



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 May 5, 2013

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 6, 2013, 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. This week saw most days with warmer temperatures meaning farmers and producers were out in the fields a lot. Tilling and planting are in full speed as farmers take advantage of the nice days. With the warm and nice days, corn and soybeans are finally able to be planted but some farmers are still holding off because they are waiting for warmer soil temperatures and not so cold nights. The wheat and barley are growing nicely and starting to head in many areas of the state. This week saw some farmers start to cut forage crops, such as alfalfa, timothy and clover as the warmer temperatures have allowed these to really grow. Fruit trees throughout the state are past bloom and hopefully the cold temperatures at night do not get low enough to harm them. Some rain was reported throughout the state but not much accumulation was seen, although rain would be nice soon as Pennsylvania is below average for rainfall this year. Field activities for the week included manure hauling; top dressing fields with fertilizer and lime; plowing; planting of corn; soybeans and potatoes; finishing drilling oats; and forage cutting. Spring plowing is getting more underway and is 75% complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 5, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	11	85	3

Crop Progress: Corn is 28% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 32% and the 5-year average of 29% planted. Barley is 23% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 93% and the 5-year average of 54% headed. Winter wheat is 7% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 25% and the 5-year average of 15% headed. Oats are 89% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 96% but ahead of the 5-year average of 76% planted. Oats are 51% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 70% but ahead of the 5-year average of 42% planted. Soybeans are 9% planted, which is the same progress at this time last year of 9% but ahead of the 5-year average of 7% planted. Tobacco beds are 95% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 98% and the 5-year average of 99%. Potatoes are 52% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 56% but ahead of the 5-year average of 32% planted. Apples are 97% full bloom or past bloom, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 96% and the 5-year average of 94% full bloom or past bloom.

