



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending June 15, 2003

Poor week for Field Work: There were 2 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 31 percent adequate and 69 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included planting corn, soybeans, and potatoes; cutting hay; maintaining machines; caring for livestock; spreading manure; spraying herbicides and pesticides; and fixing fences.

Crops: For the fifth week in a row there were limited days that the farmers could get in the fields and do any work. Farmers reported that the continuing rain limited the amount of planting they could accomplish. Spring plowing was rated at 94 percent complete, 4 percent behind last year and 5 percent behind the five-year average. Corn planted was rated at 81 percent complete, 11 percent behind last year and 16 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of corn emerged increased to 71 percent, 13 and 19 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Corn height averaged 6 inches. Corn condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Soybean planting increased to 61 percent, 22 percent behind last year and 25 percent behind the five-year average. Percent of soybeans emerged advanced to 48 percent, 19 and 26 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Soybean condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 49 percent good and 12 percent excellent. Oats condition was rated 12 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The percent of winter wheat headed was rated 95 percent, 4 percent behind last year and 3 percent behind the five-year average. Wheat turning yellow was rated 6 percent, 27 percent behind last year and 28 percent behind the five-year average. Winter wheat condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. The percent of barley headed increased to 95 percent, 3 and 4 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Barley turning yellow increased to 55 percent, 32 and 33 percent behind last year and the five-year average. Tobacco transplanted increase to 33 percent, 63 percent behind last year and 56 percent behind the five-year average. With the continued rains, the hay conditions remained low. The quality of hay made was rated 28 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 15 percent good and 5 percent excellent. Forty-nine percent of the first cutting of alfalfa was completed, 27 percent behind last year and the five-year average. Nineteen percent of the first cutting of timothy clover was completed, 22 percent behind last year and 25 percent behind the five-year average.

Livestock: The rain continued to fall for the most part but there were some days with sun which has led to better pasture conditions. Two percent of the pasture land was rated poor, 16 percent fair, 52 percent good and 30 percent excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Weather conditions seem to be good for fruit tree growth. Peach tree conditions were rated 10 percent fair, 84 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Apple tree conditions were rated at 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 64 percent good and 19 percent excellent. Potatoes planted increased to 89 percent, 9 percent below last year and the five-year average.

