



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 22, 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: Crop progress throughout the state has been steady, although the lack of rain has hindered the crops in some areas. Rain is definitely needed across the state. Crops are beginning to show signs of heat distress, and livestock is beginning to suffer as well. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, rotating pastures, repairing equipment, hauling water for livestock, making hay, and harvesting barley, oats, winter wheat and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 22, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
41	37	22	0

Crops: Sixty percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 16 percentage points higher than the 5-year average, and 1 point higher than this time last year. Ten percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 5 percent higher than this time last year and the 5-year average. Corn height is now 71 inches, which is 5 inches shorter than this time last year and 5 inches taller than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 48 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-three percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Ninety-two percent of the oat crop is now turning yellow. This is 15 percentage points higher than this time last year and 41 points higher than the 5-year average. Of the oats turning yellow, 33 percent of those oats are now ripe. This is right in line with both this time last year and the 5-year average. Many farmers have gotten some of their oats harvested, as 8 percent of the ripe oat crop was harvested last week. Thirty-eight percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Farmers were very busy harvesting winter wheat last week, as 95 percent of the wheat has been harvested. This is 13 percentage points higher than the previous week, and 3 points higher than this time last year and 16 points higher than the 5-year average. Seventy-seven percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 95 percent of the second cutting and 26 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa have been completed. Thirty-three percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Livestock: Pennsylvania's pastures are in desperate need of some moisture. Last week most pasture conditions didn't improve, as the state only received a few scattered showers. Farmers have continued hauling water to their livestock. Because many livestock owners have been supplementing their livestock's diet, they are beginning to worry about the amount of forage stocks they'll have available for the winter season. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 39%, poor 21%, fair 23%, good 15%, and excellent 2%.

U.S. as of July 15, 2007: In the West, hot, dry weather continued to remain a concern for dry land summer crops and is diminishing soil moisture. Wildfires and heavy irrigation demands continue to cause concerns as well. However, the hot weather is promoting winter wheat maturation and the development of irrigated summer crops. Meanwhile on the Great Plains, mild, dry conditions across most of the northern areas contrast with humid weather and lingering showers and thunderstorms in the central and southern portions. On the central and southern Great Plains, excessive moisture delayed fieldwork and caused flooding and soggy fields. Farther east, conditions were favorable for Midwestern summer crops, however, unfavorable dryness persists in parts of the western and eastern Corn Belt. Elsewhere, most of the drought-stricken Southeast received beneficial rainfall, although moisture shortages still remain.

Corn: Silking advanced to 56 percent, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of normal. Across the Corn Belt, near-to-below normal temperatures proved beneficial to the corn crop, with progress advancing 25 points or more during the week in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Ohio. Silking was at or ahead of the normal pace in all states, except Pennsylvania and Texas. Meanwhile, 6 percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, 1 point ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Over half of the crop had entered the dough stage in Texas and North Carolina, but doughing had not yet begun across the northern and western Corn Belt, northern Great Plains, and Colorado.

Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 60 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 12 points ahead of normal. Blooming advanced rapidly in the northern Great Plains under favorable conditions. Fourteen percent of the crop was setting pods or beyond, the same as last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Pod setting was underway in all States but was most advanced in Louisiana, at 77 percent, 29 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Producers had reaped 70 percent of their acreage, compared with 78 percent last year and 73 percent for the normal. Warm, mostly dry conditions promoted field activities in Michigan, where nearly half of their acreage was harvested during the week, advancing to 62 percent complete, 44 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Elsewhere, lingering showers hampered fieldwork in Oklahoma, where the crop is 24 points behind the normal harvesting pace.

