



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 13, 2012

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. The rain continued throughout much of the state last week. This further prevented field work making it difficult to get crops planted. Field activities for the week were filling silos, spraying crops, building maintenance, equipment repairs, as well as harvesting alfalfa and rye. Spring plowing is 93% complete, which is ahead of the 48% reported at this time last year and the 5-year average of 74%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 13, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	4	83	13

Crop Progress: Corn planting continued and is 56% complete, ahead of 27% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 48%. Corn is 23% emerged, ahead of 1% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 16%. Barley is 47% yellow, which is ahead of last year's 9%, and the average of 6%. Winter wheat is 69% headed, ahead of 30% at this time last year, and the average of 30%. Oats are 92% emerged, compared with 18% last year and the average of 55%. Soybean planting continues and is 26% complete, compared to 11% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 18%. Potatoes are 65% planted, compared to last year's 23%, and the average of 45%. The first cutting of alfalfa continues, and is 29% complete, compared with last year's 15% and the average of 14%. The first cutting of timothy/clover has begun, and is 5% complete, compared with last year's 0% and the average of 1%.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 56% good, and 30% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 35% fair, 45% good, and 18% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 57% good, and 17% excellent. Timothy/clover conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 27% fair, 59% good, and 13% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 25% fair, 64% good and 10% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 4% very poor, 4% poor, 29% fair, 47% good and 16% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 35% fair, 37% good, and 28% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 28% fair, 46% good, and 26% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 6, 2012: Near-normal temperatures were recorded in the Pacific Northwest and New England, while above normal temperatures covered the remainder of the United States. Most notably, weekly temperatures averaged more than 12°F above normal on the southern Great Plains and portions of the Corn Belt. Weekly precipitation totaled more than 200 percent of normal in the Pacific Northwest, northern Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Ohio

