



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending June 1, 2008

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

Good week for Field Work: Last week's weather was definitely an improvement over the past few weeks. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work. Weather conditions in some parts of the state were reported in the 80's with sunny and partly cloudy conditions. When the circumstances permitted, farmers took advantage of those five good days, and worked diligently to catch up on their field work. June is here and summer conditions are approaching. Planting is falling behind in some areas. Replanting of corn happened in areas where it was necessary because of the lack of emergence. Other than that, the crop conditions are good. Principal farm activities included plowing, spraying, cutting hay, as well as planting corn, potatoes, soybeans and oats. Ninety four percent of the plowing has been completed, which is 1 point above last year and 1 point below average.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 1, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1	4	74	21

Crops: The state's corn is estimated at 82 percent planted, with 52 percent emerged. The average corn height throughout the state is 5 inches. The corn condition is 62% good and excellent. The state's soybeans are 49 percent planted, which is 26 percentage points lower than last year and 17 points behind the average. Eighteen percent of the soybeans have emerged, which is 26 points behind last year and 16 points behind the average. The condition seems fine as 64% of soybeans are estimated as good or excellent with only 7% rated as poor or very poor. Seventy-seven percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. Only 4 percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Ninety-seven percent of the wheat has headed, which is 9 points higher than last year and 12 points above average. Forty-three percent of the barley has now turned yellow, which is 10 points above last year and the average. Sixty-six percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Ninety-seven percent of the oats have currently emerged, which is 5 points above average. Significant progress was made in potatoes as 82 percent of the potatoes have been planted, up 24 points from last week. Even with all of the potato planting going on, potatoes are still 11 points behind last year and the average. Good progress was also made in tobacco as 53 percent of the tobacco has been transplanted, which is 8 points ahead of last year and 7 points above the average. The first cutting of alfalfa continued last week and showed to be 52 percent completed, which is 2 points above average but 10 points behind last year. Seventy-four percent of the alfalfa was in good or excellent condition, while 73 percent of the timothy clover was in good or excellent condition. The timothy clover first cutting continued last week and showed to be 25% complete. This is 2 points better than

last year and 7 points above average. The quality of hay made improved last week with 74% showing good or excellent qualities. Pennsylvania's fruit appears to remain in good condition. Peaches are at 93 percent good or excellent condition, while the apple crop conditions remained at 99% good or excellent.

Livestock: The pasture conditions last week remained about the same. Seventy-one percent of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition, which is the same as last week. The state's pasture conditions were estimated as follows: 3% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair, 52% good, and 19% excellent.

U.S. as of May 25, 2008: Cool weather plagued the Midwestern and Northeastern States, limiting summer crop emergence and development. In addition, showers hampered fieldwork across the southern half of the Corn Belt, but mostly dry weather favored corn and soybean planting in the Great Lakes region. Farther west, heavy rain pounded the northern and central Plains. Thunderstorms produced local damage due to large hail, high winds, and isolated tornadoes. Meanwhile, warm weather promoted rapid crop development across the South. In contrast, chilly weather returned to the West. On May 22-23, snow was reported as far south as Arizona, where Flagstaff received 5 inches.

Corn: Producers planted 88 percent of their corn acreage by the week's end, 8 points behind last year and 6 points behind normal. When compared with normal, planting was delayed in all States except Colorado, Michigan, Nebraska, North Carolina, and North Dakota. Corn acreage was 52 percent emerged, 28 points behind last year and 24 percent behind normal at this time.

Soybeans: Fifty-two percent of the soybean crop was planted, 22 points behind last year and 15 points behind normal. Planting was still delayed in all soybean-producing States except Louisiana, Michigan, and North Dakota. Emergence was 12 percent complete, 28 points behind last year and 22 points behind the average.

Winter Wheat: Sixty-four percent of the winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 12 points behind last year and the average.

