



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending July 13, 2003

Fair week for Field Work: There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 2 percent very short, 8 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 21 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included planting soybeans; making haylage, bayload and dry hay; spraying herbicides; spreading manure; spreading lime and fertilizer; and caring for livestock.

Crops: This week brought sunshine and some scattered thunderstorms that did stop farmers from getting in the fields a couple of days. Farmers found it hard to make hay with the thunderstorms this past week. Corn height increased to 32 inches, 12 inches behind last year and the five-year average. The condition of corn was rated 3 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Soybeans planted was rated 97 percent, 2 percent behind last year and the five-year average. Soybeans emerged increased to 83 percent, 15 and 14 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Soybean condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 34 percent good and 16 percent excellent. The percent of winter wheat turning yellow was rated 96 percent, 3 percent behind last year and 2 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of wheat ripe was rated 48 percent, 39 percent behind last year and 36 percent behind the five-year average. Wheat condition was rated 5 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. The percent of barley ripe was rated 94 percent, 4 percent behind last year and 2 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of barley harvested is rated 81 percent, 12 and 10 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Oats headed increased to 89 percent, 2 percent behind last year and 5 percent behind the five-year average. Oats turning yellow is rated 17 percent, 38 percent behind last year and 36 percent behind the five-year average. Oat condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 38 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Hay conditions declined from the previous week. The quality of hay made was rated 8 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 35 percent good and 15 percent excellent. Ninety-three percent of the first cutting of alfalfa was completed, 4 percent behind last year and the five-year average. Twenty-six percent of the second cutting of alfalfa was completed, 36 percent behind last year and 31 percent behind the five year average. Seventy-three percent of the first cutting of timothy clover was completed, 15 percent behind last year and the five year average.

Livestock: There was sun and rain last week which has the pasture conditions favorable. One percent of the pasture land was rated very poor, 9 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 43 percent good and 14 percent excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Weather conditions continue to be favorable for fruit tree growth. Peach tree conditions were rated at 14 percent fair, and 86 percent good. Apple tree conditions were rated at 28 percent fair, and 72 percent good.

U.S. As Of July 8, 2003: Highlights: Cooler weather improved growing conditions in the Pacific Northwest. Dry weather promoted fieldwork and increased irrigation requirements in the Intermountain Region, while increasing stress on dryland crops. In the Great Plains and Corn Belt, scattered showers and thunderstorms delayed fieldwork. However, above-normal temperatures accelerated crop maturity throughout the region. Despite scattered showers early in the week in the Southeast, warm weather and sunshine prevailed, causing rapid crop development and improved conditions. In Louisiana, showers hindered fieldwork. Two weeks of favorable weather in the Ohio Valley continued to enhance crop development. Corn: Nine percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, slightly behind last year's 10 percent and the 5-year average's 12 percent. Fields rapidly entered the reproductive stage in the Tennessee Valley and southern Atlantic Coast States.