Valley. Conversely, most areas across the southern half of the country recorded little or no rainfall during the week. Corn: By week's end, 71 percent of this year's corn crop was planted, 39 percentage points ahead of last year and 24 points ahead of the 5-year average. Despite late-week rainfall, double-digit planting progress was evident throughout much of the Corn Belt. Nationally, emergence advanced 17 percentage points during the week. At 32 percent complete, emergence was 26 percentage points ahead of last year and 19 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures provided continued favorable growing conditions across most of the major corn-producing region, with emergence most rapid in Illinois during the week. Soybeans: Nationally, producers had planted 24 percent of the soybean crop by May 6, eighteen percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. In Iowa, persistent rainfall limited field work to approximately 2 days, allowing producers to plant just 4 percent of their crop during the week. By week's end, 7 percent of the nation's crop was emerged, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was most advanced in the Delta, where at least 36 percent of the soybean crop had emerged. Winter Wheat: By May 6, sixty-three percent of this year's winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 24 percentage points ahead of last year and 29 points ahead of the 5-year average. In Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing state, heading was nearing completion—as above-average temperatures pushed crop development 72 percentage points, or approximately 3 weeks, ahead of normal. Producers in Texas began harvesting during the week, with progress expected to gain speed within the next few weeks. Overall, 63 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 30 percentage points better than the same time last year. Small Grains: With seeding nearing completion across most of the major oat-producing region, 94 percent of this year's crop was in the ground by week's end. This was 34 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence continued at a rapid pace, as warm, mostly sunny weather and adequate soil moisture provided nearly ideal growing conditions. By May 6, seventy-eight percent of the oat crop was emerged, 32 percentage points ahead of last year and 22 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, three quarters of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from last week. Barley producers had sown 83 percent of the crop by week's end, 51 percentage points ahead of last year and 30 points ahead of the 5-year average. Double-digit seeding was evident in all estimating states, but was most rapid in Washington, where previously wet fields dried out enough for producers to complete fieldwork. Emergence had advanced to 36 percent complete by May 6, twenty-three percentage points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of the 5-year average. In North Dakota, rainfall limited seeding in isolated locations, but benefited the emerging crop.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 13, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 13, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	74	41	59	4	0.85	4	3.53	-1.08	18	206	99	468
Franklin_AG	76	34	57	3	1.22	5	3.38	-1.68	20	190	84	449
Meadville-Port	74	39	59	5	0.80	5	3.61	-1.20	20	225	139	499
Clarion	80	33	57	1	2.06	4	4.75	-0.51	18	182	52	423
Springboro	73	35	57	2	2.40	3	5.83	1.37	19	161	46	388
Warren	77	35	56	2	1.00	4	4.92	-0.18	21	168	71	411
North Central												
Bradford Region	75	30	54	4	1.30	4	4.49	-0.46	18	162	105	389
Oswayo	73	33	53	-1	0.85	4	3.63	-0.96	16	102	27	291
Kane	75	29	54	4	1.28	4	5.56	0.30	20	128	73	330
Laporte	74	39	54	-2	1.58	3	6.30	1.42	18	127	10	360
Lock Haven	80	38	58	2	0.89	2	4.08	-0.47	18	217	85	545
Coudersport_1SW	76	31	53	-1	1.28	4	5.13	0.54	22	119	44	318
Renovo	80	38	58	2	0.94	2	4.70	0.15	18	207	75	526
Ridgway	80	30	56	4	1.76	5	4.27	-0.93	20	158	90	401
Stevenson Dam	81	38	57	6	0.58	2	4.46	-0.74	16	195	127	497
Towanda	78	38	56	2	0.64	2	3.55	-0.80	16	165	46	426
Wellsboro	76	35	53	2	0.50	4	3.21	-0.42	17	126	67	355
Williamsport	81	38	60	3	0.81	2	3.44	-1.34	17	266	93	607
Northeast												
Hawley	76	33	56	3	0.85	3	3.35	-1.74	16	146	71	384
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	36	58	2	0.97	2	4.11	-0.34	17	237	93	536
Susquehanna	77	37	55	4	0.90	2	4.78	-0.51	16	144	78	392
West Central												
Butler	82	35	59	4	2.57	4	4.74	-0.09	17	232	105	529
New Castle	81	37	59	4	1.43	3	3.11	-1.32	16	235	119	543
Slippery Rock	82	31	58	4	1.32	4	3.70	-0.88	15	224	122	524
Central												
Altoona/Blair	75	38	59	2	0.91	4	2.65	-1.98	15	287	129	625
DuBois	79	33	57	2	1.89	3	3.92	-1.01	17	210	103	484
Lewistown	79	42	58	-1	1.23	3	3.43	-1.17	18	253	61	615
Middletown	78	44	61	2	0.74	3	3.47	-1.55	16	305	80	688
Prince Gallitzi	76	34	56	3	1.18	4	3.25	-2.95	15	191	95	474
Selinsgrove	80	40	58	2	0.86	2	3.76	-0.96	16	208	54	531
State College	76	43	59	2	1.40	2	3.48	-0.86	18	237	96	565
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	80	38	60	2	0.80	3	4.41	-0.88	14	266	85	622
Lehighton	77	40	58	-2	1.51	3	5.12	0.03	14	192	21	515
Matamoras	78	40	57	1	0.94	3	4.80	-1.00	15	175	37	501
Mt_Pocono	74	35	55	4	0.88	3	4.78	-1.23	18	174	120	445
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	44	63	7	1.04	3	3.29	-1.69	17	326	166	675
Indiana_PA	81	36	59	3	1.45	4	4.25	-1.19	19	261	107	564
Myersdale	76	32	56	1	0.65	3	3.31	-2.47	17	169	44	429
Chalk_Hill	78	30	59	0	1.29	4	5.74	0.17	21	225	39	493
Pittsburgh Intl	82	40	62	5	1.87	3	4.33	-0.26	17	323	146	663
Connellsville	83	37	61	4	0.82	3	4.98	-0.59	17	283	97	633
Waynesburg	82	35	59	3	0.96	4	3.64	-1.46	17	246	101	572
South Central												
Biglerville	79	46	61	1	0.53	3	3.43	-1.50	18	278	54	648
Everett	75	37	58	2	0.79	4	3.98	-0.93	18	223	79	539
Hanover	77	37	60	0	0.43	2	4.22	-0.71	17	258	34	617
Harrisburg_AP	79	44	62	2	0.85	3	4.10	-0.92	17	332	104	717
South Mountain	71	38	56	-2	0.49	3	4.04	-0.59	18	185	32	495
York	76	42	60	-1	0.55	3	4.18	-0.94	19	260	29	604
Southeast												
Green Lane	79	42	60	2	0.58	3	4.48	-0.98	16	242	75	612
Hamburg	79	43	59	3	1.63	4	4.85	-1.02	16	230	101	587
West_Chester	80	38	59	-1	0.59	2	5.15	-0.52	10	239	23	587
Lancaster	78	41	60	2	0.36	2	2.92	-2.08	15	271	87	630
Neshaminy Falls	82	40	61	3	0.65	4	4.15	-1.77	17	260	81	648
New Holland	82	44	62	4	0.45	3	4.24	-0.76	15	301	117	693
Philadelphia	80	50	63	2	0.59	2	3.63	-1.58	11	358	107	767
Philadelphia NE	79	46	62	1	0.61	2	3.53	-1.68	13	301	50	691
Reading	80	43	62	4	0.54	4	3.15	-2.50	15	315	147	693
Sellersville	79	38	58	1	0.18	2	4.57	-0.89	13	209	42	538
Doylestown_AG	79	43	61	3	0.54	3	4.90	-1.02	16	259	80	632

