



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending July 27, 2008

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Fair week for Field Work: Last week was a slight relief from the hot and dry conditions. With the various rainstorms throughout the state, only 4 days were ideal for field work. Principal farm activities included picking fruit, cutting and baling hay and straw, planting double crop soybeans, mowing weeds, as well as harvesting oats, barley and wheat.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 27, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	19	68	12

Crops: With last week's rain, the corn condition improved. Seventy-five percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition, compared to the previous week's 67%. Four percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor condition. The state's corn is 65% tasseled, with 7% at the dough stage. The soybean condition also improved, as 76 percent was rated as good and excellent. Six percent of the soybeans were rated as poor or very poor. The wheat harvest progress continues strong with 96% of the state's wheat harvested, compared to last year's 98% and the average of 89%. Oat condition improved slightly, with 80 percent of the oats in good or excellent condition compared to the previous week's 76 percent. Eighty-six percent of the oats are turning yellow, which is 9 points below this time last year, and 7 points above average. Forty-four percent of the oats are now ripe, compared to last year's 62 percent, and the average of 43 percent. The oat harvest continued, with 17 percent harvested, which is 2 points behind last year and 1 point above average. The second cutting of alfalfa is 91 percent complete, which is 5 points behind last year, and 11 points above the average. Alfalfa third cutting continued and is 30% completed, which is 4 points behind last year, and 6 points above average. The second cutting of timothy clover is 31% completed, compared with last year's 33% and the average of 29%. The quality of hay declined and is at 62 percent good or excellent, with 7 percent rated as poor. Peaches are in good condition, as 99 percent are rated as good or excellent. The peach harvest is 28 percent completed, compared with 24 percent last year, and a 29 percent average. The apple condition improved to 85 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest has begun, and shows to be 10% complete, compared with last year's 7% and the average of 9%.

Livestock: Pasture conditions declined last week. Forty-seven percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is 4 points less than last week. Fourteen percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 5% very poor, 9% poor, 39% fair, 36% good, and 11% excellent.

U.S. as of July 20, 2008: Heavy showers associated with a low-pressure system that later became Tropical Storm Cristobal soaked Florida, but hot, mostly dry weather across the remainder of the Southeast increased stress on pastures and rain-fed summer crops. Meanwhile in the Midwest, dry weather in the Ohio Valley contrasted with unfavorably heavy rain from Iowa into Michigan. Warm, dry

conditions in the lower Midwest promoted winter wheat harvesting and summer crop development. Farther west, highly variable weather across the nation's mid-section included heavy rain from South Dakota into parts of Kansas with mostly dry conditions on the northern and central High Plains. Some spring-sown wheat on the northern High Plains was adversely affected by dryness during the grain-fill stage of development. Elsewhere, heavy monsoon showers continued to pepper much of Arizona and New Mexico, while warm, mostly dry weather prevailed elsewhere in the West. Persistent dryness in the Northwest favored winter wheat maturation but stressed spring sown small grains. Early in the week, chilly weather prevailed across the north-central and northwestern U.S. Later, cool, dry air settled into the Southeast. Toward week's end, however, heat began to build across the South and East. On July 19, Tropical Storm Cristobal formed about 100 miles east of Charleston, SC. In northern California, more than a dozen large wildfires continued to burn. By July 20, northern California's year-to-date charred area reached 600,000 acres.

Corn: Corn at or beyond silking progressed 21 points during the week, reaching 34 percent complete by week's end. Progress was 38 points behind last year and 26 points behind the 5-year average. Development remained behind in the Corn Belt, due to late planting and excessive moisture. Development was behind normal throughout all major corn-producing States, except Colorado, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Corn condition ratings improved 1 point during the week to 65 percent rated good to excellent.