Small Grains: Barley heading, at 95 percent, was 10 points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of the 5-year average. Similar to spring wheat, all States were ahead of the normal pace with heading complete or nearly complete in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Washington. Oat growers had harvested 15 percent of their acreage, compared with 17 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 22, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 22, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	54	69	-4	1.46	3	7.78	-5.43	33	1,407	181	2,367
Franklin	86	48	66	-5	0.68	3	11.82	-3.67	45	1,341	169	2,323
Meadville	81	51	67	-3	1.08	3	8.67	-6.11	46	1,370	303	2,339
Mercer	86	48	67	-4	0.95	3	12.79	-2.03	44	1,308	143	2,282
Springboro	80	47	65	-7	1.49	4	11.10	-2.06	54	1,174	-63	2,117
Warren	81	37	65	-6	1.37	3	11.94	-3.44	42	1,177	38	2,134
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	40	62	-5	1.26	4	11.04	-4.57	50	930	112	1,833
Emporium	84	47	67	0	1.52	4	15.63	-0.23	47	1,234	313	2,206
Kane	81	41	64	-2	1.94	3	14.44	-1.23	45	908	100	1,814
Laporte	81	49	66	-5	0.49	2	10.92	-3.77	48	1,134	-38	2,065
Lock Haven	92	50	72	2	0.56	2	8.51	-5.75	33	1,507	255	2,491
Port Allegany	78	45	64	-3	1.25	4	11.90	-3.18	45	1,017	96	1,936
Renovo	89	49	69	-3	0.64	2	10.61	-3.65	37	1,433	181	2,416
Ridgway	82	44	65	-3	0.72	3	12.37	-3.49	46	1,032	111	1,976
Stevenson Dam	86	48	67	1	1.33	3	10.25	-5.61	38	1,284	363	2,253
Towanda	87	48	68	-3	0.49	2	8.18	-3.99	44	1,228	45	2,165
Wellsboro	81	45	65	-3	0.89	3	12.66	0.37	42	1,040	178	1,954
Williamsport	90	51	73	1	0.54	3	7.44	-6.87	38	1,656	263	2,664
Northeast												
Hawley	83	48	68	-1	0.89	4	13.75	0.12	44	1,152	164	2,100
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	50	71	-2	0.97	3	10.60	-2.76	41	1,467	145	2,454
Susquehanna	83	51	68	-1	0.92	2	14.20	-0.38	45	1,199	250	2,145
West Central												
Butler	85	48	67	-4	0.71	4	9.43	-5.16	41	1,331	110	2,311
New Castle	88	48	68	-4	0.78	3	9.04	-4.46	40	1,452	222	2,443
Slippery Rock	88	49	68	-1	0.68	3	12.86	-1.44	44	1,414	308	2,400
Central												
Altoona/Blair	85	47	69	-3	0.26	3	10.29	-3.09	40	1,448	121	2,430
DuBois	83	48	66	-4	0.83	3	12.98	-1.80	49	1,275	136	2,244
Lewistown	89	52	72	-2	0.54	3	11.95	-2.41	40	1,539	81	2,533
Middletown	90	57	77	1	0.05	2	10.09	-3.86	32	1,876	222	2,895
Prince Gallitzi	87	45	67	-2	2.38	3	11.68	-5.22	39	1,194	152	2,149
Selinsgrove	90	50	73	0	0.36	3	10.31	-4.04	34	1,498	140	2,483
State College	87	52	71	-1	0.88	3	10.41	-2.80	38	1,561	252	2,549
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	90	54	74	-1	0.22	4	15.33	0.98	44	1,621	113	2,621
Lehighton	87	56	72	-2	1.02	3	13.54	-0.91	43	1,460	15	2,448
Matamoras	86	51	70	-3	1.27	4	14.28	-0.92	42	1,278	-26	2,250
Mt_Pocono	83	52	68	3	1.24	4	13.53	-2.33	49	1,175	318	2,115
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	55	71	-1	0.57	2	11.19	-2.85	40	1,707	373	2,715
Derry	86	50	69	-2	2.09	3	16.45	2.11	37	1,379	139	2,359
Myersdale	83	44	65	-6	0.69	4	11.35	-4.52	44	1,020	-186	1,955
Mount Pleasant	86	48	68	-1	1.09	3	12.79	-3.34	45	1,345	252	2,336
Pittsburgh Intl	85	52	70	-3	1.15	3	11.27	-1.89	39	1,637	235	2,640
Connellsville	87	50	69	-4	1.96	4	13.78	-1.73	47	1,549	116	2,552
Waynesburg	86	49	69	-3	1.83	4	10.81	-3.48	42	1,430	141	2,426
South Central												
Biglerville	94	54	75	0	0.00	0	9.50	-3.32	31	1,718	90	2,730
Everett	85	47	67	-5	0.12	2	9.81	-3.04	40	1,184	-113	2,156
Hanover	92	50	75	-1	0.07	1	8.87	-3.95	31	1,670	42	2,673
Harrisburg_AP	90	56	76	-1	0.05	2	8.01	-5.94	27	1,813	152	2,835
South Mountain	87	48	69	-3	0.19	2	10.54	-2.84	36	1,324	4	2,298
York	89	51	74	-2	0.00	0	11.20	-3.02	33	1,623	1	2,633
Southeast												
Green Lane	90	57	75	2	1.17	3	17.66	3.62	44	1,665	233	2,666
Hamburg	91	57	75	4	0.06	2	15.50	-1.38	36	1,715	419	2,722
West_Chester	90	53	75	-1	0.02	1	18.61	2.83	35	1,622	13	2,619
Lancaster	89	53	74	0	0.03	1	13.08	-1.56	31	1,690	181	2,699
Neshaminy Falls	90	57	74	0	0.94	3	22.47	6.17	41	1,547	43	2,534
New Holland	89	56	75	0	0.05	1	15.80	1.16	36	1,747	238	2,749
Philadelphia	92	64	79	3	0.11	3	17.74	3.57	33	1,991	244	3,023
Philadelphia NE	93	62	79	3	0.40	3	17.68	3.51	39	1,952	205	2,984
Reading	91	55	75	1	0.42	4	14.69	-0.88	42	1,762	287	2,774
Valley Forge Na	90	56	75	-2	0.78	3	17.40	2.71	43	1,652	-54	2,661
Willow Grove	89	59	76	3	0.37	3	17.42	1.12	45	1,748	244	2,755