U.S. As Of June 8, 2003: Highlights: Warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest which promoted fieldwork and crop development, but diminished soil moisture reserves available to dryland small grains. Hot, dry weather increased irrigation demands across the Intermountain West as subsoil moisture conditions remained very dry in the central and northern Rockies, where minimal rainfall was recorded. However, occasional heavy showers across the southern Great Plains provided some relief this week. Soil moisture levels were mostly adequate on the central Great Plains. Crops rapidly emerged in the northern Great Plains, but late-week showers limited fieldwork. Heavy showers in the western Corn Belt benefited crops but slowed fieldwork. Central and eastern portions of the Corn Belt received scattered showers, but planting advanced rapidly with only minor delays. Fieldwork and crop development were hampered by continued wet conditions across the Southeast and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains. Heavy rain slowed progress across southern Pennsylvania and into southern New England. Corn: The crop was 91 percent emerged, 3 percentage points ahead of last year but 3 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence continued to lag well behind the 5-year average in Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. However, warm weather and adequate soil moisture supported emergence in the eastern Corn Belt and promoted rapid growth in the western Corn Belt. Soybeans: Planting was 84 percent complete, 1 percentage point ahead of last year's pace but 3 points behind normal for this date. The crop was 62 percent emerged, equal to last year's progress but 9 points behind the 5-year average. The crop rapidly emerged during the week in the Corn Belt and upper Missouri Valley. However, most states remained significantly behind their 5-year average emergence pace. Winter Wheat: Eighty-nine percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, 2 percentage points ahead of last year's pace but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was 7 percent complete and trailed last year's 8 percent and the 9 percent average pace for this date. Development accelerated in most areas. Small grains: The barley crop was 94 percent emerged, 2 percentage points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. The oat crop was 97 percent emerged, 2 percentage points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of the average.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 15, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - June 15, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	81	53	66	+1	1.45	6	8.84	+0.11	32	462	-29	1043
Franklin_AG	77	49	66	+2	1.98	6	11.86	+2.27	49	438	-39	1065
Meadville	76	52	65	+2	2.06	5	11.33	+2.00	35	425	+4	1040
Mercer	78	41	65	+1	2.30	7	11.24	+1.81	34	378	-105	980
Springboro	79	50	65	-2	3.91	5	12.84	+4.56	41	381	-126	957
Warren	79	47	65	+1	2.38	5	10.76	+0.80	39	404	-54	1000
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	73	39	62	+3	1.87	5	10.93	+0.99	42	325	+20	876
Emporium	79	50	66	+5	1.11	5	9.97	-0.14	45	451	+101	1081
Kane	73	38	59	-2	1.62	5	10.95	+0.78	38	164	-135	627
Laporte	76	48	64	-1	0.60	3	9.53	-0.07	42	323	-155	874
Lock_Haven	82	53	69	+4	1.24	5	9.61	+0.50	45	546	+18	1197
Port_Allegany	77	46	64	+3	1.48	5	8.53	-0.98	35	318	-48	870
RenoVo	81	53	68	+3	0.76	5	9.87	+0.76	46	512	-16	1158
Ridgway	76	44	64	+3	1.24	6	9.52	-0.59	39	327	-23	919
Stevenson_Dam	79	51	66	+6	0.90	6	11.29	+1.18	49	433	+83	1061
Towanda	78	50	66	+2	1.12	6	10.35	+2.18	50	390	-101	985
Wellsboro	77	46	64	+3	0.90	6	9.57	+1.85	41	316	+0	868
Williamsport_AP	83	53	70	+3	1.31	4	9.37	+0.14	43	580	-37	1231
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	79	48	64	+3	0.37	4	8.38	-0.97	34	318	-61	912
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	51	68	+2	0.46	5	8.93	+0.35	41	530	-34	1154
Susquehanna	83	52	68	+7	2.38	4	11.36	+1.64	35	462	+108	1064
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	80	50	67	+2	2.45	6	11.38	+1.89	44	529	+16	1188
New_Castle	81	50	68	+3	2.66	5	12.22	+3.71	36	561	+50	1227
Slippery_Rock	80	49	67	+3	2.64	6	12.86	+3.78	39	533	+75	1191
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	81	51	67	+2	0.54	5	10.97	+2.17	53	522	-60	1153
Du_Bois	75	49	65	+2	1.42	7	11.11	+1.35	46	447	-25	1056
Lewistown	83	52	69	+2	0.23	3	10.19	+0.96	41	602	-52	1263
Middletown	83	55	71	+2	2.20	6	12.87	+3.38	44	652	-98	1318
Prince_Gallitzi	77	47	66	+4	1.06	5	11.00	-0.11	41	458	+35	1061
Selinsgrove	83	51	69	+3	0.47	4	8.19	-1.14	44	510	-73	1155
State_College_P	79	55	68	+3	0.76	5	9.94	+1.38	47	553	-12	1197
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	87	53	70	+2	1.65	5	8.69	-0.93	44	571	-93	1219
Lehighnton	83	52	68	-1	0.95	6	10.63	+1.01	47	472	-161	1099
Matamoras	81	50	64	-3	1.01	5	10.03	-0.15	40	347	-203	938
Tobyhanna	83	56	68	+8	1.60	5	12.94	+2.23	42	502	+192	1130
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	54	69	+4	0.53	5	10.81	+1.48	44	726	+141	1418
Derry	82	52	68	+4	1.59	4	12.72	+3.51	42	581	+54	1226
Meyersdale	79	46	63	-3	0.70	4	14.53	+4.33	45	334	-179	919
Mount_Pleasant	80	50	68	+5	0.96	5	12.50	+1.88	46	578	+132	1242
Pittsburgh_Intl	80	52	69	+3	1.56	5	11.32	+2.78	43	711	+85	1398
Rector	82	48	68	+4	0.51	4	12.51	+1.89	39	577	+131	1234
Waynesburg	82	51	69	+4	0.60	5	13.54	+4.24	44	620	+62	1299
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	84	56	71	+1	1.39	5	15.68	+6.76	51	605	-141	1269
Everett	84	52	68	+2	1.05	4	14.78	+6.18	49	512	-46	1161
Hanover	84	53	71	+2	0.85	3	12.73	+3.81	40	619	-127	1281
Shippensburg	87	54	71	+2	0.87	4	14.33	+5.58	42	659	-99	1330
South_Mountain	80	52	67	+1	1.08	3	17.86	+9.06	45	445	-130	1053
York_AP	84	51	71	+2	0.50	4	11.11	+1.66	44	632	-123	1294
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	90	53	71	+5	1.16	4	13.12	+3.75	41	623	+3	1287
Hamburg	84	52	70	+4	1.03	4	10.57	-0.57	41	563	+26	1211
Hopewell	85	52	70	-2	0.45	4	11.26	+1.56	39	516	-274	1148
Lancaster_AP	87	52	71	+3	0.38	4	10.32	+1.06	39	584	-84	1241
Neshaminy_Falls	87	55	71	+3	1.38	5	11.51	+1.08	40	588	-74	1241
New_Holland	85	58	72	+4	0.91	4	11.69	+2.43	40	573	-95	1224
Philadelphia	88	60	74	+4	1.54	4	11.63	+2.46	35	786	-25	1471
Philadelphia_NE	87	57	72	+2	1.16	5	11.69	+2.52	38	670	-141	1337
Reading_AP	86	53	72	+4	0.31	3	9.14	-1.25	40	623	-18	1275
Valley_Forge_Na	88	52	71	-1	2.70	5	13.46	+3.76	38	517	-273	1158
Willow_Grove	85	57	70	+2	2.41	5	8.86	-1.57	35	610	-52	1262

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

"Another miserable farming week. Heavy rains last Sunday, then another downpour Thursday night with tornado warnings made doing anything in the field close to impossible. Homeowners mowing their lawns are leaving ruts. Looks like good weather for the upcoming week so hopefully hay making can get started."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Finally dried out on Saturday after many inches of rain. Some fields of corn are showing effects of too much moisture. Very limited hay harvest and most fields are now past optimum harvest dates."

