning is done. Peaches may have some damage, but are considered at Petal fall now. Tart and sweet cherry, apricot, and plum yields will be affected by the cold temperatures in March.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Keith Kline

There was no rain last week. The creeks and river levels are very low for the time of year.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Most of the oats are planted. Some potatoes and corn were planted. Much needed rain came late Saturday and Sunday. On late Sunday evening, the snow started coming. The alfalfa stands were hit hard with the freeze in early April and may not recover.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Surface moisture is low. Showers are needed to achieve new growth of grass.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Farmers are top dressing wheat. Many acres of new seeding were planted. The frost has slowed the growth of hay. The frost (22 degrees) for the past three days has damaged the fruit trees. Some corn and soybeans were planted.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O. Yocum

We are receiving some much needed rain today.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Last week was an excellent week to be in the field. The warm temperatures and good, drying winds kept farmers busy throughout the week. The major activities were spreading manure, lime and fertilizer and planting small grains and grasses. Pasture conditions are still a little short. With the weekend rains, rapid growth is expected.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

Extremely dry conditions were broken by 1.75 inches of rain from Saturday afternoon to Monday morning. There was some corn planting prior to the rain. The ryelage harvest is nearly complete. There were very light yields noted. Hopefully, rain will push the first cutting alfalfa stands. Barley heads emerged this week. The timothy mite populations are high.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA)

The recent frosts and freezes have resulted in grape producers reporting 60% to 100% loss on Concord grapes, 40% loss on Niagara grapes, and 100% loss on the sweet and tart cherry crops.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Last week was a good week for field work until late Saturday. Barley and rye are now being chopped for forage. It looks like some alfalfa will be chopped as soon as the weather is fit. Spring planting preparations, hauling manure, spreading fertilizer and spraying weed killer were the main activities last week. Some more corn was planted as well.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter

Grass and alfalfa hay fields are showing very slow growth and damage due to frost. Quite a lot of corn was planted last week and will be at risk of chilling damage from the cold rains and snow squalls we are getting now.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Dale Kriner NRCS

The planters and manure tankers have been rolling. My rain gauge showed 2 inches of rain between Saturday evening and Monday morning.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Freeze and frost damage continues to be the hot topic of discussion among area orchard and vineyard owners, as damages have re-occurred several times. Final damage estimates will be made in the near future. Some local soybean growers planted beans last week, as risky as that may be. Soil temperature is still cool enough that it is holding back the early planted sweet corn.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Last week was a good week for field work. There were 2.6 inches of rain in my gauge. There was very little standing water and not much runoff. Corn planting started this past week, but many decided to wait. Rye and barley are beginning to head. Grass, alfalfa and small grain crops are short with concerns for first cutting yield.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)

The really dry week has allowed producers to complete a lot of field work. Some oats have been planted. Nightly frosts have burned the hay fields back a little.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Corn planting has begun. Alfalfa weevils and timothy mites have shown up. Spraying is being considered. There are very poor stands with the newly seeded alfalfa. The main activities for the week were spraying, planting as well as spreading manure and fertilizers.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

We received much needed moisture, with some rain and about eight inches of snow.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Last week was another good week for field. It is still a little too cold for corn planting. The snow predicted for the upcoming week is confirming that the best place for corn at this time is in the seed bag.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 22, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	76	13	39
Corn, planted	15	1	6
Barley, heading or headed	46	4	5
Oats, planted	86	5	43
Oats, emerged	46	1	12
Tobacco beds, planted	77	76	59
Potatoes, planted	35	1	7
Apples, in pink	99	7	35
Apples, in full bloom or past	96	0	20

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 22, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	2	17	55	25
Oats	0	14	36	39	11
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	5	32	49	14
Timothy clover stand	0	2	46	39	13
Pasture	4	11	37	34	14
Peaches	1	0	7	21	71

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States
 Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
 Harrisburg PA 17112

FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
