



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 6, 2008

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Poor week for Field Work: Last week's weather was pretty wet. The soggy conditions showed less than average plowing activity. So far, thirteen percent of the plowing is completed. Overall, 2 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included; spreading manure and fertilizer, checking and servicing machinery, attending farm auctions, spring plowing, cleaning barnyards, and constructing sod waterways and cropland terraces. Some farmers planted oats.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 6, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	1	72	27

Crops: The state received a large amount of precipitation last week. Despite the rain, operators managed to get twelve percent of their oats planted. This was four percent higher than the same week of the previous year. Fifty seven percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while sixty five percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: Pastures across the state were starting to feel the affects of the rainy weather, as sixteen percent of the pasture conditions were reported as poor or very poor. Only nineteen percent of the pastures were in good or

excellent condition. Pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 5%, poor 11%, fair 65%, good 16%, and excellent 3%.

U.S. as of March 29 2008: Spring fieldwork advanced with few delays, while Northwestern conditions slowed outdoor activities and limited winter wheat growth. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F above normal in the Desert Southwest, but ranged from 5 to 10 degrees F below normal in the Northwest. On the central and southern High Plains, winter wheat continued to suffer due to a combination of poor autumn establishment and persistently dry conditions. Farther east, mid- to late-week rainfall (generally 1 to 3 inches) provided unwelcome moisture in the saturated Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys. Most fields across the Mid-South and lower Midwest remained too wet to begin spring planting preparations. Moisture was much more beneficial in the upper Midwest, although 4-inch soil temperatures remained very low (below 40 degrees F). Elsewhere, chilly conditions in the Southeast included a widespread freeze on March 25 and scattered frost the following day. Although producers had some cold-related concerns, temperatures mostly in the range of 27 to 32 degrees F were not expected to significantly affect boot-stage winter wheat, blooming fruits, and newly emerged summer crops. Elsewhere in the Southeast, cool, frequently dry weather promoted summer crop planting and other spring fieldwork.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 6, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 6, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	64	27	46	4	0.75	4	0.66	0.03	3	11	11	43
Franklin	64	24	44	2	1.20	5	0.67	0.01	4	1	1	30
Meadville	60	28	44	4	1.43	5	0.96	0.30	4	0	0	31
Mercer	63	27	44	3	0.71	4	0.40	-0.32	3	1	1	33
Springboro	61	23	43	2	1.36	5	1.16	0.57	4	1	1	29
Warren	65	22	42	2	1.69	5	1.08	0.42	4	0	0	20
North Central												
Bradford Region	59	15	40	2	1.29	5	0.69	0.03	4	0	0	15
Emporium	69	20	42	3	1.13	5	0.91	0.25	4	1	1	24
Kane	62	17	39	1	1.34	5	0.80	0.08	4	0	0	12
Laporte	63	17	37	-6	0.97	5	0.97	0.37	5	0	0	8
Lock Haven	74	23	44	0	0.46	4	0.46	-0.14	4	5	5	33
Port Allegany	64	18	39	-2	1.14	5	0.63	0.03	4	0	0	12
Renovo	70	24	43	-2	1.27	5	1.17	0.57	4	3	3	27
Ridgway	64	19	41	2	1.32	4	0.94	0.28	3	0	0	23
Stevenson Dam	68	22	42	3	1.47	5	1.14	0.48	4	1	1	24
Towanda	68	16	40	-4	1.30	5	1.22	0.68	4	0	0	18
Wellsboro	65	17	37	-2	1.09	5	0.96	0.54	4	0	0	9
Williamsport	75	22	46	1	0.82	5	0.70	0.10	4	5	-1	43
Northeast												
Hawley	66	15	37	-5	1.45	4	1.45	0.81	4	0	0	9
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	68	23	44	0	0.79	4	0.79	0.25	4	2	2	30
Susquehanna	66	16	39	1	1.47	4	1.47	0.77	4	0	0	16
West Central												
Butler	66	25	45	2	0.93	5	0.69	0.05	4	1	1	39
New Castle	64	26	46	4	0.70	5	0.37	-0.23	4	3	3	40
Slippery Rock	66	26	46	5	0.88	4	0.48	-0.17	3	1	1	39
Central												
Altoona/Blair	71	24	46	2	0.46	3	0.46	-0.19	3	8	2	45
DuBois	63	24	44	2	1.33	5	1.04	0.38	4	6	6	33
Lewistown	74	26	43	-4	0.46	3	0.46	-0.08	3	5	-1	29
Middletown	72	28	47	-1	0.85	3	0.85	0.25	3	6	-2	48
Prince Gallitzi	68	22	43	1	0.41	3	0.38	-0.46	2	0	0	31
Selinsgrove	71	22	42	-3	0.52	4	0.52	-0.08	4	3	-2	26
State College	70	24	44	0	0.49	3	0.49	-0.11	3	2	2	33
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	70	22	46	0	1.03	4	1.03	0.37	4	4	-2	43
Lehighton	67	22	42	-4	1.17	5	1.17	0.57	5	2	-1	23
Matamoras	66	16	40	-5	1.38	4	1.38	0.64	4	0	0	22
Mt_Pocono	61	17	39	1	0.92	4	0.92	0.15	4	0	0	17
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	68	34	49	5	0.55	4	0.53	-0.07	3	15	9	62
Derry	69	22	45	2	0.91	4	0.91	0.29	4	4	4	39
Myersdale	67	27	43	-1	0.46	3	0.46	-0.32	3	1	1	33
Mount Pleasant	69	30	48	7	0.62	3	0.62	-0.16	3	12	12	56
Pittsburgh Intl	67	32	50	4	0.56	4	0.54	-0.12	3	15	9	62
Connellsville	71	36	50	4	0.56	3	0.56	-0.16	3	18	12	68
Waynesburg	69	32	48	4	0.36	3	0.36	-0.33	3	13	9	54
South Central												
Biglerville	74	26	45	-3	0.77	3	0.77	0.11	3	5	-3	36
Everett	71	24	44	-1	0.64	3	0.64	0.00	3	3	1	37
Hanover	73	26	45	-3	0.87	3	0.87	0.21	3	5	-3	39
Harrisburg_AP	73	28	48	0	0.17	3	0.17	-0.43	3	7	-1	51
South Mountain	72	25	43	-3	0.75	4	0.73	0.08	3	2	-2	33
York	75	25	49	2	0.75	3	0.75	0.03	3	13	5	59
Southeast												
Green Lane	70	25	45	0	0.69	3	0.69	0.00	3	5	1	43
Hamburg	70	25	45	1	1.01	3	1.01	0.29	3	4	4	37
West_Chester	70	22	45	-3	0.85	5	0.85	0.13	5	6	-1	43
Lancaster	72	27	47	0	0.51	3	0.51	-0.15	3	5	-1	46
Neshaminy Falls	73	23	46	-1	0.81	6	0.73	-0.05	5	2	-4	42
New Holland	70	25	46	-2	0.74	4	0.74	0.08	4	4	-2	42
Philadelphia	72	31	50	2	0.98	4	0.98	0.26	4	22	12	70
Philadelphia NE	73	28	51	3	0.82	4	0.82	0.10	4	26	16	74
Reading	71	25	47	2	0.82	4	0.82	0.10	4	6	3	48
Valley Forge Na	72	20	47	-2	0.89	6	0.84	0.12	5	6	-3	49
Willow Grove	70	27	48	2	0.63	4	0.63	-0.15	4	13	7	58

