



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending April 27, 2008

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 28, 2008, 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: The weather conditions last week were similar to the conditions of the week ending April 20th. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included spreading manure, lime and fertilizer, as well as planting corn, potatoes and oats. Some late alfalfa was also planted. Farmers continued their spring plowing, as 68 percent of the plowing is complete. Treatment for rust mites and weevils was conducted in some areas. Harvesting activities included green chop and small grain forage. Cattle are being moved around to fresh pastures. Also, farmers are still planning for the upcoming season by making other necessary preparations.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 27, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	16	74	9

Crops: The warm weather continued to help the crop progress and conditions last week. The state's corn is estimated at 19 percent planted. The wheat conditions were similar to last week as 79 percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. Only five percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Eighteen percent of the barley is at the headed stage. Eighty-one percent of oats have been planted, with 16 percent emerged. Twenty-six percent of the potatoes have been planted. Seventy-five percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while 77 percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition. So far Pennsylvania's fruit has progressed well. Seventy-six percent of the peaches are in full bloom or past. Ninety-four percent of the cherry crop is now in full bloom or beyond. Apple trees are 68 percent in pink, with 57 percent bloomed.

Livestock: Pastures across the state are looking good. Farmers are moving cattle to fresh pastures. Fifty-three percent of the pastures were in good or excellent condition. Pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 14%, poor 8%, fair 25%, good 45%, and excellent 8%.

U.S. as of April 20, 2008: Early in the week, record warmth prevailed across the West. Meanwhile, cold weather settled across the eastern half of the U.S. Late-season freezes affected several areas. In the interior Southeast, temperatures were generally not low enough to significantly harm winter grains, fruit crops, and emerging summer

crops. Similar temperatures were noted on April 16 in the southern Mid-Atlantic region. Very high water levels continued inside levees on main-stem rivers such as the Mississippi.

Although heavy precipitation was less widespread across the east-central plains than previous weeks, at least an inch of rain dampened that area. The Southeast experienced cold weather threats from April 14-16. Sluggish crop development and slow planting progress helped to prevent major freeze impacts. Planting and other fieldwork advanced in the Southeast until week's end, when showers arrived. Farther west on the High Plains, there were some wildfires followed by rain and snow. Mild, dry weather occurred across the southern half of the West, contrasted with a return to cool, showery conditions in the Northwest. Toward week's end, rare April snow fell west of the Cascades. Some Northwestern fruit producers guarded against a surge of crop-threatening cold air. Warm air finally spread into the Northeast, where temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F above normal in many locations.

Corn: Four percent of the nation's crop was planted, lagging the planting pace of last year by 5 points, and lagging normal by 13 percentage points. When compared with the 5-year average planting pace, all states were at or behind except Pennsylvania, where planting progress was ahead of usual by 4 points. Rain delays this week. Cooler temperatures and showers have prevented planting from beginning in the eastern Corn Belt and Iowa.

Winter Wheat: Seven percent of the winter wheat acreage had headed, nationwide. Development was lagging last year's pace and the normal pace by 8 and 7 points, respectively. In these areas where wheat had headed, progress was significantly behind last year and normal. In areas where heading had not begun, development was near the 5-year average pace. Forty-five percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop was rated in good or excellent condition compared with 47 percent last week.

