



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 21, 2013

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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 3 days suitable for field work. This week saw several rainy days which hindered some field work but brought much needed rain and raised of the topsoil moisture up to normal, adequate levels. While most parts of the state saw rain there were some places in the state that saw snow. Fruit trees and other fruit producing plants went from just starting to bud last week to almost all completely pink or past pink stages and getting into full bloom stages this week. Some nights saw the temperature drop to near freezing levels but not low enough that fruit trees were damaged. Pastures and alfalfa are really starting to green up and farmers are getting out into the fields more and more as the temperatures get higher. Field activities for the week included manure hauling, top dressing fields with fertilizer and lime, plowing, spraying, and some planting of crops such as oats and corn. More plowing, planting and field work is expected in the next couple of weeks as temperatures continue to rise. Spring plowing is getting more underway and is 40% complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 21, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	70	29

Crop Progress: Oats are 41% planted, which is behind progress at this time last year of 85% and the 5-year average of 53% planted. Oats are 11% emerged, which is behind progress at this time last year of 45% and the 5-year average of 18% planted. Tobacco beds are 75% planted, this is behind progress at this time last year of 77%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 64%. Peaches are 95% pink or past pink, which is behind progress at this time last year of 99% but ahead of the 5-year average of 81% pink or past pink. Peaches are 36% full bloom or past bloom, which is behind progress at this time last year at 99% and the 5-year average of 56% full or past bloom. Cherries are 99% pink or past pink, which is the same as last year at 99% and ahead of the 5-year average of 77% pink or past pink. Cherries are 61% full bloom or past bloom, which is behind progress at this time last year at 99% but ahead of the 5-year average of 53% full or past bloom. Apples are 12% pink or past pink, which is behind progress at this time last year of 97% and the 5-year average of 47% pink or past pink.

Crop Condition: Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 57% good, and 18% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 58% good, and 7% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 56% good, and 10% excellent. Pasture

