



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 26, 2013

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

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. Northern Pennsylvania started out very cold this week and some frost was reported. The frost did result in some damage to mainly fruit trees. Below average temperatures have been a very common theme throughout this year for most of Pennsylvania. As the week went on, temperatures did begin to rise and some much needed rain was received. More rain is still needed to get some moisture back in the soil and to help release the fertilizers into the soil. Most crops have been planted in fields and many are already starting to emerge or have emerged already. Many crops forage stands are reported to be shorter in height this year than in years past. There have been some reports of insect problems throughout the state. This coming week higher temperatures and more rain are expected which should help kick start crops into growing more rapidly. Field activities for the week included finishing planting; plowing; cutting alfalfa and other forage; spraying herbicides and pesticides. Spring plowing is 96% complete.

Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 24% fair, 61% good, and 10% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 64% good, and 9% excellent. Quality of Hay made conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 66% good and 17% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 5% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 52% good and 26% excellent. Peaches conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 100% good and 0% excellent. Apples conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 100% good and 0% excellent.

Nationwide as of May 19, 2013: Near- to below-average temperatures blanketed most of the Southeastern and Atlantic Coast States, while warm, mostly dry weather improved fieldwork conditions west of the Mississippi River during the week. Most notably, temperatures in the central Great Plains averaged more than 9°F above normal. High temperatures topped 100°F in parts of the southern Great Plains. Much of the country received less than one-quarter of an inch of precipitation, isolated locations in the northern and southern Great Plains, as well as the Delta and the Southeast, accumulated more than 3 inches of moisture during the week.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 26, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	13	78	9

Crop Progress: Corn is 84% planted, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 83% and the 5-year average of 74% planted. Corn is 49% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 54% but ahead of the 5-year average of 45% planted. Barley is 78% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 96% and the 5-year average of 96% headed. Barley is 8% yellow, which is behind progress at this time last year of 81% and the 5-year average of 45% headed. Winter wheat is 76% headed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 94% and the 5-year average of 85% headed. Oats are 97% emerged, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 95% and the 5-year average of 86% planted. Soybeans are 59% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 61% but ahead of the 5-year average of 48% planted. Soybeans are 28% emerged, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 26% and the 5-year average of 20% planted. Tobacco is 30% transplanted into fields, which is behind progress at this time last year of 61% and the 5-year average of 37% planted. Potatoes are 96% planted, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 92% and the 5-year average of 74% planted. Alfalfa first cutting is 30% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 60% and the 5-year average of 45% cut. Timothy/Clover first cutting is 9% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 43% and the 5-year average of 23% cut.

Corn: Warm weather and minimal precipitation across much of the major corn-producing region provided producers ample time for fieldwork during the week. By May 19, seventy-one percent of this year's corn crop had been planted, 24 percentage points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Aided by progress of 41 percentage points or more in seven of the top 12 producing states, planting advanced a record-tying 43 percentage points during the week. Nationally, 19 percent of the corn crop had emerged by week's end, 54 percentage points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Warmer weather promoted double-digit emergence in 13 of the 18 major estimating states. Soybeans: By week's end, producers had planted 24 percent of the soybean crop. This was 47 percentage points behind last year and 18 points behind the 5-year average. With nearly a week of favorable weather, many producers in Illinois finished planting their corn and switched their focus to soybeans during the week. Nationally, 3 percent of the soybean crop was emerged by May 19, twenty-nine percentage points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: By week's end, 43 percent of the winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage. This was 37 percentage points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. In the Pacific Northwest, additional moisture was needed to aid crop development, despite a recent increase in precipitation. Overall, 31 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 27 percentage points below the same time last year. This represents the lowest good to excellent rating for this period since 2006, when 30 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported as good to excellent.

