



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending August 12, 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: Finally Pennsylvania gets the rain we so desperately need! For many fields the rain last week came too late, but for many fields the rain was just what it needed to relieve the drought stress. With what appears to be such a poor harvest, there are concerns of what will be used for feed in the winter months. Farmers took advantage of the good weather to get some fall plowing started. So far 5 percent of the fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, spreading lime and manure, fall plowing, repairing equipment, making hay, and harvesting oats, potatoes, tobacco, apples, and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 12, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 23	<i>Percent</i> 32	<i>Percent</i> 42	<i>Percent</i> 3

Crops: Ninety-two percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 5 percentage points higher than the 5-year average. Thirty-five percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 14 points lower than this time last year and 7 points lower than the 5-year average. Seven percent of the corn has now entered the dough stage. This is 12 percentage points lower than this time last year and 5 points lower than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 52 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-one percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Now that the oat crop is fully yellow, 89 percent of those oats are now ripe. Many farmers have gotten some of their oats harvested, as 60 percent of the ripened oat crop was harvested last week. Five percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Potato harvesting came to a standstill last week, as there was no change from the previous week. Tobacco harvesting has also started in the Keystone State. Seven percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 2 percentage points lower than the previous year and 1 point lower than the 5-year average. Sixty percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 61 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa has been completed. Sixty-five percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! Ninety-seven percent of the state's peaches are in good or excellent condition. This harvest is beginning to catch up with the harvest of last year, as 57 percent of the peaches have been harvested. This is only 1 point lower than the previous year and 2 points higher than the 5-year average. Twenty-two percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 4 points lower than the previous year. Ninety-nine percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: The rain that was received around the state has really improved both crop and pasture condition. Producers are hoping that the rain showers will continue into the upcoming week. Twenty-one percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition, which is 17

percentage points higher than the previous week. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 34%, poor 23%, fair 22%, good 19%, and excellent 2%.

U.S. as of August 5, 2007: Hot and dry conditions persisted throughout the West for most of the week with scattered showers in localized areas. Farther east, rainfall was received throughout most of the Great Plains region, with heavier accumulations occurring in the central and southern areas which were beneficial for development. Stretching from the southern Plains into Florida, moisture levels increased, relieving drought conditions in some areas, while dryness persisted elsewhere in the Southeast region. In the Corn Belt, heat and dryness stressed crops in northern portions of the region, although southern Minnesota and Wisconsin, along with central Iowa received significant rainfall. Elsewhere, in the Corn Belt, only scattered, light rain fell with temperatures averaging slightly above normal. The Mid-Atlantic region received much needed showers during the week, but most were light and scattered.

Corn: Due to favorable conditions, nearly all of the Nation's crop had reached the silking stage, advancing 4 points ahead of the 5-year average to 96 percent. Silking was complete in Illinois, North Carolina, and Tennessee, and was ahead of the 5-year average in nearly all States. Meanwhile, 41 percent of the crop had reached the dough stage, advancing 16 percent during the week. Nine percent of acreage was at or beyond the dent stage, 2 points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Fifty-six percent of the crop was rated in good or excellent condition, down 2 points from last week.

Soybeans: Ninety-two percent of the acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage, the same as last year but 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Blooming advanced at or ahead of normal in all States except Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. During the week, soybeans setting pods advanced 18 points to 69 percent, the same as last year but ahead of normal by 8 points. Unfavorable heat and dryness decreased the percent of the crop rated good and excellent by 2 points from last week to 56 percent.

Winter Wheat: Harvest progressed to 94 percent complete, the same as last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest was most active in the Pacific Northwest, northern Great Plains, and Oklahoma with harvest in most of the States complete or nearly complete. Progress in Idaho, Montana, and Washington was well ahead of normal.