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

"Rains over the week were culminated in 2-4 inches on Friday night, much occurring within a couple of hours. Erosion ranged from slight to quite severe, depending on location in the county, crop status, and field characteristics."

- Harry Blanchet, Forest County

"Two weeks ago last Wednesday we had 26 degrees and rain almost everyday after. The apple crop appears to be doing ok. Other crops such as corn, soybean, vegetables are not getting planted timely. Hay needs to be harvested but fields are wet. Last Wednesday Warren county received 1.5 to 2.0 inches of rain in less than two hours. We need warm weather to help farmers with planting and harvesting of crops."

- Thomas Tanner, Forrest County

"Heavy rains late last week saturated soil in most fields preventing any significant field work. Many farmers were forced to choose the lesser of the evils in forage quality between letting hay get too mature or cutting it and letting it get rained on for several days. I have not seen any hay baled dry yet this year."

- Wes Ramsey, Warren County

"Monday and Tuesday only two days suitable for field work. Rain or drizzle the rest of the week. Warm and humid conditions have help corn growth. First cutting hay going backwards, while the second that was on high and dry ground needs to be cut too."

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"Very wet conditions prevail throughout most of the county. The hill ground will take quite some time to dry out. Still a considerable amount of corn to be planted and farmers wonder if ground will ever dry out enough to plant. Hay producers can only sit and wait. Some hay has been mowed but most all has been rained on at least once. The corn that is planted certainly needs heat to move it along."

- Sherri Butters, Tioga County

"Same wet weather pattern. Will dryer weather ever get here? The only crop harvesting taking place is by grazing and even the cows are having a hard time maneuvering in the wet muddy field conditions. Maybe someone should develop water skis for cows."

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"Slow progress with completing planting. Many acres not planted yet. Hopefully, this week will make a difference."

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

"Rain most days 1.25 inch total. We need a dry sun shine filled week so planting can be finished and hay can be made."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"Still too wet to do anything in the fields."

- M.K. Huntington County

"Just because there were a few days suitable for field work weather wise doesn't mean the fields were suitable to be worked."

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

"Have had 1.1" of rain this past week. Have not been able to do any field work. Our ground is saturated. Just as soon as it starts to dry out, we get another rain. Strawberries in our garden are not looking good, too much moisture. This is a difficult spring for the farmer to do field work. All our field work was done in about 6 days this spring. Our potatoes in the garden never looked so good, the rows have grown shut. We must thank the Lord for what blessings we do have."

- Northumberland County

"Planting corn and soybeans around very wet areas. Filling silos."

- Leonard Cottom, Fayette County

"Another week with many areas receiving more than 2 inches of rainfall. Still impossible to bale any dry hay. Planted corn is spotty because of wet conditions with many fields showing uneven growth, uneven stands and poor weed control. Many producers are still planning to plant corn, soybeans, and vegetables if wet soil conditions improve soon."

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"This has been a week similar to many in the past. Work between showers and dodge the wet spots. Hay making is a chore. Proper curing is next to impossible. It is a good week tough for some areas as the showers are spotty. Most of the full season corn has been planted. Strawberries are looking good. All other fruits are in good shape except that this has been a record year for Scab and disease in the apples."

- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

"Wheat is starting show high levels of disease pressure on flag leaf. I look for yields and test weights to be depressed."

- Russ McLucas, Fulton County

"Sunday the 15th is the first day that we have cut hay"

- Hugh Brown, Berks County

"Another poor week for field work and plant development. The lack of sun is showing in all crops. Corn growth is so slow that many fields are showing herbicide injury as a result of the slow growth. Slugs are a major pest this year. It is going to take a lot of good growing conditions the rest of the summer for many crops to reach physiological maturity before frost."

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"Interesting week, early corn is hurting from slugs. Again tough to make hay. Some tobacco and vegetables are being planted."

- Axel Linde, Lancaster County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 15, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
		<i>Percent</i>	
Spring plowing	94	98	99
Corn, planted	81	92	97
Corn, emerged	71	84	90
Corn, height (inches)	6	13	11
Barley, headed	95	98	99
Barley, yellow	55	87	88
Winter wheat, headed	95	99	98
Winter wheat, yellow	6	33	34
Oats, headed	10	46	37
Soybeans, planted	61	83	86
Soybeans, emerged	48	67	74
Tobacco, transplanted	33	96	89
Potatoes, planted	89	98	98
Alfalfa, 1 st cut	49	76	76
Timothy clover, 1 st cut	19	41	44

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 15, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			<i>Percent</i>		
Corn	3	7	41	35	14
Winter wheat	1	1	17	56	25
Oats	0	12	34	44	10
Soybeans	1	4	34	49	12
Quality of Hay Made	28	26	26	15	5
Pasture Conditions	0	2	16	52	30
Peaches	0	0	10	84	6
Apples	1	1	15	64	19

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