



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 12, 2009

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

Excellent Week for Field Work: Dry conditions prevailed in Pennsylvania, with many areas receiving relief from rain later in the week. There were a total of 6 days suitable for field work. The primary field activities included: haymaking, wheat and other harvesting, planting double-crop soybeans, and baling straw. Wet conditions earlier in the summer have made wheat, fruit, and vegetables more susceptible to disease. Overall, it was a great week of weather which allowed crops to grow and agriculturalists to get tasks accomplished in the field.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 12, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	16	69	15

Crops: The state's corn conditions improved to 1% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 49% good, and 26% excellent. Corn is 22% silked or tasseled, compared to 17% at this time last year and the 20% five-year average. Six percent of corn has reached the dough stage, versus last year, and the average of 1%. The corn has an average height of 48 inches, which is two inches behind last year (50 in.), and 9 inches behind the five year average of 57 inches. Soybean condition decreased and is now 0% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 50% good, and 19% excellent. Ninety-seven percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 92%, and the average of 98%. The wheat condition is 1% very poor, 8% poor, 19% fair, 53% good, and 19% excellent. Ninety-four percent of the winter wheat has ripened, compared with last year's 91%, and the average of 92%. Forty-nine percent has been harvested statewide, down seven percent from last year at this time (56%), and on track with the 52% average. Ninety-eight percent of the barley is ripe, compared to last year's 100%, and the average of 99%. Ninety-one percent of the state's barley has been harvested, which is comparable to last year's 93%, and right on par with the average of 91%. Oat conditions are reported at 0% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 56% good, and 24% excellent. Ninety-seven percent of the oats have headed, compared with last year's 94%, and the average of 94%. Eighteen percent of Pennsylvania's oats have turned yellow, which is behind last year's 27% and the five year average of 39%.

Hay: Alfalfa crop conditions improved and are reported at 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 62% good and 21% excellent. The alfalfa second cutting is 65% complete. This can be compared to 61% last year at this time, and the average of 64% complete. Timothy clover crop conditions continue to do relatively well and are 0% very poor, 1% poor, 22% fair, 57% good, and 20% excellent. Ninety-five percent of the timothy/clover first cutting is complete, compared to 86% last year, and the average of 91%. Twenty percent of the second cutting is completed, which more than double last year's progress of 7%, and compares to the average of 11% complete. Overall quality of hay also improved to 1% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 44% good, and 32% excellent.

Fruit: The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 7% poor, 11% fair, 49% good, and 33% excellent. Eleven percent of the peach crop has been harvested, compared to 4% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 8%. The apple conditions were similar to last week at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 4% fair, 56% good, and 40% excellent.