conditions are; 7% very poor, 10% poor, 29% fair, 50% good and 4% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 14, 2013: While near- to warmer-than-normal weather promoted fieldwork across much of the country, weekly average temperatures in the northern Great Plains and Great Lakes region dipped to more than 9 degrees below normal, further delaying spring planting. Dry weather in the West favored fieldwork but left soil moisture in short supply for many areas. Elsewhere, beneficial precipitation was received by much of the eastern half of the United States, with parts of the Corn Belt, Delta, and Great Lakes region accumulating more than 3.5 inches during the week. Corn: By April 14, producers had planted 2 percent of this year's corn crop, 14 percentage points behind last year and 5 percentage points behind the 5-year average. While planting was most advanced in Texas, producers throughout a portion of the Corn Belt and much of the Great Lakes region had yet to begin planting their crop due to unfavorably cool weather and snow-covered or wet fields. Winter Wheat: With progress limited to mostly southern regions, 4 percent of the winter wheat crop was headed by April 14, twenty-four percentage points behind last year and 8 percentage points behind the 5-year average. While producers in northern Texas continued to assess their fields for damage following a second hard freeze, heading became evident in East Texas and South Central Texas. Overall, 36 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 28 percentage points below the same time last year. Other Small Grains: By April 14, oat producers had sown 39 percent of the Nation's crop, 33 percentage points behind last year and 10 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Seeding was behind normal in all estimating States except Texas, where progress had been complete since early-December, and Nebraska, where despite heavy precipitation producers seeded 17 percent of their crop during the week. Nationally, 31 percent of the oat crop had emerged by week's end, 15 percentage points behind last year and 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average. By week's end, 18 percent of this year's barley crop was seeded, 9 percentage points behind last year but 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Seeding was ahead of normal in the Pacific Northwest, while cool weather and poor field conditions delayed progress in Minnesota and North Dakota. Spring wheat producers had sown 6 percent of this year's crop by April 14, twenty-seven percentage points behind last year and 7 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Similar to other row crops and small grains, poor weather conditions delayed the start of seeding in portions of the northern Great Plains and Great Lakes region.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 21, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 21, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	85	27	53	7	0.65	4	1.91	-0.36	11	54	44	164
Franklin_AG	84	25	54	8	0.47	3	3.83	1.38	8	84	74	198
Meadville-Port	82	25	54	9	0.46	3	1.97	-0.34	12	79	74	211
Clarion	79	23	52	5	0.65	2	2.80	0.24	7	68	52	178
Springboro	81	23	51	5	0.58	3	2.64	0.45	9	46	33	151
Warren	79	22	52	6	0.61	3	2.66	0.21	11	63	58	167
North Central												
Bradford Region	72	22	53	10	0.66	3	2.52	0.21	12	70	69	185
Oswayo	69	24	50	6	0.41	2	1.66	-0.50	8	37	33	127
Kane	73	24	51	9	0.61	2	2.92	0.40	8	55	54	156
Laporte	65	24	47	-1	1.10	2	2.93	0.69	8	28	11	117
Lock Haven	73	26	54	6	0.79	2	2.74	0.64	6	93	76	208
Coudersport_1SW	71	20	51	6	0.54	1	2.60	0.44	8	46	42	143
Renovo	75	25	53	5	0.50	2	2.87	0.77	7	84	67	194
Ridgway	73	21	53	9	0.35	1	3.35	1.01	7	70	67	176
Stevenson Dam	73	24	52	9	0.46	2	2.41	0.07	7	73	70	178
Towanda	72	29	50	3	1.16	2	3.07	1.09	7	39	23	141
Wellsboro	67	23	48	5	0.63	2	2.78	1.20	7	27	24	120
Williamsport	72	29	55	6	0.94	2	3.04	0.80	7	97	65	231
Northeast												
Hawley	72	28	48	3	1.00	2	2.43	0.08	8	31	26	124
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	75	30	54	6	0.87	2	1.69	-0.32	6	86	68	216
Susquehanna	72	28	49	5	1.16	2	2.83	0.34	8	29	25	127
West Central												
Butler	85	25	55	7	0.45	2	3.30	1.10	10	109	91	224
New Castle	82	26	55	8	0.52	2	2.76	0.66	7	97	89	216
Slippery Rock	83	23	55	9	0.44	2	2.56	0.40	6	101	95	219
Central												
Altoona/Blair	75	27	57	8	1.04	2	2.49	0.31	8	139	110	277
DuBois	73	26	55	9	0.23	2	1.60	-0.71	7	105	98	232
Lewistown	74	30	57	7	0.80	2	2.28	0.29	6	118	80	258
Middletown	73	31	57	5	0.92	3	1.64	-0.54	7	130	81	285
Prince Gallitzi	77	23	55	9	0.37	4	1.71	-1.23	7	111	103	233
Selinsgrove	73	28	54	6	1.03	2	2.66	0.47	6	90	63	218
State College	72	30	54	6	1.27	4	2.93	0.92	9	96	79	221
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	77	31	56	7	1.29	3	2.88	0.49	7	112	80	263
Lehighton	73	31	53	3	1.12	3	2.99	0.81	7	70	44	206
Matamoras	73	31	51	3	0.92	2	1.99	-0.71	5	54	35	176
Mt_Pocono	67	27	49	6	1.18	3	1.98	-0.81	6	48	46	155
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	31	58	9	1.39	2	2.38	0.21	7	167	138	313
Indiana_PA	75	25	57	9	0.67	2	2.23	-0.29	6	141	115	280
Myersdale	78	23	54	7	0.85	2	2.06	-0.67	7	101	86	221
Chalk_Hill	80	21	54	5	0.61	2	1.59	-1.05	8	111	75	232
Pittsburgh Intl	85	28	58	8	1.21	2	2.55	0.36	7	153	119	294
Connellsville	80	26	56	6	0.80	4	1.84	-0.80	10	123	87	251
Waynesburg	85	26	57	8	0.51	2	1.16	-1.23	6	127	104	254
South Central												
Biglerville	74	32	57	6	0.95	3	1.70	-0.61	6	139	90	293
Everett	76	26	56	8	0.84	2	2.31	0.03	7	129	108	259
Hanover	75	31	57	5	0.89	4	2.06	-0.25	8	135	86	285
Harrisburg_AP	75	37	58	6	1.04	3	1.89	-0.29	7	137	87	298
South Mountain	71	27	54	5	1.11	3	2.05	-0.13	6	102	76	235
York	74	29	57	6	0.74	3	0.89	-1.62	5	143	93	283
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	33	55	6	1.30	2	3.04	0.51	6	100	72	248
Hamburg	74	33	55	7	1.10	5	2.53	-0.04	9	100	84	243
West_Chester	76	32	56	4	1.30	2	2.50	-0.13	6	111	65	257
Lancaster	73	31	56	6	1.24	3	2.05	-0.30	7	115	81	260
Neshaminy Falls	79	31	56	6	0.51	3	2.37	-0.36	9	110	77	269
New Holland	73	30	55	5	1.90	3	2.57	0.22	6	121	87	275
Philadelphia	78	37	59	6	0.57	2	2.21	-0.31	7	152	96	328
Philadelphia NE	78	33	57	5	0.45	4	2.24	-0.28	9	132	76	298
Reading	76	32	58	9	1.08	3	2.30	-0.31	7	140	114	303
Sellersville	76	33	55	6	1.55	3	3.50	0.97	7	96	68	231
Doylestown_AG	78	35	56	6	1.35	3	3.16	0.43	8	110	77	266