Soybeans: Development advanced rapidly in most States as 19 percent of the acreage at the National level reached the blooming stage during the week, totaling 45 percent by week's end. Despite the improvement, acreage at or beyond the blooming stage remained 25 points behind the previous year's pace and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Only half of the soybean-producing states had 50 percent or more of their acreage blooming. Condition ratings of the soybean crop increased 2 points during the week to 61 percent good to excellent.

Winter Wheat: Acreage of winter wheat harvested reached 71 percent by week's end, 7 points behind last year, and 8 points behind the usual harvest pace. The most significant harvest delays across the country were in Colorado and South Dakota, where harvest was 38 and 54 points behind the average, respectively.

Barley: Ninety-three percent of the barley acreage was heading, 5 points behind last year but equal to the 5-year average. Fifty-eight percent of the barley acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 67 percent last week, declining in all States except Minnesota, where the condition of the crop improved 4 points.

Oats: Oat acreage was 98 percent headed, which is 2 points behind last year, but the same as the 5-year average. Harvest advanced only 2 points during the week to reach 12 percent by week's end; 11 and 7 points behind last year and normal, respectively. Condition of the crop was rated 62 percent good to excellent, increasing 1 point from the previous week's rating.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 27, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 27, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	84	61	73	2	2.26	2	13.57	-0.20	53	1,624	266	2,692	
Franklin	86	54	71	2	1.85	6	16.42	0.14	62	1,417	120	2,484	
Meadville	82	57	70	2	0.72	3	15.19	-0.34	53	1,419	238	2,485	
Mercer	85	52	71	0	1.45	5	15.79	0.33	64	1,381	96	2,455	
Springboro	83	54	69	-3	2.37	5	20.22	6.43	58	1,301	-65	2,340	
Warren	86	53	71	1	2.32	7	17.12	1.09	65	1,321	62	2,356	
North Central													
Bradford Region	81	45	66	0	1.90	6	15.56	-0.72	68	1,037	123	1,996	
Emporium	88	56	71	5	2.01	6	12.70	-3.89	63	1,383	360	2,442	
Kane	83	46	67	2	2.06	5	15.69	-0.64	60	1,018	116	1,977	
Laporte	83	54	69	-3	3.80	5	19.02	3.73	65	1,236	-62	2,245	
Lock Haven	90	56	72	2	0.81	3	13.55	-1.33	56	1,573	195	2,668	
Port Allegany	84	51	68	3	0.99	4	12.07	-3.57	61	1,125	103	2,116	
Renovo	91	58	73	3	1.22	4	13.75	-1.13	51	1,545	167	2,631	
Ridgway	85	50	69	2	1.61	5	14.32	-2.27	61	1,125	102	2,130	
Stevenson Dam	90	56	71	5	1.10	5	12.40	-4.19	56	1,388	365	2,442	
Towanda	89	53	71	1	2.56	5	15.98	3.31	53	1,424	115	2,477	
Wellsboro	83	49	67	1	1.91	3	13.46	0.64	61	1,129	165	2,119	
Williamsport	93	57	74	2	3.22	5	15.56	0.63	55	1,727	196	2,846	
