



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 25, 2008

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Poor week for Field Work: Rain and cooler temperatures last week continued to slow the planting and emergence of most crops. A large amount of the week's field work was conducted later in the week when the weather conditions improved. Farmers continue to hope for better weather conditions in the future. Planting is falling behind in some areas, but generally the crop conditions are good. Overall, 2 days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included spraying, cutting hay, as well as planting corn, potatoes, soybeans and oats. Eighty-five percent of the plowing has been completed, which is 7 points below average. As always, farmers continued to make other necessary preparations such as equipment maintenance and cleaning barnyards.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 25, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	0	44	56

Crops: The state's corn is estimated at 70 percent planted, with 44 percent emerged. The average corn height throughout the state is 4 inches. Twenty eight percent of the barley has now turned yellow. Eighty-five percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. Only 2 percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Ninety percent of the wheat has headed, which is 29 points higher than last year and 22 points above average. Eighty-nine percent of the oats have currently emerged, which is 5 points above average. Eighty percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. The state's soybeans are 38 percent planted, which is 22 percentage points lower than last year and 12 points behind the average. Fourteen percent of the soybeans have emerged, which is 15 points behind last year and 5 points behind the average. Even with the soybean progress behind, the condition seems fine as 69% of soybeans are estimated as good or excellent with only 9% rated as poor or very poor. Twenty-six percent of the tobacco has been transplanted, which is right in line with last year and 7 points behind average. Fifty-eight percent of the potatoes have been planted, which is 24 points behind average. The first cutting of alfalfa continued and showed to be 31 percent completed, which is also the average. Seventy-four percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while 78 percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition. The timothy clover first cutting has begun and shows to be 13% complete. The quality of hay made was 62% good or excellent. Pennsylvania's fruit appears to remain in good condition. Peaches stayed at 98 percent good or excellent condition, while the apple crop conditions were estimated to be 99% good or excellent.

Livestock: The pasture conditions last week improved, as 71% of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition. The soil appears to still be saturated, which means that conditions might easily decline where there is heavy livestock traffic. The state's pasture conditions were estimated as follows: 4% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 51% good, and 20% excellent.

U.S. as of May 18, 2008: A record-setting heat wave developed across the West, boosting temperatures above 100 degrees F as far north as Oregon and promoting rapid crop development. In the Northwest, hot weather and short term dryness increased stress on winter grains and emerging summer crops.

Rapidly melting snow triggered some flooding in the northern Rockies. Farther east, late-week warmth also overspread the northern High Plains, but cooler-than-normal weather prevailed elsewhere. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal in a broad area stretching from the southern Plains into the eastern Corn Belt and the Mid-Atlantic States. Favorably dry weather promoted a rapid corn and soybean planting pace in the western Corn Belt, but cool and wet weather hampered fieldwork from the eastern Corn Belt into the Mid-Atlantic region. Despite local flooding and fieldwork delays, rainfall was generally beneficial for the South's summer crops. In contrast, dry weather persisted across Florida's peninsula, where drought-related concerns included heavy irrigation demands and wildfire-induced property losses.

Early in the week, severe weather swept across the South, while heavy rain soaked much of the East and Mid-Atlantic States. In the central Appalachians of West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, rain changed to snow before ending on the morning of May 12.

Corn: Producers planted 73 percent of their corn acreage by the week's end, which is 15 points behind last year and normal, respectively. Major planting efforts were evident in the northwestern Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains, where 25 percent or more of the crop was planted during the week. When compared with normal, planting and emergence was delayed in all States except Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina, and North Dakota. Corn acreage was 26 percent emerged, 33 points behind last year's emergence at this time and 30 points behind normal.

Soybeans: Twenty-seven percent of the soybean crop was planted; 25 points behind last year and 20 points behind normal. Planting was delayed in all soybean-producing States except Louisiana, Michigan, and North Dakota. Major delays, in Illinois and Ohio, were attributed to cooler than usual temperatures and heavy precipitation.

