



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 5, 2007

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

Good week for Field Work: After a brief period of rainfall, Pennsylvania farm lands still remain dry. The drought is putting stress on the crops, pasture, trees, and ponds where the depth level has been consistently dropping. If there is not more rainfall soon, it is questionable whether there will be more hay cut. With what appears to be such a poor harvest, there are concerns of what will be used for feed in the winter months. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, spreading lime and manure, repairing equipment, making hay, and harvesting oats, potatoes, apples, and peaches.

spring grains and hampered wildfire containment. Showers along central and southern portions of the Rocky Mountains aided topsoil moisture levels in some areas. Farther east on the High Plains, heat and dryness persisted in areas of Montana and portions of the Dakotas. In the southern Great Plains, dry weather helped to eliminate areas of excessive wetness. Central and southern portions of Texas continued to receive excessive moisture, threatening flooding and hampering fieldwork. The Corn Belt saw beneficial rains in southwest, central, and eastern portions, but soil in western areas remained dry. Farther east, Florida and other areas of the Southeast received needed rainfall which aided maturation in spring planted crops.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 5, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
33	31	36	0

Crops: Eighty-five percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 7 percentage points higher than the 5-year average. Twenty-six percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 6 points lower than this time last year and 2 points lower than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 41 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Thirty-three percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Now that the oat crop is fully yellow, 88 percent of those oats are now ripe. Ripened oats jumped from last week by 14 percentage points from the previous week. Many farmers have gotten some of their oats harvested, as 54 percent of the ripened oat crop was harvested last week. Thirty-nine percent of the oats are in good or excellent condition. Harvest for potatoes has begun as 5 percent of the crop has now been harvested. Sixty-seven percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 48 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa has been completed. Fifty-three percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Corn: Nationwide, nearly all of the corn planted had reached the silking stage as only 10 percent of the crop had not developed to this stage. Less than 70 percent of corn in Colorado and South Dakota had developed to reach silking, but progress remained ahead of the five-year average in both states by more than 10 points. All corn producing states had begun the dough stage with 25 percent of the corn crop developed to this stage, compared to 13 percent last week and 23 percent last year at this time. Four percent of the country's corn had developed to the denting stage with at least 43 percent of the corn in Tennessee and Texas reaching the dent stage. Corn condition declined by 4 percentage points from last week, to 58 percent of the corn rated as good or excellent.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! Eighty-six percent of the state's peaches are in good or excellent condition. This harvest is slower than previous years, as 32 percent of the peaches have been harvested. This is 4 points lower than the previous year and 10 points lower than the 5-year average. Seventeen percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 7 points higher than the previous year. Ninety-three percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

Soybeans: Eighty-five percent of soybean plantings had bloomed by the end of the week, one point behind last year at this time, but 4 points ahead of normal. Although developing ahead of the 5-year average, only 43 percent of North Carolina's soybeans had developed to the blooming stage. Setting of pods was evident in just over half of the crop, as soybeans progressed 21 points during the week to 51 percent, one point ahead of this time last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Due to heavy moisture in some areas, and excessive heat and dryness in others, the percent of the crop rated as good or excellent decreased 3 points from last week.

Livestock: After the previous week's rain and slight drizzles during the past few days, Pennsylvania's pastures are drying up once again. Both soil moisture and pasture conditions continue to fall. Only 4 percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition, which is 18 percentage points lower than the previous week. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 44%, poor 28%, fair 24%, good 4%, and excellent 0%.

Winter Wheat: Eighty-eight percent of winter wheat harvest was complete, 2 points behind last year, but 2 points ahead of normal progress. Producers reaped 7 percent of their crop during the week. While excessive moisture persisted, harvest in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas continued to progress at a slower than the average pace. Idaho and Washington still had at least 60 percent of their crop to be harvested.

U.S. as of July 29, 2007: While sporadic showers dotted portions of the Northwest, hot, dry conditions remained for most of the region, favoring winter wheat harvest and maturation of spring grains. Along the Great Basin and western portion of the Intermountain region, heat slowed