Crop Condition: Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 61% good, and 23% excellent. Oats conditions are; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 43% good, and 27% excellent.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 26, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 26, 2013					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	88	37	65	6	1.39	3	4.94	-1.12	25	401	187	810
Franklin_AG	89	34	63	5	0.23	4	6.21	-0.44	24	400	189	800
Meadville-Port	85	33	62	5	0.54	3	4.44	-1.99	27	427	247	846
Clarion	86	31	61	1	0.43	2	5.70	-1.30	22	310	65	687
Springboro	85	31	62	3	0.52	2	5.68	-0.10	21	354	127	731
Warren	89	35	62	4	0.59	3	4.32	-2.47	25	349	149	738
North Central												
Bradford Region	85	34	61	6	1.06	4	5.13	-1.53	26	329	203	717
Oswayo	85	28	59	3	0.46	3	4.34	-1.85	20	221	63	570
Kane	86	29	60	6	0.69	4	6.46	-0.54	23	264	143	619
Laporte	82	36	58	-2	1.95	4	7.46	0.87	22	206	-14	570
Lock Haven	91	36	64	4	0.74	3	5.67	-0.48	17	364	116	791
Coudersport_1SW	86	28	58	2	0.35	4	5.43	-0.76	24	226	68	582
Renovo	91	36	64	4	0.35	3	5.44	-0.71	19	372	124	790
Ridgway	87	31	61	5	0.19	3	5.94	-1.13	23	304	157	678
Stevenson Dam	89	33	62	6	0.00	0	4.26	-2.81	17	317	170	711
Towanda	89	38	62	3	1.05	3	5.09	-0.68	17	269	43	670
Wellsboro	85	35	59	4	0.49	4	5.62	0.56	21	208	80	577
Williamsport	89	42	63	3	0.81	3	6.09	-0.32	19	398	91	860
Northeast												
Hawley	88	37	60	4	0.90	4	5.38	-1.37	24	221	62	594
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	90	41	62	1	1.37	3	4.42	-1.56	19	381	112	830
Susquehanna	87	39	61	5	1.41	4	5.84	-1.12	20	249	105	641
West Central												
Butler	85	33	62	3	0.39	3	5.60	-0.98	23	392	153	797
New Castle	86	33	62	3	0.40	2	4.88	-1.04	17	413	181	827
Slippery Rock	87	29	62	4	0.36	2	4.99	-1.19	17	440	233	846
Central												
Altoona/Blair	88	37	64	3	0.11	2	4.89	-1.29	21	430	146	879
DuBois	85	35	62	3	0.14	2	3.60	-3.05	20	397	184	811
Lewistown	93	43	66	4	0.56	5	5.56	-0.79	20	433	100	904
Middletown	88	45	66	3	0.22	3	4.54	-2.26	21	464	80	959
Prince Gallitzi	88	37	62	4	0.52	3	4.42	-3.76	21	345	156	760
Selinsgrove	88	43	64	3	0.97	3	6.03	-0.34	17	347	68	795
State College	87	40	64	4	0.56	3	6.38	0.49	22	384	117	826
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	89	43	64	2	0.53	4	5.00	-2.07	19	415	88	894
Lehighton	85	42	63	1	0.49	2	5.27	-1.68	19	314	4	767
Matamoras	86	42	62	2	1.96	5	5.95	-1.63	18	293	35	733
Mt_Pocono	83	38	59	3	2.10	4	6.38	-1.53	21	235	114	621
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	34	64	4	0.81	4	5.02	-1.74	20	556	267	1,022
Indiana_PA	84	36	62	2	0.63	2	5.17	-2.15	19	461	182	901
Myersdale	84	32	59	-2	0.42	3	6.33	-1.26	21	286	48	677
Chalk_Hill	85	28	60	-3	0.98	3	6.02	-1.35	22	348	19	742
Pittsburgh Intl	86	33	63	2	0.87	2	5.28	-0.86	18	533	219	986
Connellsville	88	35	64	2	1.04	3	5.35	-2.02	24	414	85	850
Waynesburg	85	31	62	2	1.51	3	4.94	-1.84	19	422	155	850
South Central												
Biglerville	89	43	65	1	0.73	4	4.92	-1.58	22	423	40	902
Everett	88	39	63	3	0.15	2	5.24	-1.16	21	362	95	795
Hanover	89	42	65	2	0.48	3	4.81	-1.69	23	411	28	887
Harrisburg_AP	89	46	66	2	0.42	4	4.98	-1.82	22	467	76	967
South Mountain	84	37	61	0	0.85	3	6.78	0.60	23	295	18	727
York	87	43	65	1	0.28	3	3.86	-2.81	20	427	33	891
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	44	65	3	0.61	4	6.70	-0.42	20	393	90	872
Hamburg	89	44	64	4	0.41	4	5.80	-2.16	22	394	148	869
West_Chester	88	42	65	2	1.19	4	6.63	-0.87	19	396	22	868
Lancaster	89	44	64	2	0.81	2	4.58	-2.07	21	402	72	872
Neshaminy Falls	88	44	66	4	1.03	2	6.00	-1.79	20	421	99	913
New Holland	90	43	65	3	0.68	2	5.41	-1.24	19	449	119	945
Philadelphia	87	48	68	3	0.27	3	4.70	-2.07	20	566	140	1,084
Philadelphia NE	86	46	66	2	0.53	4	4.87	-1.90	21	465	39	964
Reading	92	46	66	4	0.80	3	5.77	-1.71	20	488	179	989
Sellersville	87	40	64	3	1.13	4	7.16	0.04	19	372	69	830
Doylestown_AG	87	46	67	5	0.87	3	6.74	-1.05	19	435	113	923

