

**Ohio Department of Agriculture**  
**Spring 2011 Planting Season Briefing & Assessment**  
**May 26, 2011**

**Key points from today's briefing:**

*"Ohio farmers have contracts that need to be filled, cover crops that have gone to head, and animals that need to be fed. We are here today to get a handle on what the situation is and to figure out what our options are to assist them."*

**Ohio Agriculture Director James Zehringer**

*"This is the wettest April in more than 100 years of record keeping. The previous record was 6.37 inches set in 1893. This year we saw 7.7 inches of rain in April. It is also the wettest February to April period on record."*

**Ted Lozier, Chief, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil & Water Resources**

*"We have 11% corn in the ground as of May 22, 2011. At this time we usually have 80%. Ohio has never been this far behind in the history of the weekly crop progress report, about 51 years. Next worst is Pennsylvania which is 39 points behind normal. The national average is now 79 percent planted which shows that Ohio, Pennsylvania, Southern Michigan and parts of Indiana are especially impacted. "*

*The normal corn planting season is 10 - 15 weeks. Most progress ever in 1 week was 47% progress which occurred in 2007. We normally see 24%-28% planted in one week. Still have to wait for fields to dry out, though.*

**Ohio Field Office Director James Ramey, National Ag Statistics Service**

*The National Weather Service predicts a drying trend for next week. We are really undergoing a pattern change right now with a shift to a warmer, dryer pattern. After this weekend drying weather is expected through at least next Friday.*

**Jeff Myers, National Weather Service**

*"The ramifications of this delayed planting season will affect every farmer in Ohio. I believe, when things do finally dry up, you will see farmers pitching in and helping other farmers in order to get as much corn in the ground as possible."*

**Ohio House Ag Committee Chair David Hall**

*"Our potatoes went in six weeks late, so we will be short on tonnage. Some of our crops will not get planted. It seems as though the situation keeps piling on. We struggle with labor, regulation and now with the weather. This year will be a challenge.*

*"Typically our producers share product when one of us has a shortfall. But this year, there are no extras for anyone to share."*

**Lisa Schacht, produce farmer**

*This year, I hope to plant my 28th crop. Every producer knows how many crops they have put in the ground. And we want to plant our fields and harvest our crops. We want to feed the world.*

*This year will be my most expensive crop that I have ever planted. The inputs keep going up. And I have already paid for them.*

**Fayette County Farmer and State Representative Bob Peterson**

*“Farmers need to check on their soil erosion control practices, such as grassed waterways, as we have reports of extensive damage across the state. NRCS encourages farmers to only cultivate ground where necessary until soil conditions improve.”*

**Terry Cosby, NRCS State Conservationist**

*“What will NASS do in terms of reporting? Normal progression of surveys. June area survey. Objective to know by end of year how many acres, how many harvested, how much produced. The planted acreage report will be issued June 30 and then updated in the August Crop Production Report if necessary. That report will be issued on August 11, 2011.”*

**Ohio Field Office, National Ag Statistics Service Director James Ramey**

*It is important that producers report crop losses, including those insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) and Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP). Crops not covered with a private insurance or NAP policy should still be reported to the local FSA office. Producers are encouraged to keep good production records on acreage with a low crop yield to document crop losses. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available.*

**USDA Farm Service Agency Director Steve Mauer**

“We encourage all farmers to check their crop insurance policy and talk to their crop insurance agent if it looks like they may not be able to plant by the final planting date. The final planting date is June 5 for corn and June 20 for soybeans. Producers with individual coverage may plant during the 25 day late planting period with a reduction in the production guarantee of 1% a day for each day planting is delayed or they may request prevented planting.”

Producers with cover crop still in the field have until June 1 to terminate the cover if they plan to go to corn and June 10 for soybeans. Producers have until July 15th to file a written agreement request with their agent to maintain insurance coverage on the subsequent corn and soybeans.

**USDA Risk Management Brian Frieden**

“We can get away with late planting if the weather is cooperative In July and August. In OSU research conducted since 2005 we have seen yield reductions of 6 to 43% when corn planting has been delayed until early-mid June.”

“In the past 30 years Ohio farmers have experienced significant planting delays in nine years (1981, 1983, 1989, 1995, 1996, 2002, 2008, 2009 and 2011). In six of those years, corn yields were below the trend line yield, from 5 bushels per acre(in 1995) to 56 bushels per acre in 2002, which saw a near record-low harvest of 88 bushels per acre. However in 2009 a record high corn yield of 174 bushels per acre was achieved.”

**Ohio State University Agronomist Peter Thomison**

**Speakers:**

Director James Zehringer, Ohio Department of Agriculture  
James Ramey, USDA NASS  
Jeff Myers, National Weather Service  
Terry Cosby, USDA NRCS  
Ted Lozier, ODNR Soil & Water Resources  
Steve Maurer, Farm Services Agency  
Brian Frieden, USDA Risk Management Agency  
Lisa Schacht, Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association  
Ohio House Ag Chair, Dave Hall  
Fayette County Farmer and State Rep. Bob Peterson,  
OSU Agronomist Dr. Peter Thomison  
OSU Ag Economist Barry Ward

**Legislators:**

Chairman Hall	Ohio House Ag Committee
State Representative Bob Peterson	Ohio House Ag Committee
Frank DeBrosse	Speaker John Boehner's Office
Apps Akpofure	Senator Rob Portman's Office
Nancy Shaver	Congressman Pat Tiberi's Office
Cory Noonan	Congressman Jim Jordan's Office
Justin Barnhart	Representative Jim Buchy's Office
John Campbell	Senator Rob Portman's Office
Melissa Miser	Representative Kathleen Clyde's Office
Susan Brinker	Congressman Bob Gibbs's Office

**In attendance:**

Michelle Lohstroh	USDA NRCS
Bob Hendershot	USDA NRCS
Jack Irvin	Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers
Jerry Knapke	Ohio Poultry Association
John Armstrong	Ohio Seed Improvement Association
Chris Henney	Ohio Agribusiness Association
Kirk Merritt	Ohio Soybean Council
Jamie Butts	Pioneer
Roger Wise	Ohio Farmer's Union
Laura Kunkle	Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association
Christina Reed	Farm Services Agency
Don Lamb	Farm Services Agency
David Drake	Farm Services Agency
Don Breece	OSU Extension
Marc Sulc	OSU Extension Forage Specialist
Harold Watters	OSU Extension Educator Champaign County
Alan Armstrong	Ohio Soybean Council
Neil Diller	Cooper Farms
Jose Faller	Cooper Farms
Chad Endsley	Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Leah Finney	Ohio Farm Bureau Federation