



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending April 20, 2008

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Excellent week for Field Work: The weather conditions were better last week compared to the week ending April 13th. It appeared to be warmer with more sunshine. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included spreading manure, lime and fertilizer, and planting corn and oats. Farmers continued their spring plowing, as 50 percent of the plowing is complete. Cattle are being sent out to pasture. Also, farmers are still planning for the upcoming season by making other necessary preparations.

pasture. Forty-seven percent of the pastures were in good or excellent condition. Pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 19%, poor 6%, fair 28%, good 37%, and excellent 10%.

U.S. as of April 13, 2008: Corn: Two percent of the Nation's corn crop had been planted. When compared with last year and the 5-year average pace, planting was 2 and 5 points behind, respectively. In the Corn Belt, planting has not begun as producers wait for warm, dry weather to improve planting conditions.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 13, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 1	<i>Percent</i> 6	<i>Percent</i> 86	<i>Percent</i> 7

Winter Wheat: Four percent of the winter wheat acreage reached the heading stage by April 13. Development lagged last year's progress by 5 points and the 5-year average pace by 2 points. Moderate to heavy precipitation in a band stretched from northeast Texas to the Great Lakes, along with cooler than average temperatures through much of that band. The winter wheat condition rating improved during the week with 47 percent of the crop rated in good or excellent condition, Nationwide.

Crops: The warm weather helped crop conditions last week. The wheat condition continued to improve as eighty six percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. This is 11 percentage points higher than the previous week. Seventy-eight percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while 82 percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition. Nine percent of the corn has been planted. Fifty-four percent of oats have been planted, with five percent emerged. Fourteen percent of the potatoes have been planted. So far Pennsylvania's fruit crop is progressing well. Ninety-seven percent of the peaches are in pink, with 43 percent in bloom. Ninety-five percent of the cherry crop is now in pink, with 47 percent in full bloom.

Small Grains: Barley producers had planted 13 percent of their acreage, behind last year and the 5-year average by 3 and 2 points, respectively. Planting was underway in all barley States except Minnesota. Thirty four percent of the Nation's oat crop was planted. North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas producers were planting at or ahead of the normal pace, while the remaining oat-producing States were 10 or more points behind the 5-year average. Nationwide emergence, at 29 percent, was at the same pace as last year and only slightly behind the normal pace with emergence of spring-planted oats limited to areas in Nebraska and Pennsylvania.

Livestock: Pastures across the state are looking good. As a result some farmers have moved their livestock to the

