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April 2010 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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After an unusually snowy winter across much of Pennsylvania, the first week of April was a welcome relief to many. With high pressure situated along the East Coast, a southwesterly flow persisted through the week allowing warm Gulf of Mexico air to flow northward. During the first eight days of April, 16 record highs were tied or broken throughout the Commonwealth. On the 2nd and 3rd record highs were broken in Pittsburgh and tied in Williamsport. The record high of 85°F in Pittsburgh on the 2nd was the earliest 85°F reading on record breaking the old record of April 11, 1930. Even after a dry cold frontal passage on the 4th, temperatures remained well above-average through the week. On the 5th, Williamsport set a record high of 85°F. On the 6th, record highs were set in Pittsburgh, Williamsport, Harrisburg, Reading, and Philadelphia. On the 7th, the unseasonable warmth was concentrated across Eastern Pennsylvania with Williamsport, Harrisburg, Reading, Allentown, and Scranton all setting new record highs. Finally, on the 8th a cold front crossed the state bringing a quick-moving line of thunderstorms and a cool down to more seasonable temperatures. However, Mt. Pocono still tied a record high of 80°F on the afternoon of the 8th ahead of the thunderstorms.

In the wake of the cold front, temperatures rapidly dropped with snow flurries occurring throughout Western and Northeastern Pennsylvania on the 9th. Erie, Pittsburgh, and Scranton all reported a trace of snow. Conditions improved on the 10th as high pressure built across the region bringing sunny skies and seasonable temperatures. Another cold front crossed the Commonwealth on the 11th bringing a reinforcing shot of cool air. In its wake, an area of Canadian high pressure built southward bringing sunny, cool weather through the 14th. Warmer air surged northward on the 15th after a warm front crossed Pennsylvania. With warm, humid air in place on the 16th, severe thunderstorms developed as a cold front crossed the state during the afternoon hours. A powerful squall line crossed the southern half of Pennsylvania causing widespread wind damage. Most notably, wind gusts of 86 mph were reported in Latrobe and 79 mph near Altoona. The storm also caused one injury in Mechanicsburg as it continued to race eastward across the state.

Another rapid temperature drop occurred in the wake of the cold frontal passage on the 16th. Following highs in the 70's on the 16th, afternoon temperatures remained in the 40's throughout Pennsylvania on the 17th under cloudy skies. A tranquil period of weather followed with temperatures gradually warming up to more seasonable readings from the 19th – 24th. A warm front moved along the southern border of Pennsylvania on the 25th as a powerful low pressure system approached from the west. Although temperatures were mostly cool at the surface, favorable upper-level conditions caused severe thunderstorms to develop across Western and Central Pennsylvania during the afternoon of the 25th. Isolated wind damage occurred across the Pittsburgh metro area with 1" diameter hail reported in Ebensburg, Shippenville, and Blain. The storm system slowly moved out of the region with unseasonably cold, rainy, and cloudy conditions persisting through the 26th. Rainfall amounts generally ranged from 0.5 – 2" throughout the state with Scranton setting a new daily rainfall record of 0.85" on the 26th. Cool conditions remained in place through the 28th with Scranton setting a new

record daily snowfall of a trace on the 28th. High pressure developed along the East Coast by the end of the month pumping warmer air northward on the 30th.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during April 2010 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	*Phoenixville * Philadelphia *Springtown	91°F	April 7 th April 8 th April 8 th	Chester Philadelphia Bucks
Lowest Temperature	Clarence	18°F	April 18 th	Centre
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Hawley	3.79"	-	Pike
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Washington	0.45"	-	Washington

* A tie exists for the highest temperature recorded during April 2010

Weather Stories

Nearly half of Ohio's corn already planted, Pa. ahead, too

<http://www.farmanddairy.com/news/nearly-half-of-ohios-corn-already-planted-pa-ahead-too/14792.html>

Spring has sprung a bit too early for 'tree hugger' farm

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100425/OUTDOORS/4250311/-1/NEWSMAP>

County qualifies for snow aid

http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci_14939133

Frost nips at apple growers in Franklin County

http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_14917829

Rain, high winds hit area hard

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/dailynews/mckeesport/s_676960.html