Small Grains: Barley harvesting gained momentum during the week as progress advanced 11 points to 14 percent harvested, behind last year at this time by 2 points, yet still ahead of normal progress by 7 points. Condition of the crop was rated 62 percent good or excellent, declining 5 points during the week. Nationwide, oat producers harvested 51 of the crop, equal to last year's pace, but ahead of normal by 9 points. Texas was nearly complete at 96 percent harvested with progress in Nebraska following closely behind at 88 percent harvested. In North Dakota, only 10 percent of the oat crop was harvested, which was only 1 point behind normal, but was 25 points behind last year's pace. Oat condition was unchanged from last week with 65 percent rated as good or excellent.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 5, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 5, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	60	76	5	0.00	0	10.27	-4.52	36	1,734	201	2,834
Franklin	95	56	75	6	0.06	1	12.10	-5.41	50	1,657	200	2,779
Meadville	90	59	75	7	0.03	1	8.93	-7.91	49	1,685	352	2,794
Mercer	94	54	75	6	0.00	0	13.54	-3.00	48	1,616	171	2,730
Springboro	92	51	71	0	0.00	0	11.41	-3.43	59	1,442	-92	2,525
Warren	93	55	74	4	0.06	1	13.39	-3.79	47	1,472	53	2,569
North Central												
Bradford Region	86	47	68	4	0.00	0	11.46	-5.97	55	1,157	121	2,200
Emporium	94	53	74	8	0.13	1	16.25	-1.52	51	1,539	380	2,651
Kane	89	50	69	5	0.00	0	15.45	-2.04	49	1,157	135	2,203
Laporte	89	55	72	3	0.00	0	12.02	-4.25	52	1,416	-43	2,487
Lock Haven	98	59	78	8	0.11	1	9.17	-6.75	38	1,854	308	2,978
Port Allegany	91	47	71	6	0.00	0	12.52	-4.10	49	1,279	129	2,338
Renovo	94	56	76	5	0.65	1	12.18	-3.74	41	1,762	216	2,885
Ridgway	92	52	72	6	0.03	2	12.92	-4.85	53	1,309	150	2,393
Stevenson Dam	92	56	75	9	0.02	1	10.87	-6.90	42	1,601	442	2,710
Towanda	92	53	73	3	0.36	2	10.39	-3.09	49	1,522	52	2,599
Wellsboro	91	50	71	5	0.47	3	14.60	0.98	50	1,297	202	2,351
Williamsport	98	57	77	5	0.82	2	8.98	-6.96	44	2,014	301	3,162
Northeast												
Hawley	89	51	71	4	0.19	1	17.25	2.08	47	1,430	184	2,518
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	57	76	5	0.00	0	12.96	-1.98	44	1,795	166	2,922
Susquehanna	91	56	73	7	0.18	2	17.87	1.61	50	1,499	301	2,585
West Central												
Butler	91	58	75	5	0.00	0	10.21	-6.20	45	1,635	122	2,755
New Castle	98	56	78	8	0.00	0	9.81	-5.31	43	1,788	267	2,919
Slippery Rock	94	56	76	8	0.00	0	13.49	-2.53	49	1,734	363	2,860
Central												
Altoona/Blair	92	60	75	4	0.00	0	11.40	-3.42	44	1,761	131	2,883
DuBois	89	57	74	6	0.02	2	13.27	-3.20	54	1,570	159	2,679
Lewistown	95	63	77	5	0.00	0	13.26	-2.74	44	1,884	98	3,018
Middletown	93	67	80	5	2.01	2	12.35	-3.14	37	2,272	254	3,431
Prince Gallitzi	92	55	73	6	0.00	0	12.31	-6.63	41	1,463	168	2,558
Selinsgrove	95	61	77	5	0.36	1	11.04	-4.89	39	1,846	175	2,971
State College	93	64	77	6	0.05	2	11.13	-3.60	43	1,895	283	3,023
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	93	61	77	4	1.34	2	17.58	1.32	48	1,975	127	3,115
Lehighton	90	60	75	2	0.36	3	15.44	-0.88	49	1,775	-6	2,903
Matamoras	91	55	74	3	0.51	1	17.36	0.39	46	1,589	-23	2,701
Mt_Pocono	89	54	72	6	0.55	3	16.06	-1.67	55	1,459	366	2,539
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	92	64	78	8	0.02	2	11.81	-3.91	47	2,052	414	3,200
Derry	93	61	75	6	0.00	0	17.77	1.56	41	1,687	153	2,807
Myersdale	88	54	71	0	0.00	0	12.48	-5.45	49	1,275	-218	2,350
Mount Pleasant	91	59	74	7	0.00	0	13.22	-4.87	48	1,643	284	2,774
Pittsburgh Intl	91	65	78	7	0.03	1	11.76	-2.99	41	1,974	260	3,117
Connellsville	92	62	76	5	0.14	1	14.66	-2.81	52	1,877	131	3,020
Waynesburg	91	60	75	5	0.30	1	12.24	-3.88	47	1,738	155	2,874
South Central												
Biglerville	96	64	79	5	0.78	2	11.09	-3.12	37	2,090	111	3,242
Everett	90	57	73	2	1.10	1	11.76	-2.59	46	1,474	-131	2,586
Hanover	94	63	78	4	0.27	3	10.45	-3.76	37	2,037	58	3,180
Harrisburg_AP	94	66	80	4	1.48	2	9.70	-5.79	32	2,199	174	3,361
South Mountain	90	58	74	3	1.42	2	12.36	-2.46	41	1,634	11	2,748
York	93	61	76	2	2.26	3	13.60	-2.15	37	1,975	4	3,125
Southeast												
Green Lane	94	65	78	6	0.20	1	18.84	2.87	48	2,031	271	3,172
Hamburg	94	62	78	7	0.89	2	16.92	-1.99	42	2,078	474	3,225
West_Chester	94	61	77	4	0.35	1	19.32	1.58	38	1,980	21	3,117
Lancaster	91	65	77	4	0.74	1	15.60	-0.93	34	2,050	198	3,199
Neshaminy Falls	93	62	77	4	0.39	1	23.59	4.92	44	1,895	55	3,022
New Holland	93	66	79	5	0.72	2	17.27	0.74	40	2,122	270	3,264
Philadelphia	95	71	82	5	1.28	2	19.23	3.19	37	2,405	280	3,577
Philadelphia NE	97	69	82	6	0.02	1	18.38	2.34	44	2,364	239	3,536
Reading	95	65	79	6	0.24	1	15.68	-1.78	46	2,142	325	3,294
Valley Forge Na	94	61	78	3	0.42	3	18.53	1.85	49	2,020	-53	3,169
Willow Grove	93	64	78	6	0.25	1	18.56	-0.11	49	2,118	278	3,265