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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Internet 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 Behney - Adams County's weather conditions have been a variety of temperatures this past week. Some daytime temps were in the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's, with some days being sunny and some cloudy. Some morning temps were down below freezing last week. On Thursday evening into Friday, we received some rainfall about ½ of an inch. Our soil moisture level has been replenished also after last year's drought.

Wheat and barley are getting greener with the warmer temperatures. Some oats have been seeded with the past two weeks as soil conditions permit. Pastures are starting to come on with new grass, but after last summer's drought will take longer to recover.

According to Dr. Tara Baughtner, PSU Fruit Educator, the fruit trees came through the winter great and with future warmer temperatures will let the fruit bloom soon.

After last summer's drought, Adams County is fairing good with this winter's moisture replenishing the soil moisture and also the ponds. Producers are eagerly waiting to get working in the fields to plant 2008 crops when conditions permit. Producers are still purchasing feed for livestock due to having to start feeding their crops (what they had) earlier last summer. Lack of pasture and no corn for grain was a major headache for our producers and their feed expenses. The Adams County FSA office has been busy with the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) and the majority of producers have been paid. The Adams County FSA office is also processing applications for Livestock Compensation Program and Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP) due to the drought and excessive heat for last summer in Adams County. The producers are grateful of these payments to help with feed costs and higher fuel and fertilizer costs for 2008 crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Temperatures were a bit below normal this past week and several days with showers have held off the early push for spring field work. A few acres of oats were planted and alfalfa has been planted on some of the normal drier locations. Good weather for hauling manure, spreading fertilizer on pastures, hay, and fall seeded grain crops. Fruit buds are likely to be later than normal due to cool weather. Still too early, but does not appear to be any fruit damage due to winter weather.

Dairy producers are starting to grumble about the falling milk price and increased feed cost. Farmers are also complaining about the high cost of fertilizer this year, which may cause them to reduce amount applied.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - Some of our producers were able to get oats planted last week. Spring plowing continues. It seems just as it dries up enough to plow or plant crops, another rainstorm hits the county.

CENTER COUNTY, Dick Decker - Rain showers happened most days during the week. There was good soil moisture. Manure hauling, spring plowing and some grass seeding underway.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Luke Vogel - Spring is in full swing. Temperatures are warming; however ground moisture is still too high for spring planting practices.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle - Last week's heavy rains still have the fields saturated. Most farmers were busy over the weekend getting equipment ready or going to spring auctions. Beef producers are out mending fences and checking on cows calving.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth, Jr. - Cool weather and spring showers slowed field work last week. Small grains and cover crops showed considerable growth. Some landowners are constructing conservation practices, such as waterways and terraces between rains.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Manure hauling has been well behind compared to other seasons. This past week had a few days in which farmers were able to get into the fields to spread.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman - Hay markets were very strong throughout the area. This has some producers attempting to pasture livestock to cut back on feed bills.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY - Rain almost every other day this past week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Widespread rain on Friday stopped the field activities for the week. The main activities for the week were spreading manure and fertilizer, sowing oats, seeding alfalfa and making preparations for corn planting.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Fences are being mended. Machinery is being prepped for spring work.

UNION COUNTY - Due to wet field conditions very little field work was completed. Need more growth to get a good picture of growing conditions of winter small grains and forage crops.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Some progress this week with oats planting. Most of the field work includes manure hauling and fertilizer application. Grass is just beginning to grow.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 6, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	13	13	18
Oats, planted	12	8	12

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 6, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	1	31	53	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	0	43	45	12
Timothy clover stand	0	0	35	52	13
Pasture	5	11	65	16	3

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