



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 8, 2007

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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: Many counties in Pennsylvania received some rain throughout the week. Although the showers were beneficial the crops across the state could use some more rain. These showers did give some relief to many dry fields. Many farmers are hoping that Independence Day will bring some showers for the upcoming week. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spraying herbicides, baling straw, rotating pastures, repairing equipment, fixing fences, hauling water for livestock, making hay, and harvesting barley, winter wheat.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 8, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
34	34	32	0

Crops: Seventeen percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 10 percentage points higher than the 5-year average, and 13 points higher than this time last year. Corn height is now 58 inches, which is 6 inches taller than this time last year and 14 inches taller than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 58 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Ninety-six percent of the planted soybeans have now emerged. This is 4 percentage points behind this time last year, and 2 points higher than the 5-year average. Fifty-four percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Ninety-four percent of the emerged oats have now reached the heading stage. This is 4 points ahead of this time last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-two percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Seventy-five percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition, this is 2 percentage points higher than the previous week. Ninety-one percent of the winter wheat is now ripe, which is 21 points higher than the 5-year average. Farmers were very busy harvesting winter wheat last week, as 46 percent of the wheat has been harvested. This is 8 points than this time last year and 17 points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety-eight percent of the barley is now ripe. This is 1 point higher than this time last year. Ninety-one percent of the barley has been harvested. This is 6 percentage points higher than this time last year and the 5-year average. Fifty-eight percent of the alfalfa standing is in good or excellent condition. Forty-nine percent of timothy hay standing is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-seven percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 80 percent of the second cutting and 13 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa have been completed. Ninety-six percent of the first cutting and 12 percent of the second cutting of timothy hay have also been completed.

Livestock: Pasture conditions last week did not improve from the previous week. Most fields are in desperately in need of a good rain. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 27%, poor 26%, fair 28%, good 18%, and excellent 1%.

U.S. as of July 1, 2007: Portions of the northern and central Pacific Coast received some light, scattered moisture, while the rest of the West remained dry requiring continued irrigation of summer crops. Drying down of winter wheat continued across the region while wild fire risk remained elevated. Warmer than average and dry weather in the northern Great Plains contrasted sharply with the heavy showers and thunderstorms across areas of the central and southern Great Plains. Areas from Texas stretching north to eastern Kansas again received heavy precipitation keeping field work at a standstill due to excessively wet fields and flooding in some areas. Farther east, in the Corn Belt, rainfall and above average temperatures improved pastures and development of summer crops. The Ohio Valley and mid-Atlantic regions also received needed moisture and favorable temperatures to aid in development of summer crops.

Corn: Thirteen percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 4 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Progress was ahead of the normal pace in most states but lagged slightly behind normal in Colorado, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Silking had not yet begun in Michigan and South Dakota. Seventy-three percent of the crop was rated good or excellent nationwide, same as the previous week.

Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 19 percent, 2 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of the normal pace. With the exception of Kansas and Missouri, crop progress was at or ahead of normal in all states. In the Delta, the crop was 22 points ahead of normal in Louisiana and 17 points ahead of normal in Mississippi. Nationwide, the amount of the crop rated good or excellent increased 2 percentage points from last week, to 68 percent.

Winter Wheat: Producers had reaped 40 percent of their crop, 22 points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. Field activities in the central and southern Great Plains has, yet again, been delayed due to excessive moisture, where producers in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas trailed behind the normal pace by 21 points or more. Harvesting was just underway in South Dakota, Michigan, and Oregon, but had not yet begun in Washington, Montana, or Idaho. Nearly half of the crop was rated good or excellent, exhibiting no change from last week.

