



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending July 8, 2012

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**Excellent Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. The week consisted of mostly sunny dry days. Field activities for the week included harvesting grain, haymaking, baling straw and spraying.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 8, 2012**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
21	55	24	0

**Crop Progress:** Corn silking continues and is 37% complete, ahead of last year's 6% and the 5-year average of 12%. Corn height is 58 inches, ahead of 49 inches last year and the average of 49 inches. Barley harvested is 99% complete, ahead of 94% last year and the 5-year average of 91%. Winter wheat is 97% ripe, ahead of 82% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 84%. Winter wheat harvest continues and is 82% complete, compared with 53% last year and the average of 47%. Oats are 94% headed, compared with 84% last year and the average of 92%. Oats are 69% yellow, ahead of 8% at this time last year and the average of 25%. Oats are 28% ripe, compared with 0% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 4%. Oats harvest has begun and is 9% complete. Second cutting alfalfa continues and is 90% complete, ahead of last year's 69% and the average of 67%. Third cutting alfalfa continues and is 15% complete ahead of last year's 3% and the 5-year average of 8%. The second cutting of timothy/clover continues and is 58% complete, ahead of last year's 10% and the 5-year average of 12%. The peach harvest continues and is 25% complete compared with 1% last year.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 3% very poor, 9% poor, 33% fair, 42% good, and 13% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 58% good, and 20% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 32% fair, 51% good, and 12% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 44% good and 31% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 12% very poor, 28% poor, 30% fair, 24% good and 6% excellent. Peach conditions are; 2% very poor, 1% poor, 29% fair, 29% good, and 39% excellent. Apple conditions are; 2% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 45% good, and 38% excellent.

**Nationwide as of July 1, 2012:** Oppressive heat and record-high temperatures persisted throughout much of the nation's heartland, causing many row crop conditions to plummet for a second consecutive week. Weekly maximum temperatures surpassed the century mark from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast, while temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal in portions of the central Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. Conversely, temperatures in the Pacific Coast States were near to below average. Rainfall was scarce for much of the country during the week, with accumulations in many areas totaling less than 2 percent of normal. Scattered monsoon showers in the Four Corners region provided little relief to drought-stricken crops but aided wildfire containment efforts. Elsewhere, much of Florida received more than 4 inches of rainfall during the week, with extreme northern portions of the state

totaling 12 inches or more. **Corn:** Silking was rapid throughout most of the major corn-producing region, as sunny skies promoted double-digit progress in half of the major estimating states during the week. By July 1, silking had advanced to 25 percent complete, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the 5-year average. With this year's corn crop entering the reproductive stage of growth, scorching temperatures coupled with scarce rainfall led to further deterioration of crop conditions during the week. Overall, 48 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 8 percentage points from last week and 21 points below the same time last year. This represents the lowest good to excellent rating for this time of year since 1988, when 23 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 26 percent of the soybean crop was blooming, 19 percentage points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of the 5-year average. Despite trace amounts of early- and late-week rainfall in some areas of the central Corn Belt, crop conditions declined, as additional moisture was needed to alleviate drought stress. Overall, 45 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 8 percentage points from last week and 21 points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** By July 1, producers had harvested 69 percent of the winter wheat crop, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of the 5-year average. In many states, above-average temperatures promoted a quick dry-down pace, allowing for rapid harvest during the week. Most notably, 37 percent or more of this year's crop was harvested during the week in Colorado, Nebraska, and Ohio. **Small Grains:** Heading of this year's oat crop advanced to 97 percent complete by week's end, 30 percentage points ahead of last year and 18 points ahead of the 5-year average. With the exception of North Dakota, heading was complete or nearly complete by July 1. In North Dakota, head development was rapid during the week, as above-average temperatures promoted progress. By week's end, 15 percent of the oat crop was harvested, 6 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. In Nebraska, producers used nearly a full week of days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 45 percent of their crop. Overall, 65 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 4 percentage points from last week but 6 points better than the same time last year. Heading of the nation's barley crop advanced to 61 percent complete by July 1, fifty-two percentage points ahead of last year and 28 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 61 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 5 percentage points from last week and 15 points below the same time last year. Hot, mostly dry conditions in Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota – the three largest barley-producing states – dried out soils and continued to stress crops. By week's end, 73 percent of the spring wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 61 percentage points ahead of last year and 38 points ahead of the 5-year average. With the exception of Washington, above-average temperatures aided head development, as progress in Minnesota and South Dakota was complete or nearly complete by week's end. Overall, 71 percent of the spring wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 6 percentage points from last week but slightly better than the same time last year.

