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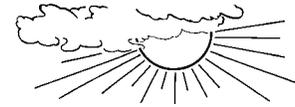
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# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 11, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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***This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)***

**Excellent Week For Field Work:** There were five days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent very short, 26 percent short, 63 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included cutting second hay crop, spreading fertilizer, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting wheat, repairing fences and machinery, and baling straw.

**Crops:** Corn silking was 23 percent complete, which was ahead of last year and ahead of the 5-year average of 8 percent. The average height of corn was 62 inches statewide, and was rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 43 percent excellent. Winter Wheat was 90 percent ripe, compared to 37 percent in 2003 and the five year average of 71 percent. Forty-nine percent of the winter wheat in Pennsylvania has been harvested, compared to 5 percent last year and 35 percent as the five year average. The winter wheat condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 46 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Barley was 90 percent harvested, compared to 81 percent last year, and the five year average of 87 percent. Oats were 92 percent headed, compared with 87 percent in 2003, and 92 percent for the 5-year average. Oats were 32 percent yellow, 14 percent yellow in 2003, and 43 percent yellow for the five year average. Oat condition was 4 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 52 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Soybean condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Alfalfa first cutting was 98 percent complete, compared to 92 percent last year and 96 percent for the 5-year average. Alfalfa second cutting was 57 percent complete, compared to 25 percent last year, and 50 percent for the 5-year average. Alfalfa stand was rated 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 52 percent good and 18 percent excellent. The first cutting of timothy clover was 88 percent complete, compared with 73 percent last year

and 84 percent for the 5-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover was 7 percent complete, ahead of last year at 3 percent, and behind the five year average of 13 percent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 50 percent good and 13 percent was excellent. The quality of the hay made was 9 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Peach harvest was 16 percent complete, which is ahead of 4 percent last year, and slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 5 percent. Peach condition was rated as 9 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 47 percent excellent. Apples were 5 percent harvested, which is slightly ahead of last year and the five year average. Apple condition was rated as 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, and 65 percent good and 1 percent excellent.

**Livestock:** During the last week, the pasture condition in Pennsylvania was rated at 4 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 57 percent good and 7 percent excellent.

**U.S. As of July 4, 2004:** Corn: Nineteen percent of the Nation's corn acreage was at the silking stage or beyond, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of normal. Soybeans: Blooming advanced to 20 percent complete, compared with 8 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 60 percent of the crop, 3 points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal. Harvest progressed rapidly under mostly dry conditions in the eastern Corn Belt, where producers harvested 27 percent of Indiana's crop and 34 percent of Ohio's crop. Forty-eight percent of the barley crop was headed, compared with 58 percent last year and 49 percent for the 5-year average. Oat heading advanced to 73 percent complete, 5 points behind last year but even with the normal pace.