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 still extremely dry. Some areas got some strong thunderstorms this past Friday and about 2 inches of rainfall. These are the same areas that have been getting some moisture throughout the summer. Most of the county received rainfall later Sunday afternoon into this morning. York Springs had 0.4 of an inch and other places received more or less. It is pretty overcast this morning and it looks like there might be some rainfall on the way. This rainfall will help the fruit and maybe bring some growth to hay; but the hay/grass is mostly brown in most of the county.

Corn conditions in the county are poor. Most of the stalks are drying up from bottom of the stalk at least 2 foot high. Some corn is still only about 2 foot tall and all dead and in tassel. The areas of the county around New Oxford, East Berlin and Hanover will get some corn but most areas will not. The quality of corn silage will be poor. Producers will be starting to chop silage this week to try to get as much as they can due to lack of crops for carrying them through the winter months. Producers are already feeding their hay supplies that would be normally fed during the winter months. Soybeans are still green and not affected as much from drought and are forming pods but need moisture. Hay is pretty much done unless we get some rainfall and starts to grow again. Sweet corn is pretty much dried up unless it was irrigated.

Peaches and apples still appear to be doing well. Ponds are getting lower due to irrigating crops and not replenishing due to any rainfall. The trees are starting to show some affects of drought and could have future crops hurt. Vegetables are also showing signs of drought stress.

Overall the fruit crops are fairing ok in the county of all our crops. Any rainfall will be appreciated in the county and will help to get some moisture in the soil.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was very hot and dry this week. Farmers are beginning to compare this year with 1966 as one of the driest in recent years. Crops are taking a beating now. Pasture is dormant, corn is drying up and beans have become dormant as well. Corn was harvested for silage for the first time ever in July on many farms in Franklin County. Crop estimates are in the range of 50-60 bushel per acre. The inside rows of the fields that look decent have few ears and very little grain in those ears. Milk production is off as well due to heat stress. Several producers are planning to cull heavier due to lack of feed. Fruit is still looking like an excellent quality year, but later varieties may lack size.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It was dry all week until Sunday. Sunday consisted of an all day rain, but it still was only a quarter of an inch by late evening. Oats harvest continues. There are varying degrees of corn throughout the county. Some fields are 2 feet high with tassels while others are over 5 feet. Sheep producers are supplementing their feedings because of poor pasture conditions.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - This was a good week for field work but remains very dry, 1/2 inch of rain fall for the week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - The corn is very dry and is beginning to show severe leaf rolling. Some soybeans have begun wilting during the day.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - It is still extremely dry in Crawford County. Producers are working on third cutting hay; however, not much quantity. Pastures are very poor with most farmers supplementing with hay.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Drought continues to set crops back. It is estimated that many areas of northern Dauphin County will have yield losses exceeding 50 to 75% of expected yields. Poor pollination and limited grain fill will significantly impact corn yields. Soybeans continue to struggle for moisture. Spider mites are common across region. Forage crops are suffering from heat and low moisture levels. Seasonal crop yields will be below expected needs for many producers. Hay supplies will be tight.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Hot dry weather is still ongoing. No second or third cutting. Corn is short this year.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - This was another week of hot temperatures and no significant rainfall. The third cutting of alfalfa is next thing to nothing; while the corn and soybeans continue to dry up prematurely. A few fields have been fall seeded to alfalfa and some farmers are talking about cutting corn silage before the corn gets too dry.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Most areas have not had any rain in over a week. Hot, dry conditions are beginning to reduce corn and soybean yields. Still some chance for yield recovery if rain comes soon. Dry conditions have allowed for timely harvests and good to excellent quality hay and small grains.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 5, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	85	87	78
Corn, dough	26	32	28
Oats, ripe	88	77	69
Oats, harvested	54	52	43
Potatoes, harvested	5	6	7
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	48	40	39
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	53	64	44
Peaches, harvested	32	37	42
Apples, harvested	17	19	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 5, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	18	15	26	29	12
Oats	2	20	39	39	0
Soybeans	20	20	27	24	9
Quality of hay made	5	3	25	40	27
Pasture	44	28	24	4	0
Peaches	0	0	14	50	36
Apples	0	0	7	50	43

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