Winter Wheat: Forty-nine percent of the winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, which is 14 points behind last year, and 17 points behind the 5 year average. Nearly all of the wheat acreage in Arkansas, California, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, was at or beyond the heading stage. Elsewhere, heading was evident in other states and varied between 26 and 85 percent at or beyond the heading stage. With the crop well behind normal, development gained momentum during the week from the central Corn Belt westward into the Great Plains despite cooler than normal temperatures.

Oats: Oat producers had nearly planted their entire intended crop. Two points behind last year's pace and slightly behind normal, producers had planted 94 percent of their intended acreage. Planting was complete in Ohio, and was nearly complete in Nebraska and Pennsylvania. Emergence of the oat crop, at 70 percent, was 13 and 12 points behind last year and the 5-year average, respectively. Acreage, in all oat-producing states that plant in the spring, was slow to emerge due to the late planting, and cool, wet conditions in most areas. However, by week's end, at least 50 percent of acreage had emerged in all states except Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. The crop was emerging late in all states when compared with the usual pace of emergence.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 25, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 25, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	61	39	49	-11	0.27	3	4.86	-1.10	24	297	83	735
Franklin	67	34	48	-12	0.34	4	5.84	-0.70	27	216	5	653
Meadville	63	37	48	-11	0.38	2	5.49	-0.83	23	237	57	673
Mercer	68	32	49	-12	0.33	2	6.09	-0.25	25	210	-9	656
Springboro	64	33	47	-14	0.52	4	6.07	0.38	26	195	-32	611
Warren	66	34	47	-13	0.29	3	6.00	-0.68	26	186	-14	591
North Central												
Bradford Region	62	27	42	-13	0.48	4	4.80	-1.75	27	132	6	466
Emporium	70	33	48	-9	0.41	5	5.22	-1.74	28	196	49	625
Kane	64	29	43	-12	0.65	4	5.40	-1.48	26	94	-27	426
Laporte	62	36	47	-13	0.68	5	6.67	0.18	32	173	-47	553
Lock Haven	73	35	51	-10	0.50	4	6.90	0.85	27	259	11	724
Port Allegany	63	30	44	-13	0.23	5	4.37	-1.72	25	129	-29	493
Renovo	73	34	50	-11	0.35	4	7.13	1.08	27	261	13	717
Ridgway	67	30	45	-12	0.45	4	5.65	-1.31	26	130	-17	506
Stevenson Dam	71	33	48	-9	0.31	5	6.39	-0.57	27	208	61	632
Towanda	68	34	50	-11	0.32	4	5.31	-0.37	26	200	-26	624
Wellsboro	66	32	46	-11	0.48	5	5.57	0.58	29	140	12	502
Williamsport	71	34	51	-11	0.31	4	5.77	-0.54	27	324	17	813
Northeast												
Hawley	69	30	50	-8	0.51	4	6.56	-0.09	23	171	12	565
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	68	34	50	-12	0.39	5	5.44	-0.45	26	292	23	734
Susquehanna	66	34	49	-9	0.54	6	5.75	-1.10	27	172	28	589
West Central												
Butler	69	32	49	-11	0.31	5	5.94	-0.53	33	193	-46	649
New Castle	71	36	52	-9	0.26	3	5.08	-0.74	28	263	31	739
Slippery Rock	69	34	50	-10	0.43	3	5.79	-0.28	23	208	1	685
Central												
Altoona/Blair	69	40	51	-11	0.88	4	8.34	2.27	29	277	-7	729
DuBois	67	34	47	-13	0.29	3	5.91	-0.63	29	237	24	642
Lewistown	74	39	52	-11	1.09	4	11.12	4.86	24	269	-63	729
Middletown	73	40	55	-10	0.86	4	8.20	1.50	24	368	-15	872
Prince Gallitzi	70	31	48	-11	0.97	5	6.10	-1.94	27	170	-19	583
Selinsgrove	71	37	51	-11	0.68	5	7.24	0.97	25	249	-30	708
State College	71	40	51	-11	0.58	4	8.77	2.98	26	282	15	745
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	70	36	52	-11	0.76	4	6.71	-0.25	21	299	-28	769
Lehighton	70	36	52	-11	0.88	4	6.66	-0.19	30	262	-48	717
Matamoras	69	31	49	-13	0.51	5	6.62	-0.84	25	180	-78	595
Mt_Pocono	62	34	47	-10	0.67	4	6.27	-1.52	26	149	28	527
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	69	40	53	-9	0.43	3	7.73	1.07	26	370	82	864
Derry	69	38	51	-10	0.98	5	9.71	3.21	29	279	33	745
Myersdale	64	31	46	-14	1.27	4	9.73	2.27	30	141	-97	530
Mount Pleasant	69	36	50	-9	0.57	4	8.04	0.56	26	269	72	748
Pittsburgh Intl	69	38	52	-10	0.33	4	5.21	-0.82	25	355	42	847
Connellsville	68	36	52	-11	0.99	4	9.38	2.13	31	336	8	829
Waynesburg	69	39	52	-9	0.75	4	7.46	0.80	25	276	9	756
South Central												
Biglerville	72	41	54	-11	0.52	4	10.08	3.69	25	334	-48	817
Everett	70	36	50	-11	1.05	5	12.56	6.26	27	218	-49	660
Hanover	72	38	53	-12	0.73	4	10.33	3.94	27	318	-64	796
Harrisburg_AP	74	41	55	-10	0.53	2	6.15	-0.55	18	381	-9	888
South Mountain	69	37	50	-12	0.77	4	11.95	5.88	29	213	-64	643
York	74	41	54	-10	0.86	5	8.83	2.27	28	373	-20	872
Southeast												
Green Lane	72	39	54	-9	1.11	5	6.64	-0.37	22	316	13	806
Hamburg	73	38	54	-7	0.82	4	5.90	-1.95	24	331	85	821
West_Chester	73	37	53	-12	0.91	3	6.77	-0.61	22	294	-79	771
Lancaster	71	39	53	-10	0.82	5	5.69	-0.85	24	314	-15	797
Neshaminy Falls	70	37	51	-12	0.76	4	7.20	-0.46	23	324	3	813
New Holland	72	43	55	-9	0.89	4	6.69	0.15	22	351	22	841
Philadelphia	73	47	58	-8	0.94	3	6.28	-0.37	22	459	34	984
Philadelphia NE	75	43	58	-8	1.03	4	6.62	-0.03	24	500	75	1,028
Reading	73	39	54	-9	0.93	4	5.58	-1.78	25	356	47	848
Valley Forge Na	72	38	52	-13	1.11	3	8.61	1.48	24	293	-116	791
Willow Grove	73	42	56	-8	1.14	5	6.68	-0.98	24	369	48	873