Oats: Producers had planted nearly all their intended acreage. At 98 percent complete, the U.S. pace was the same as last year and the 5-year average, as planting in most States was winding down. Eighty-four percent of the oat crop was emerged, 9 points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence was only ahead of normal in Pennsylvania and North Dakota by 2 and 5 points, respectively.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 1, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 1, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	41	60	-3	0.03	2	4.89	-1.95	26	369	71	877
Franklin	83	35	59	-3	0.25	2	6.09	-1.40	29	281	-10	788
Meadville	79	36	60	0	0.33	2	5.82	-1.46	25	306	53	812
Mercer	81	34	60	-3	0.42	4	6.51	-0.80	29	278	-22	792
Springboro	82	32	56	-6	0.03	2	6.10	-0.39	28	249	-62	728
Warren	82	35	58	-4	0.01	1	6.01	-1.70	27	243	-35	718
North Central												
Bradford Region	77	29	57	0	0.40	2	5.20	-2.42	29	185	6	584
Emporium	85	35	60	2	0.04	2	5.26	-2.75	30	265	58	764
Kane	79	29	55	-3	0.15	2	5.55	-2.37	28	130	-44	529
Laporte	77	39	59	-2	0.86	2	7.53	0.03	34	241	-57	690
Lock Haven	86	38	62	0	0.23	3	7.13	0.11	30	345	11	880
Port Allegany	81	31	57	-2	0.22	2	4.59	-2.55	27	184	-37	615
Renovo	88	36	61	-2	0.15	2	7.28	0.26	29	341	7	867
Ridgway	82	31	57	-2	0.14	2	5.79	-2.22	28	184	-23	629
Stevenson Dam	86	37	60	2	0.16	3	6.55	-1.46	30	278	71	772
Towanda	83	35	60	-2	0.04	1	5.35	-1.17	27	275	-32	768
Wellsboro	80	34	58	1	0.34	2	5.91	0.04	31	199	16	629
Williamsport	85	38	64	1	0.01	1	5.78	-1.49	28	425	21	984
Northeast												
Hawley	81	33	58	-2	1.06	2	7.62	0.06	25	231	6	693
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	36	64	2	0.77	2	6.21	-0.58	28	393	33	905
Susquehanna	81	35	60	2	0.36	1	6.11	-1.68	28	245	39	731
West Central												
Butler	82	36	60	-2	0.29	3	6.23	-1.22	36	267	-56	793
New Castle	86	36	61	-2	0.15	2	5.23	-1.46	30	344	26	890
Slippery Rock	82	36	59	-2	0.15	2	5.94	-1.09	25	276	-9	823
Central												
Altoona/Blair	86	41	65	2	0.60	2	8.94	1.97	31	382	6	904
DuBois	80	35	61	0	0.03	2	5.94	-1.63	31	314	21	789
Lewistown	87	41	63	-2	0.16	2	11.28	4.04	26	360	-73	890
Middletown	83	51	67	2	1.41	3	9.61	1.93	27	491	-6	1,065
Prince Gallitzi	85	32	60	0	0.23	1	6.33	-2.76	28	238	-22	721
Selinsgrove	86	41	63	-1	0.04	1	7.28	0.01	26	342	-30	871
State College	85	43	65	2	0.03	1	8.80	2.10	27	385	26	918
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	85	39	65	0	0.42	3	7.13	-0.74	24	405	-27	945
Lehighton	84	38	63	-2	0.37	3	7.03	-0.80	33	353	-58	878
Matamoras	84	33	61	-3	0.42	2	7.04	-1.33	27	259	-88	743
Mt_Pocono	80	35	61	4	0.41	2	6.68	-2.09	28	229	53	674
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	42	66	4	0.75	3	8.48	0.89	29	481	101	1,045
Derry	83	40	62	-1	1.79	3	11.50	4.09	32	366	32	902
Myersdale	81	34	58	-4	1.40	4	11.13	2.75	34	198	-125	657
Mount Pleasant	82	36	61	1	0.89	4	8.93	0.43	30	348	75	897
Pittsburgh Intl	82	40	65	2	0.60	3	5.81	-1.06	28	462	52	1,024
Connellsville	85	39	62	-3	1.46	3	10.84	2.61	34	427	-2	990
Waynesburg	84	37	61	-2	1.77	4	9.23	1.66	29	356	-1	906
South Central												
Biglerville	83	43	65	-2	1.74	3	11.82	4.57	28	440	-56	993
Everett	86	37	63	0	0.71	3	13.27	6.20	30	309	-48	821
Hanover	83	41	65	-2	0.71	3	11.04	3.79	30	426	-70	974
Harrisburg_AP	84	43	67	2	0.62	3	6.77	-0.91	21	503	-1	1,080
South Mountain	80	40	61	-3	1.61	3	13.56	6.59	32	292	-77	792
York	85	42	67	2	1.86	3	10.69	3.21	31	494	-13	1,063
Southeast												
Green Lane	84	42	65	2	1.90	3	8.54	0.71	25	426	25	986
Hamburg	84	43	65	3	0.75	3	6.65	-2.32	27	439	104	999
West_Chester	85	39	65	-2	0.98	3	7.75	-0.61	25	397	-88	944
Lancaster	83	40	65	0	0.49	2	6.18	-1.27	26	421	-13	974
Neshaminy Falls	84	42	65	1	1.38	2	9.53	0.92	24	444	18	1,006
New Holland	85	45	66	2	1.14	3	7.83	0.38	25	464	30	1,024
Philadelphia	84	50	69	3	0.49	3	6.77	-0.72	25	596	50	1,191
Philadelphia NE	87	48	70	3	0.44	3	7.06	-0.43	27	642	96	1,240
Reading	85	42	67	3	0.78	3	6.36	-2.03	28	475	63	1,037
Valley Forge Na	84	39	65	-3	0.65	3	9.26	1.24	27	399	-129	967
Willow Grove	84	45	67	3	1.50	4	8.18	-0.43	28	490	64	1,064