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 an interesting week of weather for this time of the year. Tuesday, York Springs received 0.2" of rainfall. Some hay and small grain crops had some lodging in fields due to wind. Thursday, the county received another thunderstorm with 0.5" of rain and wind. Corn and soybeans continue to be planted in the county. Some of earlier plant corn and soybeans are now emerged and looking better after the heat we had this week. More crops to be planted before the crop insurance last plant dates which are quickly approaching. Some hay forage is being chopped but yields are lower since not that tall. Wheat and barley small grains are looking ok but are short in height. Hay is now growing but still on shorter side.

Fruit trees seem to be doing ok for now. They are calling for possible frost tonight and the weekend but time will tell if affect crops. Vegetables are planted throughout the county and some did get frosted the second week in May from cold temperatures. Strawberries will be starting to be picked next week. Overall producers are putting in long hours to get their fieldwork completed.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Some days good for field work; 3/4 inches rainfall for the week.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Apple blossoms took direct hit from the frost last week. All other crops planted this spring are peeking out of the ground. They could use water.

COLUMBIA County, David Reedy

Some much needed rain fell late this week. Forecasts for the Memorial Day weekend are calling for a little more and should put us back on track. Forages are a little shorter than should be at this time of year. There is still time for Timothy if we get more rain but the earlier mixes will be short.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Showers this week did little to add to soil moisture, but slowed hay making. Most first cutting alfalfa now cut for silage. Barley and wheat are progressing nicely.

LACKAWANNA County, John Esslinger

The May 14th frost resulted in minimal damage to tree fruit in the Central Susquehanna region but extensive damage to orchards in the Northeast.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

We only received 0.25 inches of rainfall this past week and the crops are in need of moisture. Fertilizer and herbicides that have been applied are not working properly due to the lack of moisture for the activation process. We had three nights of frost activity over the weekend with sunrise temperatures of 34, 35, and 35 degrees with drops as low as 28 degrees for one to two hours. Some damage being reported in orchards and grape growers.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Showers during the latter part of the week produced rainfall in the range of .5 to over 2 inches. Crops in general are looking good. Weeds are a problem in some corn and soybean fields. Main activities for the week were planting, forage chopping and machine maintenance.

TIOGA County, J. Craig

Still very cool weather. Corn is planted and some has swelled; hay is ready to cut soon. Soil slightly dry.

UNION County, James Brubaker

We finally finished planting corn and beans are nearly done. A couple weeks ago we had from 3-5" of rain which caused a need to replant about 30 acres of corn. Most stands are good.

WESTMORELAND County, John Lohr

Scattered frost on Saturday and Sunday mornings could have damaged some emerged soybeans and early planted sweet corn. Forage harvest has just begun. Seeing some insect damage to alfalfa. Planting conditions were still excellent this week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 26, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	96	95	88
Corn, planted	84	83	74
Corn, emerged	49	54	45
Barley, heading or headed	78	96	96
Barley, turning yellow	8	81	45
Wheat, heading or headed	76	94	85
Oats, emerged	97	95	86
Soybeans, planted	59	61	48
Soybeans, emerged	28	26	20
Tobacco, transplanted	30	61	37
Potatoes, planted	96	92	74
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	30	60	45
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	9	43	23

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 26, 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	1	15	61	23
Oats	0	4	26	43	27
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	5	24	61	10
Timothy clover stand	0	3	24	64	9
Quality of hay made	0	2	15	66	17
Pasture	5	2	15	52	26
Peaches	0	0	0	100	0
Apples	0	0	0	100	0

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

There are only a few days left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. *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.

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