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 (FSA) – Adams County had a variety of weather conditions last week. It started off sunny and windy in the 50's during the day. Nighttime temperatures were down in the lower 40's. There was one half inch of rainfall on Tuesday and temperatures stayed in higher 40's most of the day. Wednesday warmed up to 60 degrees and sunny in the morning and then it was cloudy in the afternoon. There were also some sporadic showers in the evening. Thursday was cloudy, with temperatures in the 40's in the morning then 50's daytime and a few more showers. Friday morning was in the 40's and the daytime was in 70's and sunny with blue skies. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday, it was nice and sunny all weekend with temperatures into the 70 and 80's which allowed for good hay drying and baling. Monday evening, there was a little rainfall about 1/4 of an inch in some areas.

Corn is still being planted, but not much was planted throughout the county. This is causing major concerns for the producers with livestock. We are almost into June and the last plant date for crop insurance is June 10th without farmer's coverage being affected. Ground conditions still are wet, which continues to delay planting. The corn that had been planted earlier is having a hard time emerging due to the crusty ground. Soybeans also have not been planted due to ground conditions. Wheat and barley continue to mature with heads. Some small grain and hay fields have gone down and lodged due to too much moisture and windy conditions. Haylage continues to be chopped. Some dry hay was made over the weekend with the nice days of weather.

Fruit crops continue to look good. Strawberries are being picked in the area. Some of the sweet corn that was planted about 3 weeks still has not emerged. Ground conditions are still wet leading to producers not getting their sweet corn planted. Other vegetables continue to be planted as weather and ground conditions permit.