Small Grains: Barley heading advanced to 67 percent, compared with 54 percent last year and 42 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was ahead of last year and the normal pace in all States. Oat heading, at 89 percent, was 1 point ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of the normal pace. Texas oat harvest was near complete, Nebraska oat harvest was just underway, and elsewhere harvest had not begun.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 8, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 8, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	51	68	-3	0.01	1	6.04	-5.66	28	1,102	175	1,922
Franklin	85	44	67	-3	0.19	1	9.91	-3.38	39	1,080	189	1,922
Meadville	84	47	67	-1	0.02	1	7.05	-5.76	40	1,095	292	1,924
Mercer	85	43	66	-4	1.01	2	10.86	-2.08	39	1,047	160	1,881
Springboro	84	43	64	-7	0.00	0	9.03	-2.38	47	919	-23	1,722
Warren	85	43	65	-5	0.10	1	9.68	-3.87	36	936	76	1,753
North Central												
Bradford Region	80	35	61	-4	0.38	2	8.14	-5.58	42	733	129	1,496
Emporium	83	42	65	-2	1.22	3	13.68	-0.09	40	968	284	1,800
Kane	81	36	61	-4	1.68	2	11.76	-2.03	39	716	120	1,482
Laporte	77	44	63	-7	0.36	3	10.07	-2.88	45	873	-15	1,664
Lock Haven	89	46	68	-2	0.01	1	7.50	-5.02	30	1,181	223	2,025
Port Allegany	81	37	62	-4	0.77	2	9.58	-3.74	38	796	101	1,575
Renovo	85	43	67	-4	0.25	2	9.86	-2.66	32	1,133	175	1,976
Ridgway	82	37	62	-5	0.14	1	10.94	-2.83	40	815	131	1,619
Stevenson Dam	84	42	65	-1	0.46	2	8.55	-5.22	32	1,015	331	1,844
Towanda	85	42	65	-5	0.48	2	7.62	-3.13	40	949	48	1,746
Wellsboro	81	41	62	-4	1.37	2	11.03	0.27	36	816	182	1,590
Williamsport	88	46	69	-3	0.18	1	6.78	-5.74	34	1,309	229	2,177
Northeast												
Hawley	82	41	63	-5	2.36	2	12.28	0.19	37	885	149	1,693
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	44	67	-5	0.71	3	9.52	-2.12	36	1,152	138	1,999
Susquehanna	81	44	64	-3	1.67	2	12.78	-0.04	40	923	220	1,729
West Central												
Butler	85	44	66	-5	0.28	2	8.02	-4.74	35	1,072	137	1,912
New Castle	90	45	68	-3	0.20	2	8.21	-3.49	35	1,161	223	2,012
Slippery Rock	87	44	67	-2	0.60	2	12.05	-0.43	39	1,141	299	1,987
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	45	67	-4	0.76	2	9.64	-2.13	35	1,169	141	2,011
DuBois	80	43	65	-4	0.22	3	11.74	-1.39	44	1,024	155	1,853
Lewistown	86	48	68	-5	0.81	2	11.38	-1.11	36	1,223	90	2,077
Middletown	86	55	72	-4	1.65	2	9.78	-2.53	29	1,498	208	2,377
Prince Gallitzi	83	38	65	-3	0.28	2	9.05	-5.60	35	939	149	1,754
Selinsgrove	86	46	67	-5	0.62	2	9.95	-2.69	31	1,169	124	2,014
State College	83	49	68	-3	0.43	2	8.44	-3.14	34	1,248	238	2,096
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	47	68	-6	2.34	3	14.59	2.08	38	1,273	105	2,133
Lehighton	82	47	66	-8	0.51	2	12.29	-0.24	39	1,137	22	1,985
Matamoras	82	46	65	-7	0.98	2	12.58	-0.67	36	986	-12	1,818
Mt_Pocono	77	44	63	-3	0.46	3	12.17	-1.73	43	898	268	1,698
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	51	69	-3	0.62	2	9.90	-2.32	36	1,393	362	2,261
Derry	82	47	67	-3	1.34	1	13.73	1.43	32	1,098	148	1,938
Myersdale	80	40	62	-8	0.90	2	10.06	-3.46	38	803	-123	1,598
Mount Pleasant	84	43	66	-2	0.72	2	11.19	-2.97	40	1,077	247	1,928
Pittsburgh Intl	85	48	69	-3	0.98	2	9.70	-1.78	34	1,332	242	2,195
Connellsville	84	46	68	-4	0.94	2	11.08	-2.33	40	1,263	142	2,126
Waynesburg	86	44	67	-4	0.61	3	8.35	-3.98	37	1,151	156	2,007
South Central												
Biglerville	86	46	70	-5	0.58	3	9.09	-2.34	29	1,363	87	2,235
Everett	82	44	65	-6	0.22	2	9.48	-1.71	37	936	-62	1,768
Hanover	87	50	70	-5	0.43	2	8.24	-3.19	28	1,315	39	2,178
Harrisburg_AP	87	51	71	-5	2.06	2	7.78	-4.53	24	1,446	149	2,328
South Mountain	83	44	66	-5	0.24	2	10.13	-1.64	33	1,042	21	1,876
York	85	49	69	-6	1.42	2	11.14	-1.46	32	1,286	10	2,156
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	51	69	-4	3.41	3	16.10	4.02	39	1,299	196	2,160
Hamburg	87	50	69	-3	1.32	2	15.25	0.54	33	1,356	368	2,223
West_Chester	87	48	68	-6	2.23	3	17.36	3.75	32	1,265	6	2,122
Lancaster	84	51	69	-5	2.29	2	12.82	0.26	29	1,347	176	2,216
Neshaminy Falls	85	49	69	-5	1.12	2	21.42	7.60	36	1,195	27	2,042
New Holland	87	51	69	-5	2.42	3	15.17	2.61	33	1,388	217	2,250
Philadelphia	88	58	73	-4	1.33	3	17.08	4.87	29	1,570	200	2,462
Philadelphia NE	88	54	72	-4	0.53	3	17.00	4.79	35	1,531	161	2,423
Reading	86	50	70	-4	1.79	3	14.05	0.44	36	1,400	261	2,272
Valley Forge Na	88	47	69	-7	1.67	3	16.25	3.62	39	1,289	-53	2,158
Willow Grove	85	53	70	-4	1.62	3	16.80	2.98	40	1,369	201	2,236

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 Behney (FSA) - Adams County had another week of pretty dry weather. Some areas received around an inch of rain mid to the end of the week. Some other areas only received enough to settle the dust. Hot and humid temperatures the past few days are also causing problems with the crops.