Weather Data For Week Ending April 20, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 20, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	29	53	7	0.02	1	1.42	-0.75	7	96	86	224
Franklin	82	27	49	3	0.14	2	1.38	-0.96	9	52	42	187
Meadville	79	28	51	6	0.08	1	1.61	-0.59	9	67	62	202
Mercer	79	26	49	3	0.42	2	1.55	-0.72	9	49	40	185
Springboro	79	26	50	4	0.05	1	1.93	-0.17	9	60	47	185
Warren	83	26	50	5	0.05	1	1.53	-0.81	9	53	48	180
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	22	47	4	0.03	1	1.22	-0.98	9	40	39	140
Emporium	86	24	49	5	0.02	2	1.20	-1.03	9	45	42	174
Kane	81	18	45	3	0.04	1	1.18	-1.22	8	25	24	117
Laporte	79	28	50	3	0.04	1	1.46	-0.68	8	43	26	144
Lock Haven	85	27	51	3	0.05	1	1.00	-1.00	7	67	50	210
Port Allegany	84	21	48	3	0.00	0	0.96	-1.10	7	38	34	145
Renovo	86	27	52	4	0.05	1	1.55	-0.45	8	65	48	203
Ridgway	81	22	46	3	0.09	1	1.44	-0.79	7	29	26	144
Stevenson Dam	84	26	49	6	0.03	1	1.53	-0.70	8	51	48	179
Towanda	84	25	49	2	0.07	1	1.64	-0.25	7	46	30	166
Wellsboro	81	25	49	6	0.05	1	1.47	-0.04	8	37	34	138
Williamsport	85	29	54	5	0.00	0	1.03	-1.11	7	89	57	246
Northeast												
Hawley	83	23	49	4	0.06	1	2.02	-0.23	7	45	40	140
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	28	54	6	0.07	1	1.25	-0.67	7	87	69	219
Susquehanna	83	26	50	7	0.00	0	1.95	-0.43	7	43	39	160
West Central												
Butler	80	26	48	0	0.56	2	1.67	-0.42	9	44	26	187
New Castle	83	26	50	4	0.58	3	1.47	-0.53	10	59	51	205
Slippery Rock	77	26	48	2	0.22	2	1.08	-0.97	7	37	31	184
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	28	52	3	0.13	2	1.07	-1.00	7	82	53	222
DuBois	80	27	51	5	0.06	1	1.43	-0.77	8	69	62	196
Lewistown	84	28	51	0	0.08	1	1.12	-0.78	6	63	26	197
Middletown	83	33	54	2	0.01	1	1.14	-0.94	5	94	46	254
Prince Gallitzi	82	21	47	2	0.39	2	1.23	-1.57	7	37	29	164
Selinsgrove	83	28	51	3	0.05	1	1.18	-0.91	6	64	37	199
State College	83	28	53	6	0.04	1	0.86	-1.05	5	74	57	216
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	29	53	3	0.00	0	1.51	-0.77	5	86	54	236
Lehighton	84	29	52	2	0.01	1	1.44	-0.64	8	68	42	195
Matamoras	83	26	50	2	0.04	1	1.86	-0.72	7	48	29	160
Mt_Pocono	79	27	50	7	0.06	1	1.77	-0.90	7	51	49	154
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	29	53	4	0.73	2	1.55	-0.52	8	112	84	272
Derry	83	27	51	4	0.81	1	2.51	0.38	7	68	57	210
Myersdale	78	22	46	-3	0.98	2	1.63	-0.97	7	43	28	160
Mount Pleasant	82	26	49	3	0.98	2	1.95	-0.78	7	73	66	228
Pittsburgh Intl	79	29	52	3	0.43	2	1.26	-0.82	7	107	74	264
Connellsville	83	28	51	0	1.10	2	2.15	-0.37	8	104	69	267
Waynesburg	81	27	49	0	0.74	2	1.33	-0.94	6	73	50	224
South Central												
Biglerville	83	33	54	3	0.02	1	1.25	-0.95	5	85	37	227
Everett	82	25	49	0	0.39	2	1.28	-0.90	6	59	38	190
Hanover	82	29	52	0	0.04	1	2.20	0.00	8	82	34	226
Harrisburg_AP	84	32	55	3	0.00	0	0.39	-1.69	4	105	56	268
South Mountain	79	27	49	-2	0.13	2	1.73	-0.34	9	55	29	172
York	85	28	53	2	0.04	1	1.32	-1.08	5	103	54	265
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	32	53	4	0.00	0	1.24	-1.18	4	80	52	233
Hamburg	86	32	54	6	0.00	0	1.45	-1.01	4	88	72	237
West_Chester	85	28	53	2	0.00	0	1.44	-1.07	7	82	37	233
Lancaster	82	31	53	3	0.00	0	0.78	-1.46	4	84	51	235
Neshaminy Falls	84	31	55	5	0.00	0	1.27	-1.33	7	106	74	264
New Holland	82	31	55	5	0.00	0	1.45	-0.79	5	91	58	240
Philadelphia	87	39	57	5	0.00	0	1.22	-1.18	8	127	72	304
Philadelphia NE	88	37	57	5	0.00	0	1.25	-1.15	7	139	84	318
Reading	86	31	55	5	0.00	0	1.17	-1.32	6	102	76	261
Valley Forge Na	86	27	53	0	0.00	0	1.75	-0.66	7	90	39	255
Willow Grove	84	35	55	5	0.00	0	1.19	-1.41	6	105	73	269

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 A Behney - Adams County once again had a variety of weather this past week. We started off the week with daytime temperatures in the 50's and sunny. Nighttime temperatures for 4 nights dipped below freezing. By mid week until the end of the week it was in the 70's-80's and sunny with clear skies during the day time. Nights were into the higher 40's-50's. Saturday was picture perfect in the 70's and sunny. Sunday we had 2 1/2 inches of rainfall in the York Springs area with heavy rains and thunderstorms in the county. Some parts of York Springs area were without electricity from 6 pm until 11:45 pm. There was pea-size hail reported Sunday evening around 4-5 pm south of Gettysburg towards the Mason Dixon Line. The soil soaked some of the rainfall up but, a lot also ran off. More rainfall is expected Monday and is cloudy in the 50's.

Wheat and barley continue to grow and get greener with warmer temperatures and sunshine this past week. Oats continued to be seeded with some of the oats now emerged. Hay has been top dressed and more manure was hauled. Some corn was planted late in the week in the Littlestown area. Most producers felt the ground temperatures were still not warm enough to start planting corn, but some were trying to see what happens. Pastures are growing, and just in time since a lot of producers are now out of hay because they had to feed hay last summer due to the drought of 2007. Soil moisture levels have been replenished and hopefully will continue throughout the spring and summer months.