## Weather Data For Week Ending July 8, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 8, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	90	63	78	8	0.79	2	7.39	-4.32	31	1,329	381	2,151
Franklin_AG	95	60	77	9	1.50	1	9.20	-4.14	39	1,233	322	2,052
Meadville-Port	94	61	77	10	0.95	2	8.83	-4.02	33	1,289	468	2,123
Clarion	95	56	75	6	0.93	1	10.86	-3.23	36	1,079	134	1,880
Springboro	93	56	75	6	1.69	4	10.50	-0.95	35	1,116	153	1,900
Warren	95	58	75	7	0.67	3	9.41	-4.17	38	1,141	262	1,944
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	92	52	73	9	0.54	3	9.96	-3.79	39	1,019	400	1,805
Oswayo	91	47	70	5	1.30	2	9.18	-4.18	34	895	184	1,652
Kane	92	51	71	7	0.97	3	12.75	-1.06	39	899	288	1,661
Laporte	87	60	73	4	0.44	2	14.65	1.67	43	972	64	1,765
Lock Haven	101	58	79	9	0.42	2	11.02	-1.53	44	1,308	329	2,196
Coudersport_1SW	92	49	71	6	1.02	2	11.48	-1.88	44	908	197	1,667
Renovo	96	58	77	8	0.89	2	12.94	0.39	39	1,274	295	2,153
Ridgway	94	53	74	8	0.77	2	10.20	-3.61	41	1,056	356	1,860
Stevenson Dam	96	56	76	11	0.66	2	10.42	-3.39	34	1,212	512	2,073
Towanda	92	57	75	6	0.64	3	11.08	0.31	40	1,146	225	1,967
Wellsboro	92	53	72	7	0.66	3	9.99	-0.82	38	934	284	1,723
Williamsport	99	59	80	9	0.57	2	10.69	-1.86	40	1,429	327	2,330
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	90	51	72	5	0.25	2	9.62	-2.48	37	1,003	249	1,801
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	56	77	7	0.19	3	11.09	-0.59	40	1,325	289	2,184
Susquehanna	91	56	74	7	0.47	3	12.50	-0.34	36	1,081	361	1,889
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	97	58	78	9	1.39	3	8.84	-3.95	35	1,274	319	2,131
New Castle	103	61	79	10	2.52	4	9.40	-2.33	32	1,356	398	2,224
Slippery Rock	101	58	79	11	1.83	4	10.13	-2.37	34	1,296	436	2,156
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	99	59	80	9	0.49	1	9.62	-2.16	34	1,404	355	2,302
DuBois	94	61	76	9	0.79	1	10.32	-2.82	37	1,180	292	2,014
Lewistown	101	61	80	8	0.20	2	12.28	-0.26	44	1,383	228	2,305
Middletown	101	66	84	9	0.06	2	11.78	-0.55	37	1,593	278	2,536
Prince Gallitzi	95	54	75	8	0.64	1	10.10	-4.57	33	1,120	312	1,963
Selinsgrove	101	59	79	8	0.10	2	10.53	-2.14	41	1,323	256	2,206
State College	97	64	79	9	0.23	2	11.72	0.12	43	1,324	293	2,212
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	99	60	81	8	0.27	2	13.27	0.74	36	1,465	273	2,381
Lehighton	94	59	77	5	0.34	3	13.80	1.24	42	1,215	77	2,098
Matamoras	91	60	77	7	0.36	3	12.93	-0.34	47	1,216	197	2,102
Mt_Pocono	89	48	73	9	0.21	4	13.59	-0.33	47	1,042	396	1,872
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	99	66	82	12	1.70	3	7.73	-4.52	35	1,595	544	2,504
Indiana_PA	97	59	78	9	1.03	4	10.54	-3.52	48	1,325	309	2,188
Myersdale	92	58	73	5	0.90	2	9.46	-4.10	39	951	5	1,771
Chalk_Hill	95	57	75	4	0.25	3	10.80	-2.64	39	1,050	-92	1,878
Pittsburgh Intl	98	63	81	11	1.36	2	8.58	-2.91	31	1,535	424	2,435
Connellsville	97	62	78	8	0.85	3	10.26	-3.18	35	1,412	270	2,322
Waynesburg	102	64	80	11	0.02	1	6.42	-5.93	30	1,313	297	2,199
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	100	63	82	8	0.24	2	12.26	0.84	40	1,484	184	2,414
Everett	98	59	77	7	0.88	2	12.11	0.90	41	1,199	180	2,075
Hanover	99	61	81	7	0.43	3	10.37	-1.05	40	1,439	139	2,358
Harrisburg_AP	103	63	84	10	0.10	2	12.04	-0.29	37	1,640	318	2,585
South Mountain	94	58	77	6	0.30	1	13.00	1.22	38	1,174	132	2,041
York	99	60	81	7	0.10	2	10.94	-1.67	41	1,450	151	2,354
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	98	62	81	9	0.36	3	12.29	0.18	37	1,432	306	2,362
Hamburg	100	63	82	11	0.36	3	13.42	-1.34	40	1,412	402	2,329
West_Chester	100	59	80	7	0.00	0	10.20	-3.45	23	1,409	126	2,317
Lancaster	101	61	82	10	0.00	0	9.63	-2.97	31	1,525	331	2,444
Neshaminy Falls	99	61	81	9	0.31	1	11.68	-2.18	39	1,493	302	2,441
New Holland	101	67	82	9	0.05	1	11.76	-0.84	31	1,546	352	2,498
Philadelphia	101	70	86	11	0.00	0	8.84	-3.39	24	1,768	373	2,737
Philadelphia NE	100	67	84	9	0.15	2	9.23	-3.00	31	1,612	217	2,562
Reading	102	63	83	10	0.07	2	10.48	-3.15	36	1,611	448	2,549
Sellersville	98	60	78	7	0.65	2	12.02	-0.09	32	1,328	202	2,217
Doylestown_AG	98	63	81	8	0.25	3	12.54	-1.32	37	1,487	296	2,420