**Weather Data For Week Ending July 11, 2004**

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 11, 2004					GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	90	57	71	1	0.57	3	12.16	0.12	53	1,198	187	2,042
Franklin	86	57	71	2	0.24	2	15.83	2.01	58	1,166	195	2,030
Meadville	85	57	69	0	0.49	2	13.25	-0.02	54	1,093	216	1,927
Mercer	85	48	66	-4	0.00	0	13.65	0.27	43	929	-36	1,750
Springboro	87	54	69	-2	0.85	3	17.34	5.50	60	1,103	77	1,926
Warren	87	54	69	0	1.13	4	20.04	6.07	62	1,077	138	1,925
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	79	47	66	2	0.81	4	14.51	0.34	67	903	239	1,716
Emporium	84	55	70	5	1.10	3	13.55	-0.71	53	1,155	404	2,017
Kane	80	43	63	-3	0.60	1	14.45	0.22	47	559	-97	1,313
Laporte	81	54	68	-2	1.43	3	16.53	3.16	60	981	13	1,809
Lock Haven	88	57	73	3	3.04	3	18.71	5.77	47	1,310	268	2,237
Port Allegany	81	51	67	1	0.06	1	13.13	-0.62	51	959	200	1,773
Renovo	85	57	72	2	1.96	3	13.99	1.05	48	1,273	231	2,170
Ridgway	84	51	67	1	0.40	2	16.57	2.31	46	949	198	1,768
Stevenson Dam	84	56	71	5	1.70	2	14.71	0.45	54	1,208	457	2,088
Towanda	89	54	70	0	0.91	4	11.53	0.45	50	1,186	205	2,057
Wellsboro	80	50	67	2	1.25	4	14.90	3.75	52	951	253	1,774
Williamsport	88	56	73	2	1.13	2	14.14	1.20	59	1,390	222	2,327
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	86	51	67	0	0.06	2	11.66	-0.77	41	977	169	1,807
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	53	71	-1	0.07	1	12.30	0.23	45	1,268	166	2,174
Susquehanna	89	54	71	5	0.42	4	13.06	-0.17	47	1,193	422	2,076
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	84	56	70	0	0.74	4	16.65	3.47	60	1,175	160	2,039
New Castle	88	54	71	2	0.95	1	14.90	2.78	45	1,283	263	2,158
Slippery Rock	87	55	71	3	0.54	2	16.61	3.72	59	1,240	324	2,125
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	84	54	71	1	0.67	4	13.77	1.63	49	1,293	181	2,174
DuBois	81	53	68	-2	2.31	3	18.81	5.31	63	1,102	157	1,954
Lewistown	88	57	74	2	1.09	2	15.04	2.08	47	1,398	174	2,325
Middletown	91	61	76	2	0.74	2	13.46	0.77	41	1,637	244	2,601
Prince Gallitzi	84	51	69	2	0.80	3	17.88	2.72	49	1,123	261	1,974
Selinsgrove	91	56	73	2	0.91	3	13.84	0.79	49	1,349	216	2,264
State College	85	59	71	1	1.74	3	13.29	1.33	43	1,331	237	2,227
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	91	55	74	1	0.38	2	11.21	-1.71	43	1,447	183	2,393
Leighton	85	55	71	-2	0.20	4	14.39	1.44	51	1,270	63	2,188
Matamoras	89	52	69	-3	0.22	2	10.13	-3.56	41	1,078	-6	1,950
Tobyhanna	83	52	67	2	0.05	3	16.97	2.63	59	1,055	361	1,906
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	58	73	3	0.22	3	14.10	1.46	51	1,458	344	2,372
Derry	84	51	71	1	0.84	4	19.15	6.36	59	1,271	241	2,163
Myersdale	81	53	69	-2	1.45	4	15.78	1.71	47	1,039	33	1,879
Mount Pleasant	86	55	71	3	1.16	4	16.76	2.16	41	1,295	392	2,178
Pittsburgh Intl	85	57	73	1	1.39	3	15.78	3.93	48	1,495	318	2,407
Rector	85	52	71	3	1.17	3	18.98	4.38	59	1,306	403	2,201
Waynesburg	87	57	72	2	1.34	2	16.91	4.14	52	1,329	250	2,218
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	86	54	71	-4	0.70	3	19.43	7.71	48	1,460	85	2,394
Everett	87	52	71	0	1.39	3	13.70	2.13	44	1,088	6	1,934
Hanover	90	57	74	-1	1.19	3	18.37	6.65	41	1,539	164	2,477
Shippensburg	89	57	74	1	0.73	3	15.62	3.77	42	1,564	194	2,499
South Mountain	84	54	71	-1	0.41	3	17.57	5.43	38	1,243	138	2,120
York	90	56	74	-2	1.51	1	15.18	2.21	39	1,505	134	2,450
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	94	55	77	4	0.59	2	12.60	0.07	44	1,627	432	2,596
Hamburg	91	58	74	3	0.49	2	11.85	-3.39	50	1,445	369	2,390
Hopewell	90	58	74	-2	0.75	3	15.39	2.32	57	1,479	34	2,426
Lancaster	89	58	74	0	1.19	2	16.15	3.10	47	1,521	255	2,476
Neshaminy Falls	92	60	76	3	0.60	3	13.23	-1.14	44	1,589	326	2,550
New Holland	90	58	74	0	0.65	3	15.24	2.19	47	1,513	247	2,454
Philadelphia	93	62	78	2	0.17	2	14.40	1.75	44	1,775	299	2,751
Philadelphia NE	93	60	77	2	0.49	2	12.30	-0.35	44	1,710	234	2,683
Reading	89	57	75	2	0.48	1	13.88	-0.17	43	1,545	310	2,504
Valley Forge Na	94	53	74	-2	0.41	2	11.75	-1.32	41	1,513	68	2,462
Willow Grove	90	58	76	3	0.50	2	9.24	-5.13	44	1,608	345	2,576

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.*

**Bucks County, Michael Fournier (EXT)** – Getting a nice rain Monday morning as I enter this report. Many corn fields were really starting to suffer, probably to the point of hurting yield. We need about 2 days of a very slow, steady rain.