Northeast													
Hawley	91	52	71	3	0.42	3	12.17	-2.02	47	1,293	191	2,315	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	90	55	73	2	1.81	5	13.44	-0.53	54	1,599	145	2,671	
Susquehanna	88	54	71	4	2.71	5	16.50	1.31	59	1,346	289	2,392	
West Central													
Butler	85	55	71	1	1.38	5	12.57	-2.69	71	1,349	2	2,435	
New Castle	91	55	74	4	2.39	6	13.37	-0.75	64	1,585	229	2,691	
Slippery Rock	84	55	70	2	1.94	6	15.29	0.34	58	1,372	152	2,479	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	88	56	72	0	1.40	5	14.12	0.21	60	1,548	89	2,630	
DuBois	83	53	69	-1	1.63	6	14.74	-0.64	66	1,336	77	2,371	
Lewistown	93	57	74	0	1.54	6	16.70	1.70	52	1,644	43	2,734	
Middletown	95	60	77	2	1.16	3	15.13	0.62	46	1,952	143	3,086	
Prince Gallitzi	89	53	70	2	1.61	5	15.51	-2.17	56	1,263	112	2,306	
Selinsgrove	94	56	74	2	2.19	5	13.90	-1.05	48	1,617	122	2,706	
State College	90	58	73	1	0.98	5	15.25	1.48	52	1,620	179	2,713	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	93	55	75	2	3.61	4	15.89	0.81	43	1,730	74	2,830	
Lehighton	92	55	73	-1	1.49	4	13.01	-2.16	53	1,578	-11	2,663	
Matamoras	90	54	73	0	2.70	4	13.68	-2.18	52	1,394	-42	2,438	
Mt_Pocono	87	51	69	3	2.37	5	14.04	-2.52	56	1,222	263	2,227	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	88	60	73	2	0.91	5	14.94	0.25	54	1,709	244	2,833	
Derry	86	55	71	-1	1.88	6	20.34	5.27	64	1,488	122	2,584	
Myersdale	85	50	68	-4	2.18	5	19.15	2.47	62	1,099	-229	2,118	
Mount Pleasant	87	55	72	3	1.83	5	19.00	2.16	59	1,466	259	2,575	
Pittsburgh Intl	87	58	73	2	0.99	4	14.00	0.24	55	1,678	141	2,800	
Connellsville	87	57	72	0	1.82	4	21.83	5.55	63	1,628	59	2,751	
Waynesburg	89	56	71	1	2.26	4	21.01	6.05	54	1,462	47	2,572	
South Central													
Biglerville	93	56	75	-1	1.99	3	18.31	5.01	48	1,779	1	2,892	
Everett	91	51	70	-2	1.50	5	19.26	5.85	56	1,397	-32	2,469	
Hanover	93	55	75	-1	0.64	3	15.80	2.50	52	1,771	-7	2,879	
Harrisburg_AP	93	57	76	0	0.96	3	13.07	-1.44	36	1,919	103	3,056	
South Mountain	87	52	70	-2	2.30	3	20.94	7.03	58	1,397	-55	2,457	
York	92	55	75	-1	1.34	3	17.82	3.05	52	1,836	65	2,965	
Southeast													
Green Lane	93	58	76	3	3.90	4	18.88	4.11	48	1,807	231	2,927	
Hamburg	94	57	76	5	0.89	4	11.62	-6.05	49	1,822	394	2,942	
West_Chester	94	55	76	1	2.42	3	13.92	-2.62	41	1,760	2	2,867	
Lancaster	91	57	74	-1	1.37	2	15.03	-0.34	47	1,750	92	2,863	
Neshaminy Falls	92	57	76	3	3.39	3	16.54	-0.68	43	1,829	182	2,951	
New Holland	92	60	76	2	1.68	3	16.58	1.21	44	1,857	199	2,977	
Philadelphia	95	66	80	3	1.94	2	12.39	-2.49	41	2,172	264	3,327	
Philadelphia NE	97	63	81	4	1.49	2	11.95	-2.93	45	2,261	353	3,419	
Reading	96	56	77	3	0.72	2	10.47	-5.82	48	1,916	291	3,038	
Valley Forge Na	94	54	75	-2	3.64	3	17.77	2.33	45	1,725	-139	2,853	
Willow Grove	94	61	78	4	2.12	3	14.58	-2.64	50	1,939	292	3,073	