Peach trees are out in bloom with apples not far away from blooming. Depending on this week's temperatures, we may see some apple blossoms this coming week. This would be a week before the Apple Blossom Festival held at the South Mountain Fairgrounds near Arendtsville, PA on the first Saturday and Sunday in May. The festival is sponsored by the Adams County Fruit Growers Association. If the apples bloom this week there will still be plenty of blossoms to see unless heavy rains knock them off next week.

Overall the county was getting a little dry, and the moisture will be beneficial. We don't need it all at one time to cause erosion and runoff. It's nice to see everything growing and getting greener. Everyone is feeling better due to nicer weather conditions.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - There was warm and dry weather last week until Sunday. Alfalfa, oats and some early corn were planted this week. Cherries and peaches are nearly all in full bloom. Grass and pastures are responding to the warm weather and showing improvement. Rye is ready to be cut for forage as soon as the weather clears. Barley is starting to head and will be ready to chop. Weather was good for hauling manure, spreading fertilizer and preparing fields for spring plantings. Sunday's rains produced 1.5 to 2.5 inches of rain over the area.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - The first field corn was planted last week. Some beans might go into the ground this week if the weather holds. Last week was a good week for field work as the soil finally dried out. Wheat is looking better since the geese migrated back north. Resident geese are still causing some problems, but their main damage will occur when the corn and beans emerge.

CAMBRIA, Dolly Little - What a beautiful week for planting, last week was. Oats were the main crop being planted last week. Other activities included spreading manure and lime.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - ICCOM: April showers needed to keep surface moisture levels up. Good week for field preparation and manure hauling.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle - Overall it was a good week to get started with field work. Most of the farmers were busy spreading manure, lime, or fertilizer on their fields. Some producers were able to get their oats planted. Pastures are starting to green up, however supplemental hay is still being feed on most farms.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - One and one half inches of rain on Sunday provided timely moisture to crop fields. Conditions prior to the rain were getting significantly dry, especially on worked ground. Corn planting has just begun. Wheat and barley crops are looking good and beginning to increase in height. Alfalfa stands suffered from heaving as a result of freezing temperatures and excessive moisture conditions in March. Too many pastures over-grazed this spring as producers were too soon to turn out animals. Pastures are approaching excellent conditions now where they were not previously grazed.

FULTON COUNTY, Wyatt Karper - Pollen count is high. Heavy rains on Sunday alleviated dusty, low moisture conditions. Activities this week included hauling manure, fixing fences, and spreading fertilizer.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger - Soil condition is favorable for field work for the first time. Wheat is looking a little better. There was much talk about the increased cost of production.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - Pastures are producing nicely with lots of sunshine. Only 0.1" rain Sunday night. Several farmers got started last week with corn planting. I'm amazed how much tillage is still being done in this area considering price of diesel, lime, and fertilizer.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth Jr. - This was a very good week for field work. Planting corn hit high gear. Cutting ryelege, spraying cover crops, and turning cattle out on pastures were some of the activities taking place last week. Planting corn seemed to be the main focus last week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Warm, rain-free weather was the norm for the week that allowed for a lot of field work, and a stimulus to the winter grain and hay fields. A few farmers have planted corn, while others are making preparations for the planting season. The early oats have emerged and appear to be off to a good start. The main activities for the week were chopping corn stalks, spreading manure, fertilizer, and lime, plowing, and making preparations for the planting of corn and soybeans.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - A dry week in the northern tier. Field work has begun under very dry conditions. More moisture is deeper in the soil. We could use some rain showers.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Ideal conditions for spring field work. Activities included tillage, fertilizer application, and planting. With the late-week afternoon temperatures approaching 80 degrees, several growers began corn planting. Pastures are beginning to show lush spring growth.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega - The dry and warm week allowed for much field work. Plowing is in full swing. Oats are being planted. Surface moisture, particularly on hilltops is a little short. Weekend showers were welcomed. Sweet corn under plastic has been planted.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 20, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	50	25	43
Corn, planted	9	2	5
Oats, planted	54	23	43
Oats, emerged	5	2	11
Potatoes, planted	14	3	10
Peaches, in pink	97	65	65
Peaches, in full bloom or past	43	27	43
Cherries, in pink	95	54	58
Cherries, in full bloom or past	47	11	39

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 20, 2008

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	62	24
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	19	65	13
Timothy clover stand	0	1	17	69	13
Pasture	19	6	28	37	10

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