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 started the week off with morning temperatures in the 50/60's most mornings. Daytime temperatures varied depending if sunny or partial clouds. They ranged from 70/80's. Wednesday we received 1/4" of rainfall, and Thursday night into Friday a brief shower no accumulation received. Friday night York Springs area had 1.25" of heavy down pour rain and most of the county got similar amounts. Saturday was cooler temperatures and very windy and Sunday morning was 28 degrees with frost in the county and Monday morning was also 28 degrees with heavier frost. This was not good for the peaches and the cherry crops as they are out in blossom.

Producers are getting ready to start to plant corn and soybeans but are awaiting some warmer constant temperatures. Hay is finally growing now and small grains are also starting to grow in height. All the stoned fruits are out in blossoms creating a nice picture when you drive throughout the county. Cold temperatures now are very critical for the fruit crops in the county. Vegetables are being planted with some folks having planted some sweet corn this past week. Overall the county is looking pretty good for now but we are hoping the weather conditions will continue in the right direction.

CAMBRIA County, Dolly Little

The week started out warm and sunny but as the week progressed the temperatures plummeted, and by Saturday the snow returned. There was some plowing done this week, planting of oats, manure hauling, and tending to the calves.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Good week for manure hauling, plowing and other early spring tasks. Total rainfall late in the week was 1.5 inches in my gauge.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

4 inches of rain over 2 days slowed the field work. Many farmers are liming, spreading fertilizer and some tillage is being done.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Spring showers did not slow field work this week, lots of manure spread, ground prepared for planting, and new alfalfa seeding done. Cherries, apricots, plums and pears are full bloom while peaches are nearing bloom. It did not seem to get cold enough to do any freeze damage on Saturday night. We could use some additional rain as the soil is getting dry with the sun and wind.

LEBANON County, Charlene Zeigler

A warm spell had some farmers out in their fields planting

corn. Rains have increased topsoil moisture. Alfalfa is growing nicely.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

Thursday and Friday the temperature was in the upper 70's and lots of sprayers were active along with other field activities. Saturday morning was at 37 degrees with snowflakes; and Sunday morning, at 27 degrees, has the fields a bright white heavy frost-freeze. Tillage seems to be at full speed. A few local sweet corn growers have planted with many acres covered with fabric.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Heavy rains hit the area on Friday evening. Winter grains and the alfalfa are greening up and looking good. Some fields of timothy are infested with timothy mites. Spreading manure and spraying seemed to be the main field activities for the week.

TIOGA County, Pamela Barnes

The sun has decided to come out and help dry up the excess moisture. Some wet fields yet but we are spreading fertilizer and lime on hay fields. Moderate temperatures are making slow field work progress.

TIOGA County, J Craig

Rain was good. Soil temperature was cool. Many fields are very wet.

WESTMORELAND County, John Lohr

The start of corn planting will have to wait on warmer temperatures. Planting will begin in earnest with the next warm up. Grass had its best growing week of the spring. A few wet days slowed down field work.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 21, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	40	74	47
Oats, planted	41	85	53
Oats, emerged	11	45	18
Tobacco beds, planted	75	77	64
Peaches, in pink	95	99	81
Peaches, in full bloom or past	36	99	56
Cherries, in pink	99	99	77
Cherries, in full bloom or past	61	99	53
Apples, in pink	12	97	47

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 21, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	3	22	57	18
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	30	58	7
Timothy clover stand	0	3	31	56	10
Pasture	7	10	29	50	4

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Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
Harrisburg PA 17112

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