

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112 (717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending April 29, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at **www.nass.usda.gov/pa** and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. The theme for the week for most of the state seemed to be "return of the winter weather". Frost, sleet, snow, and cool temperatures swept over various parts of the state this week and hindered field activities. Farm activities for the week included manure spreading, spraying, and planting. Spring plowing is 82% complete, which is ahead of the 14% reported at this time last year and the 5-year average of 51%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Apr 29, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	27	65	7

Crop Progress: Corn planting continued and is 27% complete, ahead of 1% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 15%. Barley is 78% headed, which is ahead of last year's 12%, and the average of 18%. Winter wheat is 7% headed, behind the 12% at this time last year, but slightly ahead of the average of 6%. This year's oat crop is 92% planted, ahead of 8% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 58%. Oats are 56% emerged, compared with 3% last year and the average of 22%. Soybean planting is underway and is 5% complete, compared to 0% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 3%. Tobacco beds are 86% planted, slightly behind the 87% last year, and the average of 85%. Potatoes are 53% planted, compared to last year's 2%, and the average of 14%.

<u>Crop Condition</u>: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 54% good, and 26% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 46% fair, 42% good, and 10% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 54% good, and 12% excellent. Timothy/clover conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, and 12% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 5% very poor, 8% poor, 36% fair, 35% good and 16% excellent. Peach conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 26% fair, 49% good, and 22% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 26% fair, 51% good, and 22% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 22, 2012: Temperatures throughout the nation's midsection were near normal during the week, while portions of the West and Northeast noted weekly readings more than 9°F above normal. Mostly dry weather promoted a rapid fieldwork pace in many regions, allowing planting for many crops to progress at a record pace. Elsewhere, precipitation totaling at least twice the weekly normal was received across much of the nation's northern tier, along the Gulf Coast, and at scattered locations in the Southwestern and Mid-Atlantic States.

Corn: By April 22, producers had planted 28 percent of the nation's corn crop, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was ahead of normal in all estimating states except Iowa and Minnesota. Aided by favorable weather conditions, double-digit progress was evident in 10 of the 18 estimating states. By week's end, 9 percent of the corn crop was emerged, 7 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Soybeans: Nationally, 6 percent of the soybean crop was planted by week's end. 4 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Planting was most advanced in the Delta, where producers had at least 28 percent of their seed in the ground. Winter Wheat: Heading advanced 13 percentage points during the week, as favorable weather promoted a rapid crop development pace in many of the major producing regions. By April 22, forty-two percent of the winter wheat was at or beyond the heading stage, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 27 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 63 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 28 percentage points better than the same time last year. Small Grains: Nationally, 82 percent of the oat crop was seeded by April 22, thirty-five percentage points ahead of last year and 25 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 58 percent complete by week's end, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the five-year average. Adequate soil moisture supplies, along with mostly warmer-than-normal weather, boosted crop conditions in many of the growing regions. Overall, two-thirds of this year's oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition. Comparable data from last year is not available, as this is the quickest year on record that emergence has surpassed the halfway mark, and the earliest crop conditions have ever been estimated.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 29, 2012

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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.

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 started the week with 0.2" of rain and Thursday evening another 0.2" of rain. Corn is being planted in the county by some producers. Now that it is in, they are hoping it comes up with the cooler temperatures we had this past week. Wheat and barley continue to grow in height. Barley is in head. Oats are coming along but need some sunshine and warmer temperatures to get it started. Hay is growing in height. Some forage may be cut beginning of May here if weather/field conditions permit. Fruit growers are hoping that the colder temperatures do not come to our area anymore as it will be an impact on their crops for 2012. Cherries already were hit hard but the apples and peaches and other fruits are still in a stage that cold temperatures will have affect on them. No apple blossoms will be around for the Annual Apple Blossom Festival to be held May 5-6 sponsored by the Adams County Fruit Growers Association. Very little vegetables have been planted to date as the temperatures are having producers on the precautionary side. The producers are hoping for good weather here so they have good crops, but Mother Nature can change that really quickly. They will be harvesting forage and planting at the same time so they will be extremely busy in fields since everything is 2-3 weeks early.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Brief powerful storms added some needed moisture this past week. Frosty morning temperatures continue to add to the uncertainty of the apple set. There is bud damage on all varieties with Red Delicious most affected. However at this time most growers anticipate having a crop. Peaches are shuck-fall with a variable crop by variety.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Keith Kline

Northern tier has had frost/freezing nights 7 days in a row.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

The week began with a heavy snowstorm in which the county saw between 8-12 inches of snow. Cold and windy all week with snow flurries. Conditions turned on Sunday with a beautiful sunny day. Little field work was done due to the snow and cold weather.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Good week for field work. The area received 1.25 inches rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Frost, snow, sleet and cold weather slowed the field work. This past week weather damaged the fruit crops. Warren, Forest, Clarion County, and parts of Venango had over 3 inches of snow on April 24. The oats crop is off to a good start. Many farmers have plowed corn ground and when weather breaks will begin planting.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Heavy snowfall caused apple blossoms to drop.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Showers this week hindered field work, but did get some barley chopped and some early alfalfa chopped for forage. With warmer weather this coming week we should see a lot of acres of corn being planted. Several cold nights had minor effect on fruit; will not see the full effects of the cool April for several weeks.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Still have more plowing to do for corn and soybeans. It has been 2 weeks since the last oats has been planted. The first oats that were planted are doing well. Just hope that the little grass seed withstands all the cold frosty nights that we have had. Planted around an acre of potatoes. Planted around 7 acres of corn about 10 days ago and about 7 more 3 days ago. Hope to get more ground ready this week for more corn planting. Maybe the weather will decide to start staying warm so the grass will grow for making hay in a month. Hope everyone has a safe farming week!

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

The rain earlier in the week was much needed for the corn and soybeans that were planted. Another benefit of the rain was the loosening of soil where it was hardened and no-till drills could not get through. It is below average temperature for the month and seems to be delaying germination. Rye forage was harvested.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Soil temperature is still cool enough that it is holding back the early planted sweet corn. Farmers started planting field corn this week along with a few plantings of soybeans. Freeze and frost damage continued this week at least three nights. Final weather related damage assessments to area vineyards and orchards will be made in the near future.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Freeze Saturday morning injured sweet corn and strawberries with temps at or below 30. Cool and wet soil conditions prevented most field work during the week. Corn planting should pick up this week with warmer and drier weather on the way.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Another cold, dry, and windy week. Main activities for the week were planting, spraying and spreading manure.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Cold frosty nights have everything going backwards. Hay and pastures are standing still.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Accumulating snow on Monday melted quickly to provide some much needed moisture. Cool temperatures continue to postpone the beginning of serious corn planting.

Department of Agriculture United States

Aarrisburg PA 17112 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 Pennsylvania Field Office National Agricultural Statistics Service

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PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 29, 2012

1

0

0

Very Poor

Percent

PA Crop Progress for Week End	ling April 29, 2012
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Crop

Crop

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand

Timothy clover stand

Spring plowing

Barley, heading or headed

Wheat, heading or headed

Corn, planted

Oats, planted Oats, emerged

Soybeans, planted

Potatoes, planted

Wheat

Pasture

Peaches

Apples

Oats

Tobacco beds, planted

Current Week

Percent

82

27

78

7

92

56

5

86

53

Poor

Percent

3

2

5

Last Year

Percent

Fair

Percent

16

46

29

14

1

12

12

8

3

0

87

2

Good

Percent

54

42

54

52

35

49

51

5-Year Average

Percent

51

15

18

6

58

22

3

85

14

Excellent

Percent

26

10

12

12

16

22

22

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