Small Grains: Barley harvesting was in full swing during the week advancing 24 points to 38 percent complete, 3 points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Nationwide, oat harvest was 74 percent complete, 14 points ahead of normal. Barley and oat harvest was ahead of normal in all States except Texas, with progress well ahead of normal in the northern Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 12, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 12, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	64	74	4	1.90	4	12.17	-3.48	40	1,906	226	3,076
Franklin	90	59	73	4	3.27	5	15.37	-3.06	55	1,821	226	3,013
Meadville	88	60	73	6	2.40	5	11.33	-6.56	54	1,850	390	3,029
Mercer	89	58	73	5	3.07	5	16.61	-0.77	53	1,780	201	2,964
Springboro	84	52	70	0	3.33	5	14.74	-0.95	64	1,586	-92	2,739
Warren	88	56	72	4	3.92	6	17.31	-0.82	53	1,628	75	2,795
North Central												
Bradford Region	83	49	68	4	4.50	5	15.96	-2.38	60	1,285	145	2,398
Emporium	90	54	72	6	4.48	4	20.73	2.05	55	1,694	421	2,876
Kane	86	50	68	4	4.37	4	19.82	1.37	53	1,287	164	2,403
Laporte	87	57	71	2	1.76	5	13.78	-3.26	57	1,563	-34	2,704
Lock Haven	95	58	76	7	1.19	4	10.36	-6.34	42	2,039	350	3,233
Port Allegany	87	47	69	4	2.54	4	15.06	-2.33	53	1,414	154	2,543
Renovo	93	57	74	4	3.03	4	15.21	-1.49	45	1,930	241	3,123
Ridgway	88	53	71	5	2.72	5	15.64	-3.04	58	1,460	187	2,614
Stevenson Dam	91	56	74	8	2.95	4	13.82	-4.86	46	1,767	494	2,946
Towanda	92	56	73	3	1.06	4	11.45	-2.66	53	1,681	71	2,828
Wellsboro	88	53	70	5	1.75	5	16.35	2.10	55	1,436	229	2,560
Williamsport	95	58	76	5	2.38	2	11.36	-5.35	46	2,200	333	3,418
Northeast												
Hawley	91	55	71	4	1.10	3	18.35	2.41	50	1,580	209	2,738
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	57	74	4	3.41	4	16.37	0.66	48	1,964	188	3,161
Susquehanna	88	55	71	5	1.73	4	19.60	2.50	54	1,647	331	2,803
West Central												
Butler	92	58	74	5	2.31	6	12.52	-4.83	51	1,806	153	2,996
New Castle	95	59	76	7	4.26	6	14.07	-1.82	49	1,971	311	3,172
Slippery Rock	92	58	75	7	3.00	3	16.49	-0.37	52	1,906	409	3,102
Central												
Altoona/Blair	91	58	74	4	1.59	5	12.99	-2.47	49	1,933	156	3,125
DuBois	88	57	72	4	2.34	5	15.61	-1.77	59	1,728	185	2,907
Lewistown	94	59	76	4	2.57	3	15.83	-0.91	47	2,068	122	3,272
Middletown	94	60	79	4	3.01	3	15.36	-0.84	40	2,477	282	3,706
Prince Gallitzi	91	55	72	5	3.02	3	15.33	-4.50	44	1,619	201	2,784
Selinsgrove	95	57	76	5	0.52	3	11.56	-5.17	42	2,028	206	3,223
State College	90	62	75	5	1.98	3	13.11	-2.32	46	2,073	314	3,271
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	94	57	77	4	0.38	4	17.96	0.73	52	2,164	152	3,374
Lehighton	88	56	74	2	2.92	5	18.36	1.13	54	1,944	2	3,142
Matamoras	90	52	71	-1	2.88	3	20.24	2.43	49	1,734	-25	2,916
Mt_Pocono	85	54	70	5	2.51	5	18.57	-0.07	60	1,601	396	2,751
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	90	62	77	7	3.23	4	15.04	-1.45	51	2,239	455	3,457
Derry	89	60	73	4	5.62	5	23.39	6.34	46	1,851	176	3,041
Myersdale	89	54	71	2	1.68	4	14.16	-4.63	53	1,424	-209	2,569
Mount Pleasant	89	57	74	6	5.20	5	18.42	-0.65	53	1,813	326	3,014
Pittsburgh Intl	92	60	77	6	2.83	4	14.59	-0.92	45	2,163	297	3,376
Connellsville	92	59	76	6	3.09	6	17.75	-0.58	58	2,063	164	3,276
Waynesburg	91	59	76	6	2.40	4	14.64	-2.32	51	1,919	194	3,125
South Central												
Biglerville	97	61	79	5	1.48	2	12.57	-2.34	39	2,292	144	3,514
Everett	90	58	73	3	2.57	4	14.33	-0.72	50	1,637	-115	2,819
Hanover	96	59	78	4	1.86	2	12.31	-2.60	39	2,236	88	3,449
Harrisburg_AP	95	59	79	4	2.88	3	12.58	-3.62	35	2,400	198	3,632
South Mountain	90	58	74	4	2.52	2	14.88	-0.58	43	1,805	35	2,989
York	94	58	77	4	1.79	3	15.39	-1.12	40	2,167	28	3,387
Southeast												
Green Lane	95	58	77	5	0.72	3	19.56	2.68	51	2,223	306	3,434
Hamburg	94	58	78	7	1.00	4	17.92	-1.95	46	2,275	522	3,492
West_Chester	94	58	78	5	1.01	3	20.33	1.73	41	2,177	50	3,384
Lancaster	93	57	77	4	1.61	4	17.21	-0.16	38	2,242	222	3,461
Neshaminy Falls	94	58	76	3	0.54	4	24.13	4.39	48	2,076	73	3,273
New Holland	96	56	77	5	1.28	3	18.55	1.18	43	2,315	295	3,527
Philadelphia	97	61	81	5	0.69	3	19.92	3.01	40	2,626	316	3,868
Philadelphia NE	98	60	81	5	0.47	5	18.85	1.94	49	2,581	271	3,823
Reading	96	59	79	6	0.84	3	16.52	-1.85	49	2,347	363	3,569
Valley Forge Na	96	59	79	4	1.26	4	19.79	2.20	53	2,217	-36	3,436
Willow Grove	95	58	78	5	0.47	4	19.03	-0.71	53	2,318	315	3,535

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 finally got some rainfall last week. Thursday around lunchtime all of the county got about an inch of rainfall in a thunderstorm and then again Thursday evening another 3/4 of an inch of rainfall fell. This is more than some parts of the county have received all summer. Things look a little greener but crops are still affected by drought. The state declared drought watch for the county last week. Most of the week it was in the 90's during the daytime and also high humidity.