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

Producers are continuing to plant corn and soybeans when field conditions permit. Some of the corn is now emerged. Some warm sunny days will allow the rest to emerge. Rye, wheat and other forage crops continue to be harvested; however some fields are yielding pretty good tonnage and others not so much tonnage. All depends what kind of forage crop and what the weather conditions were throughout the growing season. Fruit growers are still not sure of how much damage was done to their fruit due to the unusual spring weather conditions and temperatures we have had the past 2 months. Producers are busy spraying their crops. Some vegetables are now being planted. Strawberries will soon be picked also. Overall the producers are busy with planting and harvesting and are hoping for a good crop year.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

The week started out with rain showers on Monday & Tuesday with the northern part of the county receiving heavy rains on Monday evening. Cool, breezy weather followed for the next few days with a beautiful sunny day on Saturday and then back to an all day rain on Sunday. It was too wet to get in the fields until Saturday. Equipment repairs, building maintenance, along with other activities were focus for the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

It was a wet start to the week with limited field work, but the rainfall was needed. I had 1.75 inches for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

There was frost two mornings last week and lots of rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

It was a beautiful weekend for working in the field. Dairy producers started filling silos with the first crop alfalfa in between trying to plant corn. Grain farmers were also working to the late hours trying to take advantage of the dry weather. Pastures have taken off in the last week with the wet weather and now warm sunny days.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Weed spraying, planting and hay making were the primary jobs last week. Most of the early season corn is now planted and the hay making, both alfalfa and grass hay, will now be the focus when weather permits. Pastures are still doing well.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart

Wet weather, while welcomed, has slowed down spring planting. The first cutting of alfalfa came off last week on many farms. Tobacco planting has started. Wheat and barley are headed and two weeks ahead of normal.

LEBANON County, Charlene Ziegler

A wet beginning to the week has turned into warmer days with sunshine. Farmers were busy last week cutting and chopping alfalfa for silage. Ryelage and barlage continue to be harvested. Soybeans are emerging. There is still a lot of ground left to be planted.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

On Monday night, May 7th, our area received 2.3 inches of rainfall. No field work was completed until Friday due to wet conditions. Many corn fields are emerged from earlier plantings. Early planted sweet corn fields are finally growing rapidly. Local produce growers are planting tomatoes and other crops.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Rainfall during the beginning of the week ranged from two to three inches. The late sown oats are not looking good. The wheat and barley have headed and are looking good. Corn and soybean planting is progressing very well with the early planted corn emerging and the stands look good. The main activities for the week were planting, harvesting rye, alfalfa and grass, and spraying.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Rainy weekdays and dry weekends is making for a long weekends of work. Corn planting and haymaking were the main activities last week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Heavy rain Monday evening stopped field work until Thursday or Friday. Overall planting progress is still good.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS)

Much needed rain this week has moved the corn and soybeans out of the ground. Very intense rainfall in some areas has caused widespread soil erosion.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl

Corn stands look good considering how long it took for some to come up. There were some reports of wheat sprayed for leaf disease and insects.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 13, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	93	48	74
Corn, planted	56	27	48
Corn, emerged	23	1	16
Barley, turning yellow	47	9	6
Wheat, heading or headed	69	30	30
Oats, emerged	92	18	55
Soybeans, planted	26	11	18
Potatoes, planted	65	23	45
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	29	15	14
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	5	0	1

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 13, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	13	56	30
Oats	0	2	35	45	18
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	23	57	17
Timothy clover stand	0	1	27	59	13
Quality of hay made	0	1	25	64	10
Pasture	4	4	29	47	16
Peaches	0	0	35	37	28
Apples	0	0	28	46	26

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