Soybeans: Ninety-six percent of acreage was emerged and 11 percent was at the blooming stage. Emergence was behind 1 percentage point from last year at this time and 2 points behind the average pace. In Louisiana, some fields will remain unplanted due to extreme wet conditions. Winter Wheat: Harvest advanced to 64 percent, compared with 72 percent last year and the 5-year average of 66 percent. In the central Great Plains, above-normal temperatures accelerated maturity. The harvest pace was most active in Kansas, where producers reaped more than one-third of their crop. Hot weather ripened fields across the Great Plains. Harvest was ahead of normal in California, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, due to excellent weather condition late in the growing season. Small grains: The barley crop was 65 percent headed, compared with 46 percent for last year and the 5-year average of 54 percent. Eighty-three percent of the oat crop was headed, 8 percentage points and 5 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average, respectively. Heading increased 35 percent in North Dakota. Heading was nearing completion in Iowa, Nebraska, and Ohio. In Pennsylvania, heading was behind normal as a result of delayed planting early in the season.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 13, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - July 13, 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	58	71	-1	1.67	5	11.60	-0.65	44	1028	-4	1889
Franklin_AG	85	52	69	-1	2.20	7	15.85	+1.76	68	940	-51	1847
Meadville	86	55	70	+2	1.15	6	13.42	-0.10	53	954	+58	1849
Mercer	83	44	65	-5	3.60	6	17.07	+3.43	47	801	-184	1683
Springboro	86	52	69	-2	1.48	4	15.95	+3.89	54	884	-163	1740
Warren	87	52	69	-1	1.47	5	13.88	-0.33	51	912	-47	1788
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	83	47	66	+2	1.35	5	13.32	-1.10	55	716	+37	1547
Emporium	89	50	70	+4	0.86	5	12.04	-2.48	56	966	+198	1876
Kane	81	42	62	-3	0.80	4	12.50	-1.99	47	476	-195	1219
Laporte	84	53	68	-3	2.42	4	15.33	+1.73	53	801	-187	1632
Lock_Haven	92	55	72	+2	1.46	3	12.97	-0.20	52	1127	+64	2058
Port_Allegany	85	48	67	+2	0.94	6	10.71	-3.27	48	762	-13	1594
Renovo	91	54	71	+1	1.06	4	12.49	-0.68	56	1063	+0	1989
Ridgway	85	46	66	+0	0.49	4	11.09	-3.43	49	768	+0	1640
Stevenson_Dam	89	50	70	+4	0.99	6	13.69	-0.83	62	940	+172	1848
Towanda	88	55	70	+1	1.36	6	14.52	+3.25	65	914	-87	1789
Wellsboro	86	51	67	+2	1.06	3	12.59	+1.26	49	767	+53	1599
Williamsport_AP	93	55	73	+1	1.63	4	14.08	+0.91	52	1167	-23	2098
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	89	51	69	+2	1.01	5	12.96	+0.32	45	794	-32	1668
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	89	56	72	+1	0.43	3	13.95	+1.67	49	1098	-26	2002
Susquehanna	90	54	71	+5	2.16	3	17.56	+4.09	45	1027	+239	1909
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	86	50	69	-2	2.37	4	15.95	+2.53	57	1042	+7	1981
New_Castle	89	53	71	+2	2.25	6	16.95	+4.60	49	1119	+78	2065
Slippery_Rock	86	52	70	+2	3.11	5	18.43	+5.30	55	1064	+129	2002
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	85	55	70	-2	1.56	5	13.50	+1.13	62	1059	-74	1970
Du_Bois	82	50	67	-3	1.23	7	13.45	-0.28	61	904	-60	1793
Lewistown	91	57	73	+0	1.70	3	13.41	+0.22	48	1207	-41	2148
Middletown	89	63	76	+0	0.83	4	16.30	+3.39	57	1312	-108	2258
Prince_Gallitzi	86	51	69	+2	1.45	5	13.99	-1.47	53	953	+73	1836
Selinsgrove	91	56	73	+2	2.71	4	13.22	-0.05	53	1100	-55	2025
State_College_P	88	57	72	+0	2.58	4	14.73	+2.55	56	1136	+21	2060
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	91	58	75	+2	0.53	3	13.47	+0.31	53	1207	-81	2135
Lehighon	89	57	73	-1	0.73	5	16.59	+3.40	59	1051	-179	1958
Matamoras	89	53	70	-2	0.58	4	13.72	-0.23	52	875	-231	1746
Tobyhanna	90	60	74	+9	1.29	6	18.72	+4.12	56	1094	+384	2002
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	57	72	+2	0.58	7	14.71	+1.84	59	1307	+171	2279
Derry	85	55	71	+2	2.80	6	17.88	+4.83	54	1125	+74	2050
Meysersdale	84	51	68	-2	2.05	7	18.53	+4.16	60	763	-263	1628
Mount Pleasant	86	56	73	+5	4.74	6	19.05	+4.18	59	1119	+197	2063
Pittsburgh_Intl	86	53	72	+0	1.96	5	15.02	+2.94	54	1283	+83	2250
Rector	88	51	73	+5	3.71	5	18.56	+3.69	51	1101	+179	2038
Waynesburg	87	58	73	+3	4.35	7	21.24	+8.21	60	1172	+72	2131
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	90	58	74	-2	0.85	4	19.28	+7.35	65	1225	-176	2169
Everett	90	55	73	+2	1.10	5	17.40	+5.61	60	1077	-26	2006
Hanover	90	59	75	+0	3.38	4	18.27	+6.34	51	1242	-159	2184
Shippensburg	92	59	76	+2	1.41	3	17.64	+5.58	51	1315	-80	2266
South Mountain	85	56	71	+0	1.27	4	21.58	+9.21	56	964	-162	1852
York_AP	90	56	75	+2	0.26	3	13.92	+0.72	55	1258	-139	2200
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	95	57	76	+4	0.52	5	17.48	+4.70	51	1305	+87	2249
Hamburg	92	58	74	+3	0.51	4	15.11	-0.40	52	1186	+88	2114
Hopewell	90	61	75	+0	0.92	6	15.72	+2.38	52	1141	-331	2053
Lancaster_AP	89	60	75	+2	0.30	4	13.36	+0.05	49	1230	-61	2167
Neshaminy_Falls	92	60	76	+4	0.34	3	14.39	-0.29	51	1274	-14	2207
New_Holland	90	60	75	+2	0.99	5	17.56	+4.25	54	1213	-78	2144
Philadelphia	93	67	80	+4	0.35	4	15.14	+2.23	45	1547	+43	2512
Philadelphia_NE	92	65	78	+2	0.62	5	14.78	+1.87	50	1378	-126	2325
Reading_AP	91	60	76	+3	0.15	3	13.12	-1.19	51	1272	+13	2204
Valley Forge_Na	92	58	76	+0	0.37	5	16.57	+3.23	50	1151	-321	2072
Willow_Grove	88	64	75	+2	0.53	4	11.80	-2.88	43	1265	-23	2197

