



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending July 5, 2009

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Fair Week for Field Work: Favorable weather conditions seemed to be hit-or-miss across the state. There were a total of 4 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities included: haymaking, harvesting, spraying, planting double-crop soybeans, and baling straw. The wheat harvest is starting to take place, while the barley harvest is rapidly approaching completion. The cherry and peach harvest has begun, with the first sweet corn soon ready, and pumpkins being planted as weather conditions allow.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 5, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent 0	Percent 3	Percent 78	Percent 19

Crops: The state's corn condition average is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 57% good, and 24% excellent. The corn has an average height of 35 inches, which is one inch behind last year, and 9 inches behind the five year average (44 inches). Soybean condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 58% good, and 21% excellent. Soybean planting is now 96% planted statewide, compared with last year's 99%, and the average of 100%. Eighty-nine percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 85%, and the average of 94%. The wheat condition is 1% very poor, 7% poor, 29% fair, 49% good, and 14% excellent. Ninety-six percent of the wheat has turned yellow, compared to 98% last year, and the average of 98%. Sixty-nine percent of the winter wheat is ripe, compared with last year's 64%, and the average of 69%. Fourteen percent has been harvested statewide, down four percent from last year at this time (19%), and considerably less than the average of 25%. Ninety-four percent of the barley is ripe, compared to last year's 98%, and the average of 97%. Eighty-five percent of the state's barley has been harvested, which is comparable to last year's 80%, and the average of 80%. Oat conditions are reported at 0% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 60% good, and 21% excellent. Ninety-three percent of the oats have headed, compared with last year's 86%, and the average of 88%. Seven percent of Pennsylvania's oats have turned yellow, which is a bit behind last year's 12%, and the five year average of 19% yellow.

Hay: Alfalfa crop conditions are 1% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair, 66% good and 19% excellent. Alfalfa second cutting is 43% complete. This can be compared to 37% last year at this time, and the average of 45% complete. Timothy clover crop conditions continue to do relatively well and are 0% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 67% good, and 14% excellent. Eighty-seven percent of the timothy/clover first cutting is complete, compared to last year's 81%, and the average of 84%. Eight percent of the second cutting is completed, which is two percent ahead of last year and three percent ahead of the five year average. Overall quality of hay is reported at 2% very poor, 12% poor, 28% fair, 46% good, and 12% excellent.

Fruit: The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 7% poor, 7% fair, 54% good, and 32% excellent. The apple conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 4% fair, 56% good, and 40% excellent.

Pasture Pasture conditions are holding strong, and are reported at 3% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 49% good, and 22% excellent.

Nationwide as of June 28, 2009: Hot weather prevailed from the central and southern Plains into the Midwest and Southeast. Weekly

