



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending April 1, 2012

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. The weather for the state this past week while within the normal ranges for this time of year was a stark contrast to the unusually warm weather of the past couple of weeks. Many fruit producers are waiting to see if the two mornings of frost during this week will have any effect on this year's upcoming crop. Farm activities for the week included field preparation, manure hauling, and equipment maintenance for the upcoming planting season.

#### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 1, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	15	78	7

**Crop Progress:** The year's oats crop is 36% planted, ahead of the 0% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 17%; with 6% emerged. Peaches are 93% in the pink with 74% in full-bloom. Apples are 66% in the pink.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 8% fair, 55% good, and 36% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 2% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 55% good and 11% excellent.

**Nationwide as of March 18, 2012:** While mild, near-normal temperatures were evident throughout much of the West, above average temperatures continued to blanket areas of the country from the Great Plains eastward. Most notably, recordings more than 20 degrees above normal dominated much of the Great Lakes region, northern Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and Northeast, promoting a rapid pace for planting and small grain development. A strong, slow-moving storm system dumped precipitation on the central

and southern Great Plains, as well as much of the Delta. Total accumulations exceeded 400 percent of normal in isolated locations, leading to some lowland flooding.

Dry weather and above average temperatures persisted across much of Florida, providing producers ample time to prepare and plant fields. Corn planting was well underway in northern Florida where field conditions warranted. Vegetable producers continued to harvest their winter crop in some areas, while spring varieties were planted in others. Market movement included cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Valencia bloom was heavy across the citrus-producing region, with varying stages of bloom evident in other citrus crops. Orchard growers were busy applying herbicides, disking, irrigating, and caring for young trees.

A wet week delivered much-needed rainfall to most of Texas during the week, with total accumulations exceeding 5 inches in portions of the Blacklands and along the Louisiana border. Temperatures were near-normal across much of the State. The developing oat and wheat crops benefitted from the recent moisture, with an improvement reported in crop conditions. However, some problems with powdery mildew, rust, and armyworms were evident in winter wheat as producers scouted fields. Field preparation for corn and cotton was ongoing in the High Plains, while fields in other areas of the State were being planted. Soybean and sunflower producers were also preparing to plant. Fruit trees were in full bloom and pecan trees were budding. Pecan producers in some areas were applying nitrogen fertilizer to their orchards.

### Weather Data For Week Ending April 1, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	67	26	43	3	0.31	1	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	0
Franklin_AG	75	24	42	3	0.28	4	0.01	-0.10	1	0	0	1
Meadville-Port	73	22	43	4	0.13	1	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	0
Clarion	73	21	42	0	0.14	3	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	3
Springboro	70	22	40	-1	0.33	2	0.00	-0.09	0	0	0	0
Warren	74	22	42	3	0.51	3	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	0
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	71	15	41	5	0.57	4	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	0
Oswayo	71	13	38	0	0.25	3	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	0
Kane	71	17	40	4	0.21	2	0.01	-0.11	1	0	0	0
Laporte	63	20	38	-3	0.34	3	0.04	-0.06	1	0	0	0
Lock Haven	77	26	45	4	0.23	3	0.02	-0.08	1	0	0	4
Coudersport_1SW	72	16	39	2	0.58	5	0.01	-0.09	1	0	0	0
Renovo	77	25	44	3	0.36	3	0.02	-0.08	1	0	0	5
Ridgway	73	18	41	3	0.39	3	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	2
Stevenson Dam	74	24	43	6	0.09	1	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	4
Towanda	70	24	43	3	0.73	5	0.01	-0.08	1	0	0	1
Wellsboro	74	19	39	3	0.39	4	0.03	-0.04	1	0	0	0
Williamsport	70	27	47	5	0.26	3	0.01	-0.09	1	0	-1	5
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	70	23	42	4	0.53	3	0.03	-0.07	1	0	0	0
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	68	25	45	3	0.23	3	0.01	-0.08	1	0	0	1
Susquehanna	68	21	40	4	0.56	3	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	0
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	75	23	44	2	0.22	2	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	4
New Castle	76	24	44	4	0.26	1	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	2
Slippery Rock	75	21	44	5	0.14	2	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	4
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	73	23	47	5	0.39	2	0.00	-0.11	0	0	-1	8
DuBois	74	19	44	4	0.30	3	0.00	-0.11	0	0	0	1
Lewistown	75	30	47	3	0.43	3	0.03	-0.06	1	0	-1	6
Middletown	70	31	49	4	0.43	3	0.01	-0.09	1	0	-1	5
Prince Gallitzi	69	22	44	4	0.45	2	0.00	-0.14	0	0	0	4
Selinsgrove	74	28	45	3	0.45	4	0.03	-0.07	1	0	0	4
State College	72	26	45	3	0.29	3	0.07	-0.03	1	0	0	4
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	69	27	47	4	0.56	3	0.02	-0.09	1	0	-1	3
Lehighton	67	27	44	1	0.42	2	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	2
Matamoras	65	24	43	2	0.42	2	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	0
Mt_Pocono	67	20	42	6	0.42	2	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	2
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	26	48	5	0.32	2	0.00	-0.10	0	0	-1	5
Indiana_PA	72	21	45	3	0.46	2	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	4
Myersdale	68	20	44	3	0.49	2	0.00	-0.13	0	0	0	7
Chalk_Hill	71	19	45	-1	0.73	2	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	6
Pittsburgh Intl	74	27	48	4	0.49	2	0.00	-0.11	0	0	-1	4
Connellsville	74	25	48	4	1.05	3	0.02	-0.10	1	0	-1	9
Waynesburg	75	25	47	5	0.33	3	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	5
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	72	28	47	2	0.09	1	0.00	-0.11	0	0	-1	9
Everett	73	26	46	4	0.60	1	0.00	-0.10	0	0	0	9
Hanover	69	29	47	2	0.06	3	0.00	-0.11	0	0	-1	5
Harrisburg_AP	73	32	50	5	0.40	3	0.01	-0.09	1	0	-1	6
South Mountain	69	23	42	-2	0.22	3	0.01	-0.10	1	0	0	4
York	69	24	47	1	0.19	2	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	5
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	68	29	46	2	0.75	3	0.01	-0.10	1	0	0	3
Hamburg	67	30	45	4	0.37	1	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	1
West_Chester	65	26	45	-1	0.33	1	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	2
Lancaster	69	27	47	3	0.51	3	0.01	-0.10	1	0	-1	4
Neshaminy Falls	67	30	46	2	0.59	2	0.10	-0.03	1	0	-1	7
New Holland	67	27	46	2	0.17	2	0.16	0.05	1	0	-1	9
Philadelphia	67	32	50	3	0.27	1	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	4
Philadelphia NE	66	31	48	2	0.30	1	0.00	-0.12	0	0	-1	3
Reading	69	28	48	5	0.39	2	0.00	-0.12	0	0	0	4
Sellersville	66	29	45	2	0.78	3	0.02	-0.09	1	0	0	1
Doylestown_AG	67	31	47	2	0.70	4	0.02	-0.11	1	0	-1	3