Corn that is dead due to drought and only about 3 foot tall or so is being chopped for silage starting mid week last week. Not much nutritional value will be in this silage due to the stalks not having ears or much height. Most of the county's corn doesn't look good for grain due to the drought. Some areas that have received some rainfall sporadically around East Berlin, New Oxford, McSherrystown, and Littlestown will have some corn for grain but is also seeing effects of drought. Soybeans were helped by the moisture last week but still too early to tell what the yields may be at harvest. Some double-cropped soybeans are now just starting to grow.

Apples and peaches continue to look ok although a little smaller in size due to the drought. Some irrigating is being done where conditions are accessible but ponds are not replenishing with water to continue. Trees are showing some effects of the drought. Peaches and apples continue to be harvested. Sweet corn in most areas has dried up. Pumpkins are in need of rainfall also.

Overall the fruit crops in the county are fairing the best with drought conditions. Soil moisture level is still not too good and small grains will need some moisture to get started this fall, so hopefully we get some additional rainfall soon.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Several days of near record heat early in the week was followed with showers and cooler weather for the end of the week. Almost 1.5 inches of rain did not do much for the pastures or late hay. Corn silage harvesting has slowed down since the rain, but yields have not improved. Soybeans have improved in appearance. Less humid weather late in the week gave the livestock some relief.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - A little rain last week eased some of the droughty conditions, but we could use a lot more. Early planted corn looks pretty good, the later plantings are suffering. Most beans are short. Deer have destroyed some bean fields in certain parts of the county, and have eaten the ears off corn, creating a lot of purple stalks with no ears. Silage harvest should start soon.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Things around this area are getting greener. We received 2.6 inches of rainfall.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - We received 1"+ rain. Crops improved for the week, but dry signs on the crops are back.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Storms moved through Crawford County this week which brought about 3 inches of welcome rain. Pastures and hayfields seemed to instantly green up and grow. Corn and beans look good however there are some concerns that yields may be low due to the dry weather.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Finally we got some significant rains across the area this past week. Unfortunately for the corn crop it will be too late for any major contribution to the final crop. Widespread and varying crop conditions exist across Dauphin County. Majority of the area will see significant decrease in yields but some areas did receive timely rains and will have a good crop. Soybeans are continuing to develop and set seeds. Hay yields continue to be short. Pastures are slowly recovering or is that crabgrass?

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The rains have given new life to the crops.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Rain, at last! We had about 2 inches most of which was a good soaker.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - The rain finally came to most areas in the county. Let's hope that it was in time. Even though third cutting of hay was short many farmers were making hay last week. Some silage corn is beginning to look ready for harvest. I expect silage making to begin this week. Tobacco harvest has begun.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Very dry! Around a half inch of rain across the county over the week. Crop conditions continue to decline. Early corn looks okay, later corn is poor. Soybeans are filling pods and are wilting. Vegetable crops and hay crops are stressed too. Very little 2nd cutting grass hay and pasture is out there. We need a significant rain instead of a tenth or two every week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Rainfall on Wednesday and Thursday ranged from .5 to 2.0 inches. It is too early to determine any benefits. Many corn fields have no ears, while others are showing signs of poor pollination, causing some farmers to begin cutting silage. Very little field activities have been going on for the week.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - A little over an inch of rain was received over the course of the week. Corn and hay taken advantage of the moisture. Will start cutting third cut alfalfa later this week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Much of the county had more 5 inches of rain from several days of storms this week. There was some wind and minor flooding damage in a few places but the corn and soybeans have really greened-up and are again looking very good. Hay and pastures also are doing much better.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 12, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	5	10	5
Corn, silk	92	96	87
Corn, dough	35	49	42
Corn, dent	7	19	12
Oats, ripe	89	94	86
Oats, harvested	60	72	63
Tobacco, harvested	7	9	8
Potatoes, harvested	5	11	11
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	61	64	54
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	65	78	57
Peaches, harvested	57	58	55
Apples, harvested	22	26	17

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 12, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	7	13	28	38	14
Soybeans	10	16	33	29	12
Quality of hay made	1	7	32	45	15
Pasture	34	23	22	19	2
Peaches	0	1	2	53	44
Apples	0	0	1	50	49

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