Small Grains: Twenty-two percent of the Nation's barley acreage was planted, 1 point behind last year and normal. While the oat planting pace is ahead of last year by 1 point, with 42 percent planted, oat producers were lagging behind the 5-year average planting pace by 13 points. Planting gained momentum during the week. Despite the major planting delays, emergence of oats was only delayed slightly when compared with last year and 4 points when compared with normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 27, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 27, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	39	63	14	0.07	3	1.49	-1.45	10	186	159	384
Franklin	80	37	59	10	0.03	1	1.41	-1.77	10	118	92	323
Meadville	77	39	61	13	0.28	1	1.89	-1.08	10	142	125	347
Mercer	79	37	60	11	0.37	2	1.92	-1.12	11	119	93	325
Springboro	80	35	59	11	0.01	1	1.94	-0.92	10	127	97	322
Warren	81	36	59	11	0.60	1	2.13	-1.05	10	119	100	316
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	32	56	10	0.44	2	1.66	-1.38	11	80	71	250
Emporium	80	38	58	12	0.66	2	1.86	-1.21	11	104	92	303
Kane	80	30	54	10	0.60	2	1.78	-1.48	10	55	47	217
Laporte	73	44	58	9	0.46	4	1.92	-1.01	12	105	70	276
Lock Haven	82	42	61	10	1.34	3	2.34	-0.42	10	143	105	356
Port Allegany	81	33	56	9	0.68	3	1.64	-1.19	10	78	63	255
Renovo	82	42	60	10	1.06	2	2.61	-0.15	10	138	100	346
Ridgway	80	33	56	10	0.27	3	1.71	-1.36	10	74	62	259
Stevenson Dam	80	41	58	12	1.36	3	2.59	-0.37	10	103	91	291
Towanda	79	36	59	10	0.30	2	1.94	-0.65	9	110	76	300
Wellsboro	77	39	57	12	0.80	3	2.27	0.17	11	87	76	258
Williamsport	78	41	62	10	0.69	3	1.72	-1.19	10	173	114	400
Northeast												
Hawley	78	35	57	9	0.05	1	2.07	-1.02	8	93	77	258
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	45	62	11	0.13	2	1.38	-1.28	9	171	130	373
Susquehanna	76	38	58	12	0.37	2	2.32	-0.93	9	101	88	288
West Central												
Butler	80	37	59	9	0.24	3	1.91	-0.95	12	106	69	319
New Castle	82	37	60	10	0.22	2	1.69	-1.02	12	127	102	343
Slippery Rock	80	38	60	11	0.02	1	1.10	-1.71	8	106	85	323
Central												
Altoona/Blair	82	46	60	9	1.94	5	3.01	0.17	12	153	100	363
DuBois	81	40	60	11	0.17	4	1.60	-1.39	12	141	117	338
Lewistown	79	44	61	9	4.13	2	5.25	2.61	8	145	77	349
Middletown	76	48	63	9	2.34	2	3.48	0.58	7	185	101	415
Prince Gallitzi	84	37	58	10	0.33	3	1.56	-2.24	10	95	72	292
Selinsgrove	77	43	60	9	1.65	2	2.83	-0.03	8	137	86	342
State College	81	50	62	12	3.07	3	3.93	1.32	8	161	122	373
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	77	42	60	8	0.12	1	1.63	-1.52	6	160	100	380
Lehighton	77	40	59	8	0.34	3	1.78	-1.13	11	135	82	332
Matamoras	79	37	57	7	0.00	0	1.86	-1.70	7	100	59	282
Mt_Pocono	72	39	56	11	0.18	1	1.95	-1.70	8	97	88	270
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	47	63	11	0.23	2	1.78	-1.10	10	203	151	433
Derry	83	44	60	11	0.83	2	3.34	0.43	9	138	108	350
Myersdale	79	39	56	6	1.21	3	2.84	-0.70	10	82	48	269
Mount Pleasant	81	43	61	12	0.13	2	2.08	-1.63	9	149	128	374
Pittsburgh Intl	79	42	62	10	0.33	2	1.59	-1.23	9	192	131	419
Connellsville	85	45	62	10	0.76	3	2.91	-0.52	11	186	122	419
Waynesburg	82	42	59	9	0.03	1	1.36	-1.75	7	141	96	362
South Central												
Biglerville	77	48	62	8	3.07	3	4.32	1.31	8	167	83	379
Everett	79	41	58	8	4.92	4	6.20	3.21	10	119	75	320
Hanover	79	43	60	6	2.58	3	4.78	1.77	11	154	70	368
Harrisburg_AP	76	46	62	9	2.11	2	2.50	-0.40	6	194	107	427
South Mountain	76	43	58	7	4.59	4	6.32	3.48	13	115	65	302
York	79	43	62	8	2.38	3	3.70	0.46	8	189	103	421
Southeast												
Green Lane	77	45	60	8	0.16	1	1.40	-1.93	5	152	98	375
Hamburg	79	44	61	11	0.43	2	1.88	-1.53	6	168	132	387
West_Chester	78	40	59	6	0.30	2	1.74	-1.69	9	146	66	366
Lancaster	74	43	60	8	0.74	2	1.52	-1.56	6	159	97	380
Neshaminy Falls	77	43	59	7	0.19	1	1.46	-2.12	8	168	107	396
New Holland	78	43	61	9	0.49	2	1.94	-1.14	7	171	109	390
Philadelphia	78	47	63	8	0.12	1	1.34	-1.92	9	217	121	464
Philadelphia NE	80	48	63	8	0.22	1	1.47	-1.79	8	233	137	482
Reading	78	45	61	10	0.41	2	1.58	-1.83	8	182	130	411
Valley Forge Na	78	39	59	5	0.54	3	2.29	-1.03	10	157	67	392
Willow Grove	76	44	60	8	0.25	1	1.44	-2.14	7	179	118	413

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 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

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 had a warm week this past week. Last Monday was 50 degrees and cloudy, but other days were 60-70 degrees and sunny. Nighttime temperatures were high 40's to low 50's. Most of the week, it was too wet to do field work. We had a tenth of an inch rain on Friday evening, with an inch on Saturday evening into Sunday morning. Another quarter of an inch of rainfall happened on Sunday into Monday.

Some corn was planted in the county, but not much due to wet soil conditions. Wheat and barley are looking good and starting to get some height. The rainfall along with sunny and warmer temperatures is helping with the maturity of the small grains. Oats are emerged and looking good. Some rye was mowed at the end of the week for forage. Hay is starting to get some height, also from recent weather conditions. Pastures are regenerating, and livestock are getting beneficial grazing from this.