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. We started the week with morning temperatures in the 70's and daytime highs in the 90's. On Wednesday morning, 1.75" of rainfall was received in the York Springs and Biglerville areas, with Hunterstown receiving 0.6". Littlestown and South of Gettysburg received no rainfall. On Thursday, another inch of rain fell in York Springs, with 0.6" south of Gettysburg. Friday morning temperatures were 59 degrees, with daytime temperatures into the 80's. Saturday and Sunday were also hot and humid, with York Springs, Biglerville, Heidlersburg, and New Oxford areas receiving 0.2" of rainfall. The rest of the county received no rainfall on Saturday and Sunday. Corn continues to grow, and a lot is now tasseling. Most fields have different maturity stages due to variation in planting times. Soybeans, after wheat was harvested, continued to be planted last week. The other double cropped soybeans are now starting to emerge. Wheat harvest is nearly complete, with good yields being reported. A lot of low test weight was reported. Hay making, and some oat harvesting happened last week. Fruit continues to look good. Apples are almost baseball size, which is a nice size for this time of the year. Peaches are being harvested with good taste. Apricots and plums were harvested also. Sweet corn that got a good start on planting was harvested. In some fields, there is no corn to be harvested due to weather and wildlife damage. Overall the county is fairing pretty well. Since the corn and soybeans are in a critical stage right now, some more moisture would help a great deal.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Rain throughout the area was a welcome relief from the hot dry weather of the past several weeks. Corn and beans are responding well. Hay making was a challenge during this period, but the pastures got some relief. Late week rain storms were scattered and a few were severe.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Showers hit the county again, and were sometimes heavy. Crops are progressing well. There are corn fields tasseling while others are only 3 feet tall. Soybeans are doing well.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week was a good week for field work with 0.5" of rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Corn and soybeans are really starting to take off with the heat and humid weather in our area. Wheat harvest has just started, and early reports have been good. Pastures are still in decent shape with all the moisture that has been through the county lately.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Timely rains were welcomed just prior to the start of tasseling and pollination of corn crop. Uneven stands of corn appeared as a result of droughty soil conditions. The corn crop is playing catch-up now. There were reports of good to excellent wheat yields. Recent rains have challenged getting straw dry, but have pushed weed growth in stubble fields. Soybeans are filling in and hiding thin stands. We still need more rains to finish the crop.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of hay were harvested last week. The quality of the first cutting was very poor. Most acres of second and third cutting were harvested with fair to excellent quality. The wheat crop for the most part is harvested. It appears that yields are well above last year.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Most of the early crop unevenness is not visible. Most fields are looking very good. Nitrogen stress is evident in many corn fields.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - The county finally received rainfall in most places over the past week. Corn is progressing very well. Beans are starting to look better. Oats are ready for harvest, while much of the wheat is off. Pastures are not producing much, with some producers beginning to feed hay.

MONTOUR COUNTY, Dave Reedy (FSA) - Some much needed rain fell last week, especially for our southern territories. Sweet corn, snap beans and potatoes all seem to be right on schedule along with small grain crops. The completion of first cutting grass hays were delayed throughout the Columbia/Montour regions.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The significant rainfall in our area during the past two weeks has improved the corn and soybean conditions immensely. The pasture conditions are providing a plentiful supply of feed. The third cutting of alfalfa is looking good. The wheat and oats harvest is near completion. Main activities for the week were baling hay, harvesting grain, and mowing field boundaries and pastures.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Some very timely rain this week dramatically improved the condition of corn, soybeans, and hay. Most oats are ready for harvest. Because of the difficulty with this year's wet harvest period, demand for baled hay and straw remains strong. As a result of early wet conditions, many corn fields are still showing short, yellow spots.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 27, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	65	71	63
Corn, dough	7	10	10
Wheat, harvested	96	98	89
Oats, turning yellow	86	95	79
Oats, ripe	44	62	43
Oats, harvested	17	19	16
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	91	96	80
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	30	34	24
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	31	33	29
Peaches, harvested	28	24	29
Apples, harvested	10	7	9

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 27, 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	4	21	43	32
Oats	2	1	17	63	17
Soybeans	0	6	18	55	21
Quality of hay made	0	7	31	50	12
Pasture	5	9	39	36	11
Peaches	0	0	1	66	33
Apples	0	0	15	61	24

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