



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending July 20, 2003

Good Week for Field Work: There were 5 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 2 percent very short, 16 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus. Principal farms activities included making haylage, baylage and dry hay; harvesting wheat; spraying herbicides; spreading manure; spreading lime and fertilizer; and caring for livestock.

Crops: Another week of lots of sunshine with some thunderstorms across the state. Corn height increased to 47 inches, 6 inches behind last year and 8 inches behind the five-year average. The condition of corn was rated 3 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 37 percent good and 21 percent excellent. Soybeans emerged increased to 94 percent, 4 and 5 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Soybean condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 43 percent good and 14 percent excellent. The percent of winter wheat ripe increased to 72 percent, 25 percent behind last year and 22 percent behind the five-year average. Winter wheat harvested jumped to 39 percent complete, 50 percent behind last year and 42 percent behind the five-year average. Some farmers reported that harvested wheat has had low yields and poor test weights. Wheat condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 35 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 29 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Barley ripe increased to 95 percent, 3 percent behind last year and the five-year average. Barley harvested increased to 90 percent, 3 and 4 percent behind last year and the five year average, respectively. The percent of oats headed increased to 90 percent, 3 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind the five year average. Oats turning yellow jumped to 37 percent, 30 percent behind last year and 33 percent behind the five year average. Oats ripe increased to 9 percent, 55 percent behind last year and 30 percent behind the five-year average. The condition of oats was rated 10 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 46 percent good and 8 percent excellent. Hay conditions declined from the previous week, most likely due to the hay not being harvested in time. The quality of hay made was rated 5 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 32 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Ninety-Eight percent of the first cutting of alfalfa was completed, even with last year and 1 percent behind the five-year average. Forty-two percent of the second cutting of alfalfa was completed, 29 percent behind last year and 25 percent behind the five-year average. Also, 7 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, 13 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind the five year average. Seventy-nine percent of the first cutting timothy clover was completed, 13 percent behind last year and 12 percent behind the five year average. Also, 8 percent of the second cutting of timothy clover was completed, 14 and 13 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively.

Livestock: The abundance of sun and occasional rain last week

has the pasture conditions favorable. Three percent of the pasture land was rated very poor, 17 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 35 percent good and 19 percent excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Weather conditions continue to be favorable for fruit tree growth. Peach conditions were rated at 20 percent fair, and 80 percent good. Peaches harvested was rated 10 percent complete, 4 percent behind last year and 6 percent behind the five-year average. Apple conditions were rated at 30 percent fair, and 70 percent good.