Crop Condition: Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, and 20% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 61% good, and 10% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 27% fair, 62% good, and 8% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 3% very poor, 4% poor, 31% fair, 44% good and 18% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 28, 2013: Above-average temperatures prevailed along the Pacific Coast, while cooler-than-normal weather dominated the remainder of United States during the week. Most notably, weekly temperatures averaged more than 9°F below normal in portions of the Great Plains, hampering crop development and spring fieldwork. Storm systems delivered heavy rainfall to areas within the southern Corn Belt and Tennessee Valley, with portions of central and western Tennessee receiving more than 4 inches during the week. Corn: By April 28, producers had planted 5 percent of this year's corn crop. This was 44 percentage points, or more than 3 weeks, behind last year, and 26 points behind the 5-year average. This represents the slowest planting pace since 1984. Although recent rainfall benefited soil moisture levels depleted by last year's historic drought, wet soils and below-average temperatures delayed fieldwork throughout much of the Midwest. Nationwide, 2 percent of the corn crop had emerged, 12 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Heading of the winter wheat crop advanced to 14 percent complete by week's end, 41 percentage points behind last year and 15 points behind the 5-year average. Unfavorably cool weather so far this spring limited crop development in many regions. Double-digit heading delays were evident throughout the central and southern Great Plains, as well as the middle and lower Mississippi Valley. Overall, 33 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 31 percentage points below the same time last year. Other Small Grains: By week's end, 47 percent of this year's oat crop was seeded, 40 percentage points behind last year and 21 points behind the 5-year average. In Minnesota and Wisconsin—the two largest oat-producing states—seeding was underway but remained 46 percentage points or more behind normal, as producers battled wet fields and unseasonably cool weather. Nationwide, emergence was 35 percent complete by April 28, thirty percentage points behind last year and 12 points behind the 5-year average. Barley producers had seeded 30 percent of the crop by week's end, 32 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. In Idaho, double-digit seeding was evident during the week; however, a lack of significant spring moisture led to earlier-than-normal irrigation in some areas. Nationally, 8 percent of the barley crop was emerged by April 28, nine percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Emergence was most advanced in the Pacific Northwest, where temperatures have been mostly near normal for much of the spring. Nationwide, 12 percent of the spring wheat crop was sown by week's end, 58 percentage points behind last year and 25 points behind the 5-year average. Producers in North Dakota took advantage of a small window of suitable weather, and seeded 2 percent of their crop during the week; however, a rapid snow melt and persistently cool spring weather continued to limit fieldwork in many areas. Overall, 3 percent of the spring wheat crop had emerged by April 28, twenty-three percentage points behind last year and 7 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 5, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 5, 2013					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	78	47	63	12	0.14	2	2.49	-1.28	16	162	108	387
Franklin_AG	78	37	59	8	0.65	2	5.17	1.06	13	161	108	395
Meadville-Port	77	49	61	11	0.40	2	3.09	-0.76	17	182	142	432
Clarion	75	40	56	4	0.45	3	4.02	-0.25	13	114	46	331
Springboro	77	50	62	11	0.66	2	4.06	0.41	14	139	80	355
Warren	78	42	59	8	0.22	2	3.11	-1.02	16	133	89	357
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	39	57	10	0.19	2	3.16	-0.82	16	136	111	356
Oswayo	75	35	56	6	0.18	2	2.27	-1.43	11	78	44	261
Kane	75	36	55	8	0.37	2	4.19	-0.05	14	86	63	283
Laporte	72	39	54	3	0.17	3	3.54	-0.33	12	59	-5	253
Lock Haven	76	38	55	3	0.01	1	3.17	-0.46	8	140	70	379
Coudersport_1SW	75	32	54	5	0.23	3	3.42	-0.28	12	76	42	272
Renovo	77	40	57	4	0.14	2	3.54	-0.09	10	142	72	374
Ridgway	75	36	56	7	0.51	2	4.44	0.36	12	114	84	330
Stevenson Dam	76	38	55	7	0.28	2	3.11	-0.97	11	114	84	333
Towanda	76	38	55	3	0.04	1	3.36	-0.09	9	79	15	298
Wellsboro	72	40	54	6	0.12	2	3.30	0.50	11	56	29	257
Williamsport	74	40	57	3	0.25	2	3.55	-0.25	10	158	58	423
Northeast												
Hawley	75	34	53	3	0.28	3	2.73	-1.30	12	59	24	250
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	41	58	5	0.09	2	1.89	-1.63	9	156	79	412
Susquehanna	76	38	55	7	0.12	2	3.12	-1.11	11	71	41	280
West Central												
Butler	76	40	58	5	0.45	2	4.34	0.54	15	169	101	400
New Castle	76	46	60	8	0.40	2	3.81	0.27	12	176	121	414
Slippery Rock	80	46	61	10	0.42	2	3.53	-0.16	11	192	144	426
Central												
Altoona/Blair	70	41	55	1	0.27	3	3.26	-0.46	12	193	103	452
DuBois	73	43	57	6	0.48	2	2.53	-1.41	11	172	120	414
Lewistown	77	42	57	2	0.17	2	2.76	-0.78	9	187	73	457
Middletown	70	42	56	-2	0.51	2	2.30	-1.59	10	192	56	482
Prince Gallitzi	72	37	54	3	0.19	2	2.28	-2.71	11	151	103	389
Selinsgrove	74	38	55	1	0.11	2	3.05	-0.69	9	134	47	386
State College	72	45	57	4	0.23	2	3.55	0.11	12	158	84	411
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	74	36	56	1	0.18	2	3.09	-1.08	10	165	62	442
Lehighnton	70	37	53	-3	0.57	3	3.62	-0.31	11	103	8	358
Matamoras	74	37	55	1	0.15	1	2.18	-2.48	7	96	21	336
Mt_Pocono	70	32	52	4	0.46	3	2.52	-2.26	10	70	47	278
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	77	46	61	7	0.31	2	2.96	-0.90	11	276	185	554
Indiana_PA	73	43	58	4	0.34	2	2.92	-1.38	9	219	132	482
Myersdale	68	38	53	0	0.23	2	2.47	-2.18	10	128	63	352
Chalk_Hill	75	40	56	0	0.30	2	2.19	-2.27	11	155	46	385
Pittsburgh Intl	77	48	61	7	0.28	2	3.35	-0.35	11	260	156	528
Connellsville	74	43	57	2	0.21	2	2.30	-2.16	13	181	72	430
Waynesburg	78	37	58	4	0.23	2	1.60	-2.47	9	188	108	435
South Central												
Biglerville	71	39	55	-3	0.46	3	2.15	-1.81	10	193	57	473
Everett	71	36	53	-2	0.25	3	2.90	-1.03	11	156	77	402
Hanover	69	36	54	-4	0.32	3	2.55	-1.41	12	173	37	446
Harrisburg_AP	71	39	57	-1	0.40	2	2.41	-1.48	10	199	60	494
South Mountain	67	35	52	-3	0.49	2	2.64	-1.08	9	125	39	369
York	70	35	54	-4	0.27	2	1.25	-2.94	8	184	43	446
Southeast												
Green Lane	72	39	55	0	0.44	2	3.48	-0.87	8	150	56	424
Hamburg	72	40	56	3	0.68	2	3.27	-1.28	12	155	87	426
West_Chester	74	36	55	-3	0.47	2	2.97	-1.56	8	154	24	421
Lancaster	70	39	55	-1	0.40	2	2.54	-1.49	10	159	52	427
Neshaminy Falls	73	37	54	-3	0.36	1	2.73	-1.97	10	154	50	440
New Holland	72	38	56	1	0.29	1	3.03	-1.00	9	187	80	478
Philadelphia	74	46	58	0	0.29	2	2.51	-1.74	10	245	92	554
Philadelphia NE	71	40	55	-3	0.34	2	2.58	-1.67	11	189	36	481
Reading	73	41	57	3	0.28	2	2.61	-1.90	10	207	114	503
Sellersville	72	37	54	-1	0.39	2	3.89	-0.46	9	138	44	394
Doylestown_AG	73	38	56	0	0.50	2	3.66	-1.04	10	165	61	448