Overall, the crops that are planted are looking good, but the big concern is getting the soybeans and corn planted. With the weather pattern we have been having, much will need to be done in the field at one time. Long and stressful days are quickly approaching for the producers.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Adams County had nearly an inch of rain early in the week, but we finally got some warm and sunny weather late in the week. Farmers were busy in the later part of the week making haylage, as well as planting corn and soybeans. Fruit crops are now out of frost danger, and the crops look good overall.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The week started out cold and wet with a couple mornings having frost. The week ended with beautiful weather. Even though the sun came out on Friday, the fields were unworkable until at least Saturday or Sunday. Corn, potatoes, and soybeans were planted in the fields that were accessible. There are still a lot of acres that need to be planted.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - There were excellent conditions toward the end of the week for cutting and raking hay. Producers who were behind because of the earlier month's rain used this week to get caught up with completing soybean planting, harvesting hay, hauling manure, and etc.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The weather is not cooperating with spring planting. The potatoes, corn and soybeans planted may have to be replanted due to seed rot. The hay crop is mature and fields

are too wet to harvest. Oats are showing signs of yellowing and are under a lot of stress.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - Wheat is starting to show some serious disease pressure. There are elevated levels of barley yellow dwarf disease in oats.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - The weather is cold, wet and frustrating.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - Rain and more rain held back field work last week. Windy conditions helped to dry things out for a couple of days to allow for field work. Lots of hay is still in the fields. Some lodging of small grains has taken place. Pastures are growing well with all of the rain, but farmers have to be careful with grazing wet areas.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - Recently, very wet conditions have not made getting the crops in the ground very easy. Producers are anxious to start the hay making season, but can't get enough dry days strung together to do so. Pastures look excellent at this point. Corn throughout the county is beginning to show signs of excess moisture. The corn has been slow emerging and most fields have a yellow tint. Beans are beginning to emerge. Oats are off to a very good start.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - It was rainy and wet early in the week with limited field work done until the end of the week when the fields dried enough to mow some hay and rye. Great weekend weather allowed for hay making by Memorial Day. Still, a good deal of corn has to be planted. Soybean planting has barely started. Farmers are waiting for soil conditions to dry out before planting will progress.

MONTOUR COUNTY, Dave Reedy (FSA) - Grass and alfalfa haylage were delayed by last week's wet weather.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Too much rain and cool temperatures are causing emergence problems for the soybeans and corn. The corn that has emerged is very pale and yellow. The oats, wheat, and barley are looking very good at this point. At the end of the week, spraying, spreading manure, and mowing grass for silage and dry hay were the field activities for the week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - It was another wet and cold week. Rainfall this week makes the May total over 5 inches. Several mornings had temperatures near freezing, but fortunately no frost. Again there was no planting progress and poor growing conditions. Much of the planted corn will need re-sprayed. Most dairy farmers will be trying to get their first-cutting alfalfa harvested before returning to corn planting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Cool and wet weather continued during the first part of the week. Sunshine and warmer temperatures throughout the weekend were a welcomed relief. Wet weather is still slowing progress of all field work.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Repeated rain has severely limited planting progress. The good weather over last weekend led to a rush hay making. Many fields are still not dry enough to handle the traffic associated with field work.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 25, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	85	91	92
Corn, planted	70	85	79
Corn, emerged	44	56	53
Corn average height, inches	4	0	0
Barley, turning yellow	28	15	13
Wheat, heading or headed	90	61	68
Oats, emerged	89	73	84
Soybeans, planted	38	60	50
Soybeans, emerged	14	29	19
Tobacco, transplanted	26	26	33
Potatoes, planted	58	83	82
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	31	43	31
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	13	10	10

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 25, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	11	32	42	14
Wheat	0	2	13	57	28
Oats	2	4	14	72	8
Soybeans	0	9	22	59	10
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	21	55	19
Timothy clover stand	0	4	18	62	16
Quality of hay made	6	9	23	44	18
Pasture	4	5	20	51	20
Peaches	0	0	2	56	42
Apples	0	0	1	51	48

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