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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Internet 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 (FSA) - Adams County had another interesting week of weather conditions. We started Memorial Day with conditions that were sunny and 80 degrees with about 1/4" of rain in the evening. Tuesday was cloudy with some sunshine followed by rain into Wednesday. York Springs area received 1 1/4" of rainfall, where west of Gettysburg only received 1/4" of rainfall. Producers are hoping this isn't a sign of the summer months ahead again when some areas do not get rainfall and others do. Thursday and Friday morning's temperatures were 40 degrees with daytime temps in the 70-80's and sunny. There were some clouds during the day. On Saturday, mid morning thunderstorms and heavy rainfall rolled through the county and another 1/2" of rainfall fell on York Springs. Other locations received additional amounts. The late afternoon cleared on Saturday and was in the 70's. Sunday was in the 80's with some afternoon showers in parts of the county. Corn continues to be planted when weather and ground conditions permit. It has been really challenging to the producers this year. Still, not a lot of corn has been planted in the county. The corn that was planted and set in the ground a number of weeks is finally emerging. Some of the emerged corn is lying in water and is a big concern for producers. Some soybeans have been planted in the county and are now emerged. Some producers are thinking of switching acreage that was intended for corn to soybeans because we are in June already. Wheat and barley are now headed. Barley is ripening up and it won't be too long before harvest. There are some concerns for barley that have been lodged due to heavy rainfalls and heavy winds, which will make combining a challenge. Wheat quality concerns are ahead for producers due to the moisture that we have received without much sunshine. If they could get into their fields, most producers sprayed to try to stop quality issues. Haylage continues to be chopped, with dry hay being baled also as weather conditions permit. Fruit crops are looking good at this time. Strawberries are being picked. Some strawberries are blooming a little later than normal due to weather conditions. Sweet corn is still being planted and is finally emerging. The producers in the county are very busy trying to do whatever they can when the weather conditions permit. It's quite a juggling act so far. Activities included harvesting haylage, hay, hauling manure, and trying to get spring crops planted.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The early part of the week was good for hay making and finishing up corn planting. Showers later in the week put a stop to field work. This was the best week for hay making this season. There were some problems due to the wet and cool weather that may affect quality in the fruit.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of corn, soybeans, oats, and vegetables crops were planted this past week. The hay crop is short and maturing and is being taken off for haylage and dry hay.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Corn and bean planting continued between the showers. More storms will slow progress. Corn planted in April is up and looks good. Corn planted in early May before the three weeks of wet, cold weather is variable. Some will be replanted. Most corn is starting to grow out of the yellow color caused by too much soil moisture. Orchardgrass cutting is well behind schedule, due to the weather.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It has been a scramble to get the last of the acreage planted. There was good progress made on corn, potato, and soybean plantings last week, but the planting is still not complete. Haylage is being harvested. The week began with spotty rain showers. While it poured in the southern part of the county, very little rain