Corn in most areas is growing slowly and at different maturity levels throughout the fields. Some will start to tassel this week. Drought is still a concern for the corn in the county, many of the areas that are missing the rain are looking like pineapples. Early plantings of soybeans have been completed with some producers now double-cropping after they get the wheat off and some have not due to lack of moisture. Barley harvest has been completed and wheat harvest is about 3/4 of the way done. Wheat has been good quality and good yields in most areas. Oats is starting to ripen and some will be harvested in the next few weeks.

Hay is still being made and is very short. Alfalfa and mixed hay are not growing back due to lack of rainfall.

Apples are looking good and not quite the size of a tennis ball and some varieties starting to show some color. Peaches are starting to be harvested with a nice crop. Tart Cherries are being harvested and should be completed sometime this week. Raspberries are about done being harvested with a nice crop and blueberries continue to be harvested. Some early sweet corn is now being harvested but other sweet corn in the county is suffering from lack of rainfall and very short.

Overall Adams County is still dry in the majority of the areas. Some areas are being missed by the storms and not getting anything but enough to settle the dust. All crops in the county would welcome any rainfall to help in producing a better crop.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Wheat harvest continued this week between scattered showers, but seasonable temperatures made it more bearable. Hot dry weather returned over the weekend. Early corn is starting to tassel and shoot ears. The hot weather may affect the pollination of these fields. Soybeans are still looking good. Had some sweet corn this week that was grown under plastic and it was very good.

BUCKS COUNTY, Fournier - We received more rain this past week. Corn is growing well with earlier plantings starting to tassel. Wheat is being cut and should be completed by week's end. Growing conditions in Bucks County have been excellent so far this year.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Last week the rains were spotty throughout the county again. Thursday most of the county received rain, although, the amount varied as to what section of the county you lived in. Winter wheat harvesting began this week and the oats is turning yellow, but it's very short. There is very little second cutting hay because of the dry weather. High temperatures are predicted for most of the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Good week for field work, but it's been very dry. We got 1/8" rainfall for the week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Corn is showing some curling from dry conditions.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Most areas around Crawford county are extremely dry and in need of rain. Pasture conditions are becoming very poor and the conditions are compounded by springs and streams drying up eliminating water sources for the cattle. Producers are not only supplementing the pastures by feeding hay but in some cases hauling water for their livestock.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Rainfall in mid week amounted to 0.5 to 1.5 inches across the region although some areas closer to Harrisburg received closer to 2 inches in heavy downpours. Crops responded to cooler temperatures and moisture and pushed additional growth. Corn has initiated tasseling in some early planted fields. Soybeans have started to flower. Wheat harvest reports yields ranging from 40 to 70 bushels with averages closer to 50 bushels/acre. Test weights are high and there are no dockages for mold or falling numbers like previous years. Forage crops are suffering from heat and lack of moisture.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Cattle on pastures are being supplemented feed from harvested crops. All of the surrounding counties are very dry. We need moisture. Crops that have ground shaded are doing ok.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - I was fortunate to get about an inch of rain Wed & Thur; with very little of it being a dasher.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Much of the corn will be pollinating this week, variable rainfall in many areas has created uneven plant height, tassel and silk emergence.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - Finally a soaking rain. A total of 2-3" for the week improved crop conditions greatly. The first tassles are visible on the earliest corn. Crops are looking great now. Wheat harvest got delayed because of the rain, but no one was too upset.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - This was another hot dry week with a little rain but we need much more. Most hay harvest has been completed. Some 2nd cuttings are done, but there's very little to harvest. All crops need rain.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Hit and miss showers were in the area with some areas receiving upwards of an inch while others received very little. Soil moisture levels are critical in some areas. The crop conditions are deteriorating. Most of the second crop of hay has been made with very low yields being reported. Wheat harvest is in full swing and the oats is close behind. The main activities for the week were wheat harvest and haymaking.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - The crop conditions are very dry here. Showers were a hit and miss. Corn is all over the place but most of it is doing well. Very little second crop hay made not very much there to make. The cool night time temps help the cows stay in milk.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Another nice rain this week helped crops to continue to look very good. Wheat harvest has started with much of the crop moving directly to market because of the high price. Harvest has begun of the first early fresh-market sweet corn planted under plastic.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 8, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn Silk	17	4	7
Corn Height	58	52	44
Barley Ripe	98	97	97
Barley Harvested	91	85	85
Winter Wheat Ripe	91	91	70
Winter Wheat Harvested	46	38	29
Oats Headed	94	90	89
Oats Yellow	38	33	27
Soybeans Emerged	96	100	94
Alfalfa Second Cutting	80	45	47
Alfalfa Third Cutting	13	2	3
Timothy Clover First Cutting	96	87	83
Timothy Clover Second Cutting	12	8	8

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 8, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	8	30	42	16
Wheat	0	2	23	58	17
Oats	3	19	36	41	1
Soybeans	7	8	31	44	10
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	4	11	27	45	13
Timothy clover stand	3	11	37	43	6
Quality of hay made	2	4	17	53	24
Pasture	27	26	28	18	1
Peaches	0	0	2	50	48
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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