temperatures averaged as much as 10 degrees F above normal in the middle Mississippi Valley. A strong ridge of high pressure across the Nation's mid-section resulted in temperatures above 100 degrees F as far north as Kansas. Frequent readings of 95 degrees F or higher were common on the central Plains. Persistent highs above 95 degrees F were also noted in the Southeast. On June 25, a brief surge of heat resulted in highs above 95 degrees F as far north as Montana. Later, heat began to build across the West, where on June 27 temperatures soared above 100 degrees F in California's Central Valley. In contrast, cool weather in the Northwest held weekly temperatures as much as 5 degrees F below normal. Precipitation generally became more scattered across the Nation due to the influence of a strong ridge of high pressure centered over the south-central U.S. Nevertheless, weekly rainfall still exceeded 2 inches at several locations across the central Plains and the Midwest. In fact, the combination of scattered showers, abundant soil moisture, and warmer weather promoted rapid crop growth across the Plains and the Midwest. On the southern Plains, however, developing drought increased stress on summer crops but favored winter wheat harvesting. Drought also expanded or intensified in the western and central Gulf Coast regions under a hot, mostly dry weather regime. Reproductive summer crops such as silking corn and blooming soybeans were most vulnerable to harm due to the excessive heat. Across the remainder of the South, significant rainfall was confined to Florida's peninsula and portions of Kentucky and Tennessee. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather in the West Coast States contrasted with isolated showers in the Rockies and Southwest. Tropical moisture surging northward from Mexico around the western side of the ridge of high pressure contributed to the showery pattern. Nationally, 4 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 1 point behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Silking had yet to begin in the Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Ohio Valley regions. Overall, 72 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 2 points better than a week ago and an 11 point improvement from 2008. Ninety-six percent of the 2009 soybean crop was planted by week's end, 1 point ahead of the pace a year ago, but 2 points slower than the average. Emergence advanced 7 points during the week to 91 percent complete, 2 points ahead of the previous year, but 4 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 67 percent last week and 58 percent a year ago. Winter wheat producers harvested 20 percent of the Nation's crop during the week. At 40 percent complete, the harvesting pace was 4 points ahead of last year, but 4 points behind the 5-year average. As harvest neared the halfway point, 45 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago. Heading was evident in 15 percent of this year's spring wheat crop, 11 points below last year and 25 points below the 5-year average. Overall, the condition of the spring wheat crop declined slightly from a week ago, as 76 percent was rated in good to excellent condition. Heading in the 2009 barley crop had reached 12 percent by week's end, 14 points behind last year's pace and 25 points behind the average. Affected by spring planting delays, crop progress was behind normal in all States, with the biggest lags evident in North Dakota and Minnesota. Eighty-two percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 80 percent a week ago and 74 percent last year. Sixty-eight percent of the Nation's oat crop had reached the heading stage by June 28, seven points ahead of last year, but 6 points slower than normal. Overall, 60 percent of this year's oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, a 4 point improvement from a week ago, but 5 points below last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 5, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 5, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	78	53	65	-6	3.14	4	11.61	0.24	44	929	64	1,750
Franklin	80	50	65	-5	1.38	6	14.32	1.51	46	903	71	1,718
Meadville	77	51	63	-5	2.47	6	12.53	0.17	47	877	128	1,684
Mercer	78	49	63	-6	1.06	5	12.88	0.36	46	894	64	1,711
Springboro	80	50	63	-8	2.79	6	11.63	0.61	46	760	-120	1,540
Warren	77	48	63	-6	1.14	6	13.39	0.26	41	819	16	1,615
North Central												
Bradford Region	73	39	60	-5	2.26	6	12.67	-0.61	49	633	73	1,372
Oswayo	75	42	61	-5	1.95	6	12.90	0.00	51	641	-6	1,385
Kane	76	40	61	-4	1.76	6	13.82	0.46	45	612	60	1,345
Laporte	75	49	64	-6	1.58	6	14.81	2.25	55	699	-130	1,483
Lock Haven	80	51	67	-4	2.50	6	13.26	1.14	44	1,011	113	1,858
Port Allegany	75	46	62	-4	1.53	6	12.15	-0.75	42	687	40	1,449
Renovo	81	51	67	-4	1.58	6	10.59	-1.53	45	924	26	1,762
Ridgway	77	44	62	-4	1.35	6	11.75	-1.56	44	700	64	1,454
Stevenson Dam	79	49	66	0	0.53	6	10.55	-2.76	43	883	247	1,697
Towanda	82	48	67	-3	1.20	6	13.47	3.05	46	878	35	1,701
Wellsboro	74	46	62	-3	1.11	6	11.97	1.57	46	644	56	1,405
Williamsport	83	52	70	-2	0.85	5	11.72	-0.39	46	1,171	157	2,065
Northeast												
Hawley	79	47	65	-3	0.75	4	16.41	4.65	43	776	91	1,580
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	50	68	-3	1.59	6	12.41	1.16	43	1,065	114	1,934
Susquehanna	79	49	66	-1	1.00	6	14.72	2.29	49	810	158	1,615
West Central												
Butler	78	51	63	-7	0.95	4	11.47	-0.87	47	879	4	1,700
New Castle	85	54	66	-4	0.99	6	12.43	1.12	47	1,022	144	1,861
Slippery Rock	78	50	64	-4	1.03	5	14.67	2.61	49	915	127	1,735
Central												
Altoona/Blair	77	51	65	-6	0.85	6	11.37	-0.04	53	989	24	1,829
DuBois	74	45	62	-7	1.42	6	15.25	2.51	50	884	72	1,686
Lewistown	82	53	67	-5	1.30	6	15.23	3.16	51	1,052	-14	1,915
Middletown	83	59	72	-4	1.25	6	17.78	5.83	50	1,293	78	2,199
Prince Gallitzi	78	45	64	-4	1.23	6	11.57	-2.60	50	798	61	1,570
Selinsgrove	83	52	69	-3	0.34	3	15.23	2.98	41	1,020	41	1,867
State College	79	52	66	-5	1.00	6	11.19	-0.03	49	1,027	80	1,877
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	85	53	70	-4	2.33	3	16.05	3.93	47	1,120	23	1,993
Lehighton	81	53	68	-4	0.98	5	17.49	5.35	45	981	-65	1,833
Matamoras	80	49	67	-4	0.92	3	15.03	2.20	44	869	-66	1,689
Mt_Pocono	78	51	65	0	1.88	6	16.31	2.83	56	797	213	1,592
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	56	66	-5	0.51	6	10.30	-1.53	53	1,201	233	2,083
Indiana_PA	77	52	64	-6	1.65	5	6.88	-6.62	33	998	62	1,825
Myersdale	76	51	62	-7	0.90	4	15.86	2.82	51	703	-166	1,453
Mount Pleasant	78	53	66	-3	0.64	6	14.59	0.88	53	1,025	249	1,872
Pittsburgh Intl	79	57	66	-6	0.36	5	10.76	-0.34	50	1,204	180	2,082
Connellsville	81	55	66	-6	1.17	6	17.88	4.92	57	1,087	32	1,962
Waynesburg	81	51	65	-6	0.55	4	12.78	0.87	53	1,012	79	1,864
South Central												
Biglerville	83	57	70	-5	0.24	4	16.76	5.63	50	1,174	-27	2,051
Everett	80	55	67	-4	1.03	6	16.24	5.41	61	891	-45	1,658
Hanover	83	58	70	-5	0.67	3	14.44	3.31	46	1,197	-4	2,082
Harrisburg_AP	84	57	71	-4	0.81	5	14.59	2.64	49	1,302	80	2,206
South Mountain	78	53	65	-5	0.45	6	17.99	6.58	54	884	-74	1,716
York	82	54	70	-5	0.98	2	12.57	0.34	39	1,200	-4	2,081
Southeast												
Green Lane	84	56	71	-2	0.55	2	15.02	3.33	49	1,150	116	2,028
Hamburg	86	57	71	2	1.14	6	19.03	4.80	54	1,182	257	2,068
West_Chester	86	55	72	-3	0.38	4	15.33	2.18	46	1,152	-33	2,013
Lancaster	82	57	70	-3	1.21	4	13.74	1.63	45	1,206	105	2,083
Neshaminy Falls	88	56	72	-1	0.77	3	17.41	4.10	46	1,179	82	2,060
New Holland	84	57	71	-2	0.66	4	15.20	3.09	44	1,207	106	2,093
Philadelphia	89	64	75	0	0.18	2	13.75	1.96	49	1,450	158	2,376
Philadelphia NE	88	59	73	-3	0.83	2	13.32	1.53	47	1,294	2	2,199
Reading	84	57	72	-1	1.16	5	14.32	1.13	49	1,280	211	2,172
Sellersville	85	53	70	-3	1.99	3	16.43	4.74	47	1,052	18	1,915
Willow Grove	86	59	72	-2	1.58	3	28.58	15.27	45	1,246	149	2,139