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 2012: 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

The week started off with rain on Monday and Tuesday but not much accumulation. Temperatures were around 58 degrees. Wednesday through Friday was sunny and into the 70's with nighttime temperatures 40's. Saturday and Sunday mornings some parts of the county had frost. Corn is being planted throughout the county. Some producers though are still a little hesitant to start because soil temperature isn't all that warm. Fields are being prepared for planting. Wheat and barley continue to grow in height. Some forage is being cut this past weekend. Hay is taking off now in growth with recent moisture and sunshine and warmer temperatures. Some new seedings of forage crops are also being planted. Pastures are coming along nicely now also. Fruit crops are now all out in blossom or are past blossom. Vegetable crops are being planted also. Overall the producers in the county are busy in their fields with their various agricultural crops.

CAMBRIA County, Dolly Little

Good week for outside activities. The weather this week varied from cool and rainy to warm and breezy. Most of the oats are planted; some corn and potatoes were planted this week and will start soybeans soon.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Good week for field work. Top soil could use some spring showers.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Many acres tilled this past week. Spring crops oats, corn, and soybeans are being planted.

CRAWFORD County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

The weather has been beautiful for six days in a row. Producers were out in force, preparing fields, spreading fertilizer and planting. Pasture condition have improved greatly this week.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Rain of about 0.5 inches this week slowed the field work for several days, but good weather later allowed for corn planting to resume. Some early forage being chopped and looks like alfalfa is about ready. Fruit is looking great at this time, although too early what the crop might be like.

INDIANA County, DAVID B OVERDORFF

Well last week we didn't receive any rain, sure could use an inch of rain this week. That would make the oats take off more and pick up the grass for hay. You could have worked in the fields everyday last week. The ground is starting to get a little

tough to plow in some places. You would have to have some good points on the plow to do sod right now. The oats is looking good now but still could use some rain on it. Put some fertilizer on the hay fields and they are greening up but need rain too. Didn't check on the corn emergence that was planted last Saturday (27 Apr 2013), but it should be peeking through. This coming week going to try to plant some more corn. Some of the plowed fields could use a rain on to make them work up better. A lot of clods would break up better if it did rain on them. Hope everyone gets a lot done this week and has a safe farming week.

LANCASTER County, Jeffrey Graybill

Planters are rolling, most of the rye has been harvested, barley is heading, alfalfa and small grains are growing very well. A little powdery mildew is present on the small grains.

LANCASTER County, Dale Kriner (NRCS)

In addition to manure tankers and plenty of tillage tools, I saw the first corn planter of the spring in operation on May 1.

LEBANON County, Charlene Zeigler

A rainy day early in the week gave .7 inch of rain. Sunshine and 70 degree weather came after that. Nights are chilly, dropping down to 40 degrees. Rye that was cut for forage stayed in the field an extra day or two due to the moisture and the coolness. Corn planted in April is finally emerging.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

More acres of sweet corn have been planted this week. Hay is growing with the warmer weather. Tillage is happening at full speed and any wet areas in the fields have dried up. Oats acres are all planted and most acres in our area are planted by the Amish. Area farmers are positive and upbeat with the warm dry weather this past week.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

There is minor damage to the leaves of timothy and barley as a result of the hard frost nearly one week ago. Minor feeding of alfalfa weevil is showing up. Corn and soybean planting has begun. Main activities for the week were planting, spraying and spreading manure.

WESTMORELAND County, John Lohr

Excellent week for all types of field work. Daytime temperatures in the 70's have soil temperatures warm enough for corn planting. Actually some rain would be welcome by week's end.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 5, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	75	86	67
Corn, planted	28	32	29
Barley, heading or headed	23	93	54
Wheat, heading or headed	7	25	15
Oats, planted	89	96	76
Oats, emerged	51	70	42
Soybeans, planted	9	9	7
Tobacco beds, planted	95	98	99
Potatoes, planted	52	56	32
Apples, in full bloom or past	97	96	94

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 5, 2013

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	16	62	20
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	6	23	61	10
Timothy clover stand	0	3	27	62	8
Pasture	3	4	31	44	18

Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. *Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.* For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

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