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 - Adams County is extremely dry. Not much moisture was received this week at all. Thursday afternoon for 5 minutes Gettysburg had a downpour but then the sun came back out and hot and humid temperatures continued. The week has been hot and humid with one day being somewhat overcast. Nighttime temperatures didn't hardly cool down at all.

Corn is pretty well drought stricken with no hope for future rainfall in most parts of the county. Some areas of New Oxford, Abbottstown and East Berlin area are still doing ok for now since those areas had been getting tail end of some of the storms the past month. Corn is in tassel when stalks are only about 3 ft tall in a lot of areas of the county. Soybeans continue to look ok. Must be more drought tolerate than corn. Double-cropped soybeans still have not emerged due to lack of rainfall. Hay continues to be made but no regrowth has occurred and really short. Pastures are dead also with producers starting to feed hay this early in the summer which will deplete their supplies for feed over the winter months.

Apples and peaches continue to look good. Early varieties of apples and peaches are being harvested. Peaches are sweeter due to lack of moisture and sugar content is up. Sweet corn is drying up unless irrigation is being used. Other truck crops are also hurting due to lack of moisture.

Adams County has a long summer ahead with no rainfall in sight. This will be very hard on the producers and may even put some out of business due to financial hardships. Crop insurance adjusters will be busy appraising corn in Adams County come August.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It's really dry, we didn't get any rain again this week. All crops are now suffering and the corn, mid to late season plantings are very short. Some fields will have to be abandoned unless substantial rain in the next few days. Pasture and hay crops are tinder dry. Peaches have started to be harvested, but it appears that the dry weather will result in excellent quality, but smaller peaches.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Very dry, crops are looking bad, 3/4 inch of rainfall for the week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Rain this week was a welcome site for Crawford county farms. Streams were recharged and rains reduced the stress on crops. The shortage of forages have producers worried about not having enough feed for winter months. Most producers are already taping into stored feed reserves to offset lack of pasture.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts - Showers were still spotty over three SW counties. The most widespread rain was on 7/19/07.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - The ground is like concrete. There very little second crop hay. There have been some reports of farmers mowing second crop and leaving in field and hoping for a nice third cutting. The crop corn is looking real good. Most of the corn tasseled in the past week. The potato crop appears to be the best it has been in years. It appears that we have rain coming everyday this week.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - A week of drizzle; some isolated areas of the county received some beneficial rain (not me). Another week or ten days of current weather, crop insurance companies should begin lining up and training field adjusters.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - Most double cropped acres have been planted. Not so good hay growing weather, but good hay making weather.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Isolated areas of the county are beginning to suffer significant yield loss due to drought stress.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - Very little rain this week, 0.22" in my gauge Thursday. We are very dry now, all crops are stressing. Local produce is now in season. Deer damage is a big topic at this time.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger - We received 1 & 1 tenth inches of rain this week. Two days after you would not have known it rained any. The ground is severely dry. Tomatoes and green beans are small. Most of the cucumbers were lost in the heat.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Light showers provided no relief to the drought stricken crop conditions. The crops continue to deteriorate. The corn on the light soil ridges is turning brown and the soybeans are dropping the lower leaves. Oats harvest and haymaking were the main activities for the week.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - We got some much needed rain on Thursday. It was right around an inch. The corn took the moisture and started pushing tassels. The hay fields are becoming green. Hopefully more will come this week to keep things growing.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Wheat harvest is wrapping up and oats is about ready. Corn and soybeans are still looking very good. Most of the sweet corn growers have corn ready for sale. Another round of storms provided adequate moisture.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 22, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	60	59	44
Corn, dough	10	5	5
Corn average height, inches	71	76	66
Wheat, harvested	95	92	79
Oats, turning yellow	92	77	66
Oats, ripe	33	36	36
Oats, harvested	8	19	14
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	95	75	70
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	26	9	15
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	33	25	22
Peaches, harvested	14	17	21

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 22, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	15	11	26	32	16
Oats	0	14	48	36	2
Soybeans	9	10	38	31	12
Quality of hay made	5	4	14	50	27
Pasture	39	21	23	15	2
Peaches	0	0	1	50	49
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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