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) - Corn is looking better, but some fields are still spotty. Soybeans are still being planted. Wheat is being harvested with double-cropped soybeans to follow. Hay is being made late due to wet weather which has affected quality. Apples and peaches are progressing and sizing up nicely.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - While there was hail reported in the area, it seems to have missed the fruit. The peach harvest is starting on the earliest varieties, with size normal to slightly better than normal. Timing also seems to be normal. Apples continue to size well.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA) - Excessive moisture has interfered with the ability to harvest hay for maximum quality.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Most of the week was spent watching the rain. It finally stopped raining on Saturday. Not a lot of field work was done in the fields because of the constant rain all week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There was rain most days, with 1.4 inches for the week. The crops look good. Hay making and barley harvesting is difficult.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - The wheat harvest has begun, with high moisture. Corn and soybeans crops are fairing well, despite the excessive spring rains. Farmers took advantage of a second week without constant rain showers and thunderstorms.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - The second crop hay is very short. Alfalfa hay has had a lot of weevil damage. It has been difficult to make good dry hay. It seems to rain about every third day even though the soil appears to be dry.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) Rain and cool weather all week has put a halt to any field activities. Five inches of rain was reported in some parts of the county. It is nice to finally see the sun again!

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Last week was dry. This helped finish off the barley and start the wheat harvest. Quality was good for barley, but wheat that has been harvested will likely be used for feed. Early peach harvest just beginning.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Late blight has been found in a commercial tomato field. We suspect it is also in other local fields and backyard gardens. The situation presents a significant challenge for commercial tomato and potato growers.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Activities last week included making hay, harvesting small grains, hauling manure, and planting double cropped soybeans and pumpkins between the rains.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST - We had rain Monday thru Friday totaling 1.4 inches. There were very cool nights, down to 50 degrees Saturday night. Early sweet corn should be ready later this week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The weather is improving the crop conditions. There is some yellowing in the alfalfa. The main field activities for the week were haymaking, harvesting, spraying, and baling straw.

SUSQUEHANNA, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA) - The excessive rainfall is very unusual for this time of year. Livestock will be forced to consume low quality hay in the fall and winter due to the wet conditions.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Crop conditions are improving with the much needed sunshine. Field conditions are the wettest they have been all season.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Last week was another wet and cool week making for poor harvest conditions. There is still some first-cutting hay to be baled. The baling progress is slowed by bale handling limitations.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 5, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn average height, inches	35	36	44
Barley, ripe	94	98	97
Barley, harvested	85	80	80
Wheat, turning yellow	96	98	98
Wheat, ripe	69	64	69
Wheat, harvested	14	19	25
Oats, heading or headed	93	86	88
Oats, turning yellow	7	12	19
Soybeans, planted	96	99	100
Soybeans, emerged	89	85	94
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	43	37	45
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	87	81	84
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	8	6	7

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 5, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	3	15	57	24
Wheat	1	7	29	49	14
Oats	0	2	17	60	21
Soybeans	0	3	18	58	21
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	2	12	66	19
Timothy clover stand	0	1	18	67	14
Quality of hay made	2	12	28	46	12
Pasture	3	4	22	49	22
Peaches	0	7	7	54	32
Apples	0	0	4	56	40

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