was received in the northern part. Some additional rain showers were received later in the week. Conditions were good for planting and growing this week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week was a good week for field work. The first cutting of hay is well underway. There was less than a quarter of an inch of rainfall

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - Weather conditions were ideal this week for hay making. Hay yields seem to be above average. In addition to hay making, activities included planting corn and soybeans as well as fertilizer spraying. Thunder storms at the end of the week were moderate, precipitation was more of a drizzle than a downpour.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - The corn looks good. There is excellent germination and uniform stands. Some insect activity was reported such as seed corn maggots and cutworm damage. Soybean stands are spotty, perhaps related to lower seed germination rates and less than ideal soil conditions. Hay harvest is nearing completion as producers fight the short harvest windows between rainstorms. Wheat and barley crops look excellent. Barley is beginning to ripen. Pastures are starting to slow down in growth.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Some catching up on field work took place last week. Lots of hay was made even though some got wet. Corn and soybeans are growing fast. Small grains are lodging.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - We had our first stretch of dry weather in some time, allowing farmers throughout the county an opportunity to finally make some hay. Cut fields could be seen in every direction last week. Much of the hay was going for haylage with little being made dry at this point. The ground is surprisingly dry and dusty for as wet as it has been recently. Pastures continue to grow at a good rate. Much of the corn is beginning to show signs of growth with the absence of the cold temperatures and wet conditions. Oats and wheat continue to look good.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Last week was a good week for fieldwork. We received heavy rains on Saturday. Cold weather, with below freezing temperatures 3 consecutive nights happened last week. Corn is growing slowly. Some haylage is starting to be made.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Warmer temperatures and plenty of sunshine have made a tremendous difference on the corn and soybeans. However, there are some emergence issues in some soil conditions, with reports of replanting taking place. Haymaking is getting started with quality hay being made on Thursday and Friday. The winter wheat and barley are looking very good at this point. The field activities for the week were planting, haymaking and spraying.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - By mid week, conditions were dry enough to return to the field after almost 3 weeks of little progress. However, several mornings this week in the 30's which continued to hold back new crop growth. Fortunately there was no frost. Generally, the early planted corn and soybeans have good stands and hopefully will soon get some warmer temperatures. Weed control will take additional attention now that the early-applied herbicides may no longer be effective.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 1, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	94	93	95
Corn, planted	82	93	88
Corn, emerged	52	72	68
Corn average height, inches	5	0	0
Barley, turning yellow	43	33	33
Wheat, heading or headed	97	88	85
Oats, emerged	97	84	92
Soybeans, planted	49	75	66
Soybeans, emerged	18	44	34
Tobacco, transplanted	53	45	46
Potatoes, planted	82	93	93
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	52	62	50
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	25	23	18

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 1, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	5	33	45	17
Wheat	3	1	19	51	26
Oats	1	0	33	58	8
Soybeans	0	7	29	53	11
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	21	52	22
Timothy clover stand	0	3	24	58	15
Quality of hay made	0	3	23	56	18
Pasture	3	5	21	52	19
Peaches	0	0	7	60	33
Apples	0	0	1	58	41

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