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.*

“Rained about every other day. Corn is taking off and soybean rows are filling. Due to the wet weather there is still quite a bit of first cutting hay that has not been made. Most of the dairy farmers are trying to make second cutting but the weather has not co-operated.”

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

“Generally a wet week that gave some needed rain to corn and 2nd cuttings of hay. The warm nights have helped the corn come on quickly. There is still some dry hay to be made.”

- David Stratton, McKean County

“While all crops are late, the recent high temperatures has improved crop growth. A rain on Thursday was helpful in keeping crop growth aggressive.”

- John Esslinger, Lackawanna County

“Storms and steady rain on Monday and Wednesday slowed hay making. Many farmers still reporting wet field conditions in standing hay. Late planted corn has a good start.”

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

“Good week for field work and growing crops. Thunder showers added 3 inches to my rain gauge.”

- Dick Decker, Centre County

“Most parts of our area received much needed rain this week. Some corn fields had dried up to the point of causing the corn to curl.”

- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

“Deer everywhere.”

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

“Rained almost every day this week. Some areas of county received over 5 inches of rainfall. Corn planted in the last two weeks is growing well but will probably need a warm September to mature. More growers are now harvesting sweet corn. Will soon need some dry conditions to harvest wheat without quality problems.”

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

“Scattered showers and seasonal temperatures have aided corn growth this week. It appears that almost 90% of the corn that had been intended to be planted was planted but not as timely as producers would have liked. Hay production is now catching up to normal. Barley harvest completed this week with very poor quality. Test weight as low as 32 lbs. were reported and due to light weight, yields were much below normal.”

- Thomas Kerr,
Franklin County



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 13, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn, height (inches)	32	44	44
Barley, ripe	94	98	96
Barley, harvested	81	93	91
Winter wheat, yellow	96	99	98
Winter wheat, ripe	48	87	84
Winter wheat, harvested	7	68	53
Oats, headed	89	91	94
Oats, yellow	17	55	56
Soybeans, planted	97	99	99
Soybeans, emerged	83	98	97
Alfalfa, 1 st cutting	93	97	97
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	26	62	57
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	7	15	8
Timothy clover, 1 st cutting	73	88	88
Peaches, harvested	5	10	6

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 13, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	3	9	28	33	27
Winter wheat	5	9	30	43	13
Oats	1	11	44	38	6
Soybeans	4	9	37	34	16
Quality of hay made	8	18	24	35	15
Pasture conditions	1	9	33	43	14
Peaches	0	0	14	86	0
Apples	0	0	28	72	0

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