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. Tuesday was 22 degrees with some wind and heavy frost and warmed to 50's daytime. Wednesday morning was 44 and sunny with some rain showers after lunch but sun returned and was in high 60's. Thursday was 51 morning temperature but cloudy and got to 60 with some wind. Friday morning was 30 degrees and sunny but no wind. Friday evening thunderstorms in the county and Sat/Sun had another inch of rainfall. The fruit growers are concerned about the cold temperatures we had on Tuesday and Friday of this week. All fruit is in blossom except apples which is not a good time to have cold temperatures. Time will tell on outcome of the cold temperatures. Producers are getting back into fields after last weekend's rainfall. Field preparation, manure hauling, etc. are being done. Oats are still being seeded when conditions permit. Oats seeded earlier are now emerged and growing. Wheat and barley are growing now with warm temperatures and sunny days. Some looks good and some doesn't look too good. Hay crops are beginning to grow also. Overall, the producers are busy readying equipment for spring planting season which isn't too far away.

### **BRADFORD COUNTY, Keith Kline**

Activity has been on river and creek flats; most hill ground is still too wet to work. Maple syrup producers have had a couple good runs.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Cool overcast week 1/2 inch rainfall. Some field work continued.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Tim Craul**

Central PA is currently running about a 3 inch rainfall deficit. Conditions have been such that we are ahead in field tillage operations. Not much has been planted due to the chance of a hard frost that we did receive a couple of nights last week.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner**

The frost on March 27th and 30th damaged many of the fruit blossoms. Many farmers are preparing soil for spring planting. Have been hearing of oats and new seedings being planted in the past week. The wheat crop is off to an excellent start. Many farmers applying nutrients and spray to the crop.

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dave Reedy**

There was a freeze this week that could affect the peach crop. Temperatures below freezing in late March are normal but the above normal temperatures late winter and early spring has blooms well ahead of schedule. Now we're waiting to see the effects.

### **CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)**

Weather conditions have been good around the county for doing some tillage, lime and manure spreading, and general maintenance. It is nice to see cattle out in the pastures grazing the new spring growth.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

Early spring this year; fruit is about three weeks early. Peaches past full bloom and apples are about ready to bloom. Good pasture conditions. Soil moisture is near normal, but could be a bit warmer before planting any corn. No immediate damage from frost and freezes this past week, but still too early to determine the extent of loss on the peaches.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

The Amish in our area are done with spring plowing. The Amish are about 80% complete in planting spring oats. Many of the area apple and peach orchards are watching for any freeze damage to the blossoms last Tuesday morning - March 27th. Area farmers are busy plowing, chisel plowing, vertical tillage applications and completing spring field work such as planting oats.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

Two major freezes this week caused setbacks with the rapidly growing hay crop. The early seeded oats have emerged, and the winter grains are looking very good. There were a variety of field activities during the week with manure spreading being the predominant activity. Now waiting on the rain to come in.

### **SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney**

Seasonal temperatures have returned. Some rain showers during the week were a welcome site.

### **TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes**

Farmers are busy hauling manure, spreading lime, and fixing equipment. Received some much needed rain Saturday and in to Sunday. Monday morning brought the return to sunshine.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

Two weeks of 70 plus degree weather have the season about a month ahead of normal. Unfortunately this week, two mornings of below freezing temperatures have almost certainly damaged fruits and berries. Grass growth has been excellent.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 1, 2012**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Oats, planted	36	0	17
Oats, emerged	6	na	na
Peaches, in pink	93	na	na
Peaches, in full bloom or past	74	na	na
Apples, in pink	66	na	na

na = data not available

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 1, 2012**

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	8	55	36
Pasture	2	5	27	55	11

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