**Cambria County, Dolly Little (FSA)** – Heavy downpours on Sunday and Monday. Wheat harvest is just about ready to go into full swing. Barley was harvested last week. The potatoes look good and are in blossom.

**Centre County, Dick Decker** – Rain fall early in the week has top soil moisture in excellent condition. Crops are all looking good. My rain gauge had 2 ½ inches during the week.

**Crawford County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** – Good weekend for getting hay made and working in the field. Farmers were busy spraying and fertilizing corn and hay fields.

**Forrest County, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** – Many acres of hay were made, but the quality was very poor on first cutting hay. Second cutting hay had low yields, but excellent quality. Corn crops throughout the counties, the stands are very irregular. A lot of spraying of corn for weed control last week and corn being top dressed.

**Franklin County, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** – Another typical summer week. Hot humid weather with few spotty showers. Good week for hay making; starting third cutting of alfalfa (very short), wheat harvest nearly complete. Corn has been excellent in northern part of county with ample rain, however areas south of US 30 have shown stress due to lack of moisture. No serious crop effects if rain comes soon. Many producers report that they have never seen this much corn in silking stage this early in the season.

**Indiana County, Kevin Fry (EXT)** – Another good week for field work. The recent stretch of good weather has allowed many farmers to catch up on hay making. The couple of showers we have had were a relief instead of a hindrance. Some corn was showing moisture stress, what a change from June.

**Lancaster County, Axel Linde** – Everything is looking good for a great harvest, even the weeds are growing well. How do you control Canada thistles growing in the CREP acres upwind? The white seed heads are a nuisance. Pastures are still producing excellent forages if properly managed. Grasshoppers seem to be more this summer. Corn is amazingly tall and looking really good for those who planted early and not in a wet spot.

**Mercer/Lawrence Counties, D Earl Smith (FSA)** – Great hay making week! Corn is looking better, soybeans are looking great. Wheat and speltz starting to be harvested.

**Montgomery County, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** – Finally it's raining! Conditions have been dry for the past few weeks, crops were getting quite stressed. Wheat harvest is nearly complete, yields around 60 bu with around 1.5 tons of straw per acre. Earliest corn was starting to tassel over the 4th of July and the rest of the mid-season corn is doing well. Timothy harvest is nearly complete with good yields.

**Schuylkill County, Terry Stehr (FSA)** – Fruit and vegetable harvest is underway. Potatoes, sweet corn, cabbage, broccoli, cucumbers, peppers, peaches and plums are currently being picked. Yields and quality reported very good. Moisture conditions are getting very short with very little rainfall this past week.

**Snyder County, William C. Sheaffer** – The favorable weather allowed for the making of good quality second hay as well as the start of the wheat harvest. The quality of the wheat is better than anticipated. The early corn has started to tassel and the soybeans are making significant growth. The main activities for the week were the spraying of herbicides and insecticides, making hay and combining wheat.

**Westmoreland County, John Lohr (FSA)** – Fair week for field work with little rainfall. Corn, both field and sweet, continue to make excellent progress. Soybeans seem to be progressing slowly when compared to corn's rapid pace. Wheat test weights are average with most of the crop still to be harvested.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 11, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	23	0	8
Corn average height, inches	62	30	40
Barley, harvested	90	81	87
Wheat, ripe	90	37	71
Wheat, harvested	49	5	35
Oats, heading or headed	92	87	92
Oats, turning yellow	32	14	43
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	98	92	96
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	57	25	50
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	88	73	84
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	7	3	13
Peaches, harvested	16	4	5
Apples, harvested	5	0	1

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 11, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	5	18	33	43
Wheat	1	13	29	46	11
Oats	4	8	25	52	11
Soybeans	1	2	15	63	19
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	2	6	22	52	18
Timothy clover stand	1	5	31	50	13
Quality of hay made	9	9	35	39	8
Pasture	4	8	24	57	7
Peaches	0	0	9	44	47
Apples	0	8	26	65	1

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