Peaches and cherries are past bloom now. Apples are mostly out in blossom now. The Apple Blossom Festival, sponsored by the Adams County Fruitgrowers, will be this coming Saturday and Sunday. There should be plenty of blossoms for everyone to enjoy. Some sweet corn has been planted and some other vegetables. Strawberries are starting to bloom with more coming this week.

Overall the crops look pretty good for Adams County. We need to get more of the rainfall we've gotten the past week into this summer when it tends to get dry.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - After a wet start, the warm and sunny days led to a good week for field work. Last week was a good week for corn planting, finishing the oats, and some late alfalfa plantings. Spreading manure and fertilizer also occurred. Harvesting activities included green chop and small grain forage. Fruit still has not had any frost during the bloom, but there is still time for that to change. There was two inches of rain Saturday night.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - We went from excessively wet, to dry in a matter of a few days. The rain over the weekend was the first in 14 days and was much needed. There was one half inch of rain by Monday. Corn planting will really take off this week after the rains, and the arrival of May 1. Rye is heading. Wheat condition has improved with the good growing weather. Timothy mites are active in some fields, causing visible symptoms while some fields are mite free.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - Last week was a good week for field work. There were some brief showers, but not enough to keep the farmers away from the fields. Activities included getting the final plantings of oats into the ground, and beginning to plant potatoes and corn. The grasses are greening up and starting to show some growth. Pasture conditions are also improving.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There was good rainfall last week, as 3.3 inches were in my gauge. Corn planting is underway.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle - Last week was a great farming week! Farmers were in high gear taking advantage of the excellent work week. Farm activities were in full swing. Most of the oats in Crawford County were planted this week, and some producers were planting corn. Rotational grazers have been busy moving cattle to fresh pastures.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Rain is needed because the ground is cracking and very dusty. Winter wheat is growing and oats are peeking through the top soil.

FULTON COUNTY, Trent Harper Black - It is currently very wet, with lots of pollen.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. - The rain held off until Saturday night, so farmers had 6 good days of field work. Planting seemed to slow down a little around here. Activities included hauling manure, spraying, cutting, and plowing down cover crops. Managed pastures are looking good, but some pastures are running out already.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Some much needed rain fell over the weekend. This should help new seedings along. Much of the ryelage is finished, however some growers were caught by the rain with mowed fields.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - For late April, this was an excellent week for field work. Primary activities were: primary and secondary tillage, spraying burndown treatments on no-till fields, planting corn, seeding forages and pastures, and chopping ryelage. Alfalfa weevils are present in alfalfa. Cereal rust mites have been very active in timothy fields, and treatment was essential in many cases. Livestock are now on pasture, however grass growth as been slowed by the lack of rain. Rye is heading and some early orchard grass varieties are beginning to show some heads (only knee high!). First cutting hay yields could be short. The Saturday and Monday rains will stop field work for a while.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler - Cattle are grazing the pastures, and the fields continued to dry. Dust was flying during planting by the end of the week. Last week's activities included manure hauling, ryelage harvesting, burndown treatments for no-till crops, and tilling. Corn and soybean planting were also taking place. Spring small grains are emerging to 3 inches tall, and new seedings of alfalfa are emerging. Saturday night, thunder storms brought moisture to the area.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The above average temperatures along with abundant sunshine have allowed the Alfalfa Weevil larvae to become very plentiful and active on the southern exposed high fields. This caused some farmers to begin spraying. Corn and soybean planting has taken place in some areas. The winter grains, newly seeded oats and alfalfa are looking good. The quality of the pastures has improved. Many farmers have turned their livestock out to take advantage of the forage. Harvesting of ryelage has taken place. Main activities for the week were planting, spraying, harvesting, and preparing for planting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega - The very warm and dry week allowed for much progress in field work. Spring plowing and preparations are in full swing. Exceptionally warm weather has moved the season along rapidly in just one week. Westmoreland County could use some rain as surface moisture is becoming dry.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl - Favorable weather led to progress in corn being planted. Planting in no-till fields raised dust, but ample moisture remains in the seed zone. Rain over the weekend was welcome for incorporating residual herbicides.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 27, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	68	38	58
Corn, planted	19	6	14
Barley, heading or headed	18	3	19
Oats, planted	81	39	63
Oats, emerged	16	8	20
Potatoes, planted	26	4	19
Peaches, in full bloom or past	76	55	73
Cherries, in full bloom or past	94	48	66
Apples, in pink	68	35	74
Apples, in full bloom or past	57	14	49

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 27, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	4	1	16	58	21
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	4	21	56	19
Timothy clover stand	1	2	20	60	17
Pasture	14	8	25	45	8

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

United States
 Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
--