Pasture: Pasture conditions declined to 2% very poor, 5% poor, 34% fair, 46% good, and 13% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 7, 2009: Much cooler air overspread the Midwest and Northeast, accompanied by heavy rain in the latter region. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal across a broad area of the Midwest, while rainfall totaled more than 4 inches at several locations in New England. Significant rain also fell in the southwestern Corn Belt, including the middle Mississippi Valley, while mostly dry weather prevailed in a swath from Minnesota to Ohio. Meanwhile, extreme heat lingered across the Deep South, where temperatures frequently reached or exceeded 100 degrees F. In the western and central Gulf Coast regions, scattered showers provided only limited relief to heat- and drought-stressed crops. In contrast, heavy rain drenched the west-central and southern portions of Florida's peninsula. Farther west, scattered showers accompanied a return to near-normal temperatures on the Plains. In early July, heat was largely suppressed to the nation's southern tier. Farther north, a sustained period of cool weather from the Midwest into the Northeast resulted in high temperatures below 60 degrees F at several stations. Locally heavy showers accompanied the Northeastern chill. **Corn:** By week's end, 8 percent of the 2009 corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 3 points ahead of last year, but 8 points behind the 5-year average. Crop development was at or behind the average pace in all States except North Carolina. Overall, 71 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from a week ago, but 9 points better than last year. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 96 percent of the soybean crop had emerged, 2 points ahead of the pace a year ago, but 2 points slower than normal. Blooming had begun in all estimating States and reached 14 percent complete by July 5, two points ahead of last year, but 10 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-six percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 68 percent a week ago and 59 percent a year ago. **Winter Wheat:** Nationwide, winter wheat producers harvested 16 percent of their crop during the week, leaving progress at 56 percent complete, 4 points ahead of last year's pace, but 3 points behind the average. Overall, 47 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition. **Small Grains:** Seventy-seven percent of the barley crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 82 percent last week and 69 percent a year ago. Nationally, 77 percent of the oat crop had reached the heading stage, 2 points slower than last year's pace and 10 points slower than normal. Ten percent of this year's crop was harvested, on par with last year and the 5-year average. Overall, 59% of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week, and down 7 points from last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 12, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 12, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	53	67	-5	0.98	1	12.59	0.45	45	1,047	36	1,938
Franklin	84	48	65	-5	0.20	1	14.52	0.59	47	1,013	42	1,898
Meadville	80	50	66	-4	0.31	1	12.84	-0.54	48	988	111	1,865
Mercer	82	47	66	-4	0.47	1	13.35	-0.15	47	1,007	42	1,894
Springboro	82	46	63	-8	1.07	2	12.70	0.77	48	854	-172	1,704
Warren	83	48	64	-6	0.78	1	13.87	-0.21	42	919	-20	1,785
North Central												
Bradford Region	77	40	60	-6	0.76	1	13.43	-0.85	50	703	39	1,512
Oswayo	79	42	62	-5	0.75	2	13.65	-0.20	53	724	-35	1,538
Kane	78	42	60	-6	1.53	2	15.35	1.00	47	683	27	1,486
Laporte	75	48	62	-8	0.52	2	15.33	1.86	57	788	-180	1,642
Lock Haven	81	51	67	-5	2.06	2	15.32	2.28	46	1,129	87	2,046
Port Allegany	79	44	62	-5	0.87	2	13.02	-0.83	44	771	12	1,603
Renovo	82	49	65	-6	0.59	3	11.18	-1.86	48	1,033	-9	1,941
Ridgway	80	43	62	-5	1.34	2	13.09	-1.28	46	786	35	1,610
Stevenson Dam	81	48	65	-2	0.49	2	11.04	-3.33	45	989	238	1,873
Towanda	81	49	65	-6	0.73	3	14.20	3.03	49	983	2	1,876
Wellsboro	76	46	61	-5	0.95	2	12.92	1.70	48	724	26	1,555
Williamsport	84	52	68	-5	0.98	2	12.70	-0.34	48	1,300	132	2,264
Northeast												
Hawley	79	47	63	-5	0.84	2	17.25	4.72	45	867	59	1,741
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	51	67	-6	0.74	2	13.15	0.99	45	1,184	82	2,123
Susquehanna	79	50	64	-3	1.04	3	15.76	2.42	52	910	139	1,785
West Central												
Butler	83	47	66	-5	0.17	1	11.64	-1.65	48	992	-23	1,883
New Castle	85	49	68	-3	0.12	1	12.55	0.33	48	1,151	131	2,060
Slippery Rock	86	47	67	-2	0.15	1	14.82	1.82	50	1,034	118	1,924
Central												
Altoona/Blair	78	50	65	-6	0.21	1	11.58	-0.67	54	1,099	-13	2,009
DuBois	77	45	64	-6	0.20	1	15.45	1.84	51	982	37	1,854
Lewistown	83	52	68	-6	1.43	1	16.60	3.55	52	1,179	-46	2,112
Middletown	84	58	72	-5	0.24	1	18.02	5.23	51	1,446	52	2,422
Prince Gallitzi	79	44	63	-6	0.44	1	12.01	-3.29	51	888	26	1,730
Selinsgrove	84	51	68	-5	0.98	1	16.21	3.06	42	1,147	14	2,064
State College	81	53	68	-4	0.35	1	11.54	-0.52	50	1,151	57	2,071
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	81	53	68	-7	1.43	2	17.48	4.45	49	1,246	-18	2,189
Lehighton	79	52	66	-8	2.31	2	19.80	6.75	47	1,094	-113	2,016
Matamoras	81	50	64	-8	0.77	2	16.17	2.36	46	972	-112	1,862
Mt_Pocono	75	48	62	-4	0.79	2	17.10	2.64	58	885	191	1,750
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	54	70	-2	0.02	1	10.32	-2.42	54	1,343	228	2,295
Indiana_PA	79	48	66	-4	0.05	1	6.93	-7.76	34	1,114	38	2,011
Myersdale	78	43	61	-10	0.00	0	15.86	1.66	51	780	-226	1,600
Mount Pleasant	83	46	67	-3	0.06	1	14.65	-0.08	54	1,142	239	2,059
Pittsburgh Intl	83	51	70	-3	0.00	0	10.76	-1.20	50	1,342	164	2,290
Connellsville	84	51	67	-5	0.19	2	18.07	4.06	59	1,209	0	2,154
Waynesburg	82	49	67	-5	0.19	1	12.97	0.08	54	1,130	51	2,052
South Central												
Biglerville	83	54	69	-6	0.49	1	17.25	5.42	51	1,310	-66	2,257
Everett	83	51	66	-6	0.27	1	15.34	3.67	53	1,006	-76	1,843
Hanover	84	51	69	-6	0.01	1	14.45	2.62	47	1,331	-45	2,286
Harrisburg_AP	84	56	71	-6	0.05	1	14.64	1.85	50	1,448	47	2,422
South Mountain	78	49	65	-7	1.30	1	19.29	7.04	55	991	-114	1,893
York	83	50	69	-7	0.04	1	12.61	-0.47	40	1,332	-40	2,283
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	55	69	-5	1.71	1	16.73	4.09	50	1,283	88	2,231
Hamburg	84	46	66	-6	2.19	2	21.22	5.87	56	1,298	222	2,254
West_Chester	86	52	69	-7	1.15	1	16.48	2.23	47	1,284	-75	2,215
Lancaster	83	55	69	-5	0.00	0	13.74	0.58	45	1,341	74	2,288
Neshaminy Falls	85	54	69	-5	0.11	1	17.52	3.02	47	1,315	51	2,266
New Holland	84	56	70	-5	0.27	1	15.47	2.31	45	1,346	79	2,302
Philadelphia	88	61	73	-4	0.55	1	14.30	1.53	50	1,614	137	2,610
Philadelphia NE	85	57	71	-6	1.25	1	14.57	1.80	48	1,443	-34	2,418
Reading	84	55	70	-4	1.73	1	16.05	1.88	50	1,422	187	2,384
Sellersville	83	52	68	-6	1.01	1	17.44	4.80	48	1,177	-18	2,110
Willow Grove	84	57	70	-5	2.68	2	31.26	16.76	47	1,385	121	2,348