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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## 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**

Adams County has had an extremely hot and humid week of weather. Majority of days started in higher 70's and got into the 90's. Saturday was supposed to be 100 degrees. A few sporadic thunderstorms with some hail came into the county this week but very, very little rainfall. It is dry and the corn is showing the most affect of the drought conditions due to the extreme heat. Soybeans that were double cropped after wheat have now been planted. Producers are hoping for some moisture to get them started and to keep the other soybeans and corn previously planted going. The corn is being stressed from high temperatures. Hay continues to be made. Wheat and barley harvest are complete with ok yields being reported. Oats are maturing and it will not be too long before harvest. Fruit crops are doing alright but irrigation will soon be started if dryness continues. Peaches, plums and apricots are being harvested. Producers are hoping the thunderstorms that are coming into the county will not produce hailstones to damage the fruit. Vegetables seem to be doing ok for now but could use some moisture also. Overall the producers are still very busy in the fields and trying to stay cool in these higher temperature days.

### **BUTLER COUNTY, Luke Fritz**

Most of this area continues to be dry. Corn and soybean yields will be reduced. Producers in two townships suffered severe hail damage in this week's storm. Hay and pasture acreage is not growing. Small grain harvest is well under way with yields above average. The extreme heat is reducing feed intake for livestock producers and milk production is dropping.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

It was a good week for field work. Centre County received 0.25 inches of rainfall. Rainfall was needed to help top soil moisture levels. Corn is starting to tassel.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner**

Many acres of second crop hay was harvested. Harvesting of oats and wheat has begun.

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum**

It is getting dry. Some corn is showing stress during the day. We received 0.5" of rain Saturday, but need much more.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

It is very hot and dry. Farmers finished up hay making and are now into oats. Heat and dry weather are taking toll on corn. There is quite a bit of rolling on shale soils. Early corn looks good, but heat may limit pollination. Milk production is off significantly due to heat stress. There was no rain since early June in some locations. It is good weather for peach quality. Harvest is about 2 weeks early in most varieties.

### **INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff**

Well, the rain was hit and miss all last week. We did get 0.70" Monday-Tuesday. That really helped the corn out, and the soybeans. It also made the oats ripen up real fast too. Farmers could be cutting some oats by the end of this week coming. We still could use a lot more rain. All of the 1st cutting of hay is complete. We are waiting for more rain to make the 2nd cutting come on. It really has been hot and humid. It looks like a little relief this week, with mid 80's but does not look like much rain though. Hope everyone has a safe farming week and stay cool.

### **LANCASTER COUNTY, Dale Kriner**

I had 103 degrees and no rain on Saturday. A lot of corn has silked in the area. We could really use a widespread all day rain.

### **LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler**

Days of temperatures in the high 90's with no rain did not help the crops. Corn was very stressed this week. Scattered storms did little to help with the overall dryness but may have helped the corn pollination. Most of the showers that were produced did not give more than a few tenths of an inch of rain. Barley and wheat harvest is about complete and the straw baled. Although it is dry, soybeans are being double cropped after the small grains.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

We received 1.6 inches of rain at the beginning of the week and, with all 90 plus degree days this week, it is showing signs of low moisture in the soil. This is time in the corn's growing season that rainfall is most critical for high yields. Many farmers are rapidly mowing the very short 2nd cutting hay fields and hoping for more rainfall so the 3rd cutting can grow properly. Area pumpkin growers have been spraying for mainly the cucumber beetle.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

The extreme heat and drought conditions are having a detrimental effect on the corn, soybeans and alfalfa. Wheat harvest is near completion, while the oats harvest is just beginning. The yields are above average in most areas. Harvesting grain, haymaking, and baling straw were the main activities for the week.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

Most everyone in the county got between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall on July 4<sup>th</sup>. This was the first significant moisture in weeks and went a long way in helping the corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. Temperatures in the 90's returned the second half of the week and undone some of the good done by the rain.

### **YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl**

Extreme heat and lack of rain is causing severe stress on corn and soybeans.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 8, 2012**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	37	6	12
Corn average height, inches	58	49	49
Barley, harvested	99	94	91
Wheat, ripe	97	82	84
Wheat, harvested	82	53	47
Oats, heading or headed	94	84	92
Oats, turning yellow	69	8	25
Oats, ripe	28	0	4
Oats, harvested	9	na	na
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	90	69	67
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	15	3	8
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	58	10	12
Peaches, harvested	25	1	na

na = data not available

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 8, 2012**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	3	9	33	42	13
Oats	0	2	20	58	20
Soybeans	1	4	32	51	12
Quality of hay made	0	2	23	44	31
Pasture	12	28	30	24	6
Peaches	2	1	29	29	39
Apples	2	0	15	45	38

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