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 is quickly getting dry, with corn and soybeans showing drought stress. Double crop soybeans are still being planted after wheat is harvested. There were reports of Aflatoxin in the wheat, along with other quality issues. Oats are ripening. Hay quality is poor due to the lateness of making the hay. A lot of producers have hay left from last year. Vegetables are being harvested; they also need some rainfall. Peaches are being picked, with nice baseball size fruit. Apples hanging on the trees are also about baseball size. Some coloring is occurring in the apples. The Tart Cherry harvest is completed. Apricots and some early plums are also being picked. Moisture is definitely needed to continue the progress of crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most of the south central Pennsylvania fruit region received 1-2.5 inches of rain from a front that went through Saturday afternoon/evening. There are some scattered incidences of scab and hail damage in the apple crop, but nothing significant to date. The peach harvest will build slowly until the end of the month, when the harvest will begin. There have been some Transparent and Lodi apples harvested.

BEDFORD COUNTY, Robin Robertson (FSA) - The weather last week cooperated with producers, and they had a good week for field work. Many are replanting corn, with some reporting prevented planting. Some producers have reported that they have not gotten the first cuttings of hay due to the weather.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week was a good week for fieldwork. The crops look good due to the timely rainfall.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - Most farmers were able to get 2 crops of alfalfa hay harvested. There doesn't seem to be a shortage of hay in the counties of Warren, Forest, Venango and Clarion. Farmers are still spraying crops for weed control.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Soybeans were wilting on shallow soil areas of the fields. The dry week allowed farmers to finally get a lot of timothy hay cut. The wheat has poor quality grain from disease, although the crop appeared good.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Last week was good for haymaking. Many of the dairy producers were working on the second cutting, with some working on the third cutting. Pastures are starting to see some good re-growth because of last week's rains showers and cool weather.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - The sweet Cherry crop was destroyed by excess rainfall.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The wheat harvest is well underway. Yields and quality are spotty, but most are slightly below average. It was a good week for hay making and grain harvesting. Corn is really looking great.

INDIANA COUNTY, DAVID B. OVERDORFF - The oats that were planted first are looking great. All of the corn fields are looking dark green. The soybeans have been sprayed and are doing well. There was great weather last week for the beans and corn to grow.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Most of the small grain has been harvested. Farmers were baling straw, making hay, and planting double crops.

MERCER COUNTY, Gary Micsky (EXT) - It was a great week for hay making. There are signs of potash deficiency in some of the second cutting grass hay.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST - Our first sweet corn was picked in the area on Thursday.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT) - Apples were hit by a late frost on June 1. We have reports of disease on both snap beans and potatoes. The potatoes and snap beans are behind because of cool weather. The earlier planted potatoes are proceeding well, but June planted potatoes are slow to develop and had trouble emerging.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - There was still some first cutting hay that was harvested last week. Some second cutting was also harvested. Corn looks good, except in wetter areas in the fields. Wheat and oats also look good so far.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The wheat harvest has begun with average yields, and the quality below normal. The second cutting of alfalfa is nearing completion; however, the damage from leafhopper is significant.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA) - Conditions remain unusually wet and cool. Corn is being affected due to the excess moisture. Yellowing is very noticeable in the corn.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The dry conditions made for the best harvest week of the season; however, crops are showing a little dry-weather stress.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Dry conditions have allowed for much hay making and small grain harvesting. We could use some rain for grain crops and pasture. Pastures are starting to show signs of stress due to the dry weather and low humidity. The early planted sweet corn harvest has begun.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Rain is needed in some areas. Head scab in wheat is a problem with some fields.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 12, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	22	17	20
Corn, dough	6	1	1
Corn, height	48	50	57
Barley, ripe	98	100	99
Barley, harvested	91	93	91
Wheat, ripe	94	91	92
Wheat, harvested	49	56	52
Oats, heading or headed	97	94	94
Oats, turning yellow	18	27	39
Soybeans, emerged	97	92	98
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	65	61	64
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	95	86	91
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	20	7	11
Peaches, harvested	11	4	8

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 12, 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	21	49	26
Wheat	1	8	19	53	19
Oats	0	2	18	56	24
Soybeans	0	4	27	50	19
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	1	16	62	21
Timothy clover stand	0	1	22	57	20
Quality of hay made	1	5	18	44	32
Pasture	2	5	34	46	13
Peaches	0	7	11	49	33
Apples	0	0	4	56	40

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