U.S. as of July 15, 2003: Highlights: Hot, dry weather strained irrigation reserves and stressed dryland crops west of the Great Plains, with a few showers across the northern Intermountain Region. In the Southwest and adjacent States, temperatures were recorded in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Seasonal temperatures and limited rainfall aided winter wheat harvest in the western Corn Belt. Showers and thunderstorms across in the northeastern portion of the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley maintained adequate to locally excessive soil moisture and caused flooding in some fields. Early during the week in the Southeast, warm weather and sunshine improved crop conditions. However, showers fell across most of the region later in the week. Scattered showers and seasonal temperatures promoted crop development in the Tennessee Valley. Crops responded well to intermittent sunshine and thunderstorms in the central and southern Atlantic Coast. Corn: Nineteen percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 4 percentage points behind last year's 23 percent and 9 points behind the 5-year average of 28 percent. Three percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, the same as last year at this time but slightly behind the average pace. Seasonal temperatures stimulated development in the central Mississippi Valley and southern Atlantic Coast States. Soybeans: Twenty-seven percent of the crop was blooming and 3 percent was setting pods, compared with 36 percent blooming and 6 percent setting pods on this date last year. On average, 39 percent of the acreage would be blooming and 7 percent setting pods by this date. Winter Wheat: Harvest advanced to 71 percent complete, compared with 79 percent last year and the 5-year average of 76 percent. Progress fell further behind normal in the Ohio Valley, as heavy precipitation significantly delayed harvest activity in most areas. The barley crop was 84 percent headed, compared with 74 percent last year and the 5-year average of 76 percent. The oat crop advanced to 93 percent headed, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Harvest progress, at 2 percent, was behind last year and the 5-year average of 6 and 4 percent, respectively. Heading approached completion in the western Corn Belt and Ohio. Harvest was more than one-fifth complete in Nebraska, but was just starting in Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 20, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - July 20, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	85	52	69	-4	0.36	4	11.96	-1.04	48	1160	-22	2091
Franklin_AG	83	51	67	-4	0.65	3	16.50	+1.31	71	1058	-73	2035
Meadville	82	53	68	-2	0.68	3	14.10	-0.40	56	1078	+49	2043
Mercer	82	42	64	-7	0.24	2	17.31	+2.75	49	901	-224	1853
Springboro	83	49	66	-6	0.94	2	16.89	+3.97	56	996	-198	1922
Warren	85	49	67	-4	1.99	3	15.87	+0.75	54	1030	-69	1976
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	79	41	62	-4	1.62	3	14.94	-0.41	58	802	+16	1703
Emporium	85	48	67	+0	0.59	3	12.63	-2.94	59	1085	+198	2065
Kane	79	39	58	-8	0.60	3	13.10	-2.31	50	536	-240	1349
Laporte	80	49	66	-5	0.58	4	15.91	+1.46	57	917	-213	1818
Lock_Haven	85	54	70	-2	0.45	3	13.42	-0.60	55	1265	+55	2266
Port_Alegany	83	46	64	-3	1.65	3	12.36	-2.48	51	861	-26	1763
Renovo	85	53	69	-3	0.26	4	12.75	-1.27	60	1196	-14	2192
Ridgway	83	44	64	-4	0.30	3	11.39	-4.18	52	865	-22	1807
Stevenson_Dam	84	51	67	+1	0.23	3	13.92	-1.65	65	1063	+176	2041
Towanda	82	51	67	-4	0.84	3	15.36	+3.39	68	1038	-103	1983
Wellsboro	82	51	66	-1	0.71	3	13.30	+1.21	52	879	+51	1781
Williamsport_AP	85	54	70	-3	0.68	3	14.76	+0.69	55	1310	-37	2311
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	82	50	65	-4	0.49	2	13.45	+0.04	47	903	-49	1847
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	54	70	-2	0.11	2	14.06	+0.94	51	1242	-36	2216
Susquehanna	86	52	69	+2	0.65	3	18.21	+3.87	48	1162	+249	2114
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	84	50	67	-4	0.33	2	16.28	+1.95	59	1162	-17	2171
New_Castle	86	52	69	-3	0.32	3	17.27	+4.01	52	1250	+62	2266
Slippery_Rock	84	51	68	-2	0.21	2	18.64	+4.60	57	1190	+122	2198
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blairstown	81	50	68	-4	0.30	2	13.80	+0.64	64	1189	-94	2170
DuBois	79	49	66	-4	1.26	3	14.71	+0.15	64	1017	-82	1976
Lewistown	86	55	71	-3	0.56	3	13.97	-0.13	51	1356	-54	2367
Middletown	88	60	74	-3	0.05	2	16.35	+2.62	59	1479	-123	2495
Prince_Georges	83	48	67	-2	0.50	2	14.49	-2.09	55	1072	+66	2025
Selinsgrove	86	56	71	-2	0.12	2	13.34	-0.77	55	1247	-65	2242
State_College_P	82	56	70	-2	0.87	2	15.60	+2.61	58	1276	+11	2270
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	88	57	73	-2	0.30	2	13.77	-0.30	55	1366	-92	2364
Lehigh	87	55	70	-4	0.96	3	17.55	+3.38	62	1192	-205	2169
Matamoras	86	53	67	-5	0.17	2	13.89	-1.04	54	997	-263	1938
Tobyhanna	89	54	71	+6	0.16	2	18.88	+3.30	58	1245	+422	2223
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	56	71	-2	0.75	6	15.46	+1.68	65	1454	+164	2496
Derry	85	53	68	-4	0.74	2	18.62	+4.56	56	1250	+52	2245
Meyersdale	82	46	65	-6	0.18	3	18.71	+3.16	63	867	-299	1802
Mount_Pleasant	84	51	67	-2	1.13	3	20.18	+4.33	62	1242	+187	2256
Pittsburgh_Intl	85	53	70	-3	0.14	3	15.16	+2.24	57	1426	+70	2463
Rector	87	47	68	-1	0.79	2	19.35	+3.50	53	1231	+176	2238
Waynesburg	85	53	69	-3	1.91	2	23.15	+9.14	62	1304	+57	2333
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	86	56	72	-4	0.25	2	19.53	+6.90	67	1379	-197	2393
Everett	84	50	70	-3	0.06	1	17.46	+4.83	61	1216	-37	2215
Hanover	86	55	71	-5	0.00	0	18.27	+5.64	51	1390	-186	2402
Shippensburg	88	57	72	-3	0.34	2	17.98	+5.15	53	1472	-95	2493
South_Mountain	80	51	68	-5	0.01	1	21.59	+8.43	57	1089	-187	2047
York_AP	85	53	71	-4	0.21	1	14.13	+0.13	56	1408	-164	2420
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	91	56	75	+2	0.07	1	17.55	+3.79	52	1479	+95	2493
Hamburg	88	55	72	-1	0.78	2	15.89	-0.69	54	1340	+88	2338
Hopewell	86	56	72	-5	0.33	2	16.05	+1.66	54	1295	-359	2277
Lancaster_AP	87	56	72	-3	0.03	1	13.39	-0.97	50	1386	-73	2393
Neshaminy_Falls	90	60	75	+2	0.60	1	14.99	-0.95	52	1447	-9	2450
New_Holland	88	60	72	-3	0.08	1	17.64	+3.28	55	1370	-89	2371
Philadelphia	92	65	77	+1	0.19	3	15.33	+1.44	48	1739	+46	2774
Philadelphia_NE	90	59	74	-3	0.58	2	15.36	+1.47	52	1549	-144	2566
Reading_AP	86	57	73	-2	0.50	2	13.62	-1.67	53	1434	+7	2436
Valley_Forge_Na	92	52	72	-5	0.15	1	16.72	+2.33	51	1308	-346	2299
Willow_Grove	88	60	73	-2	0.22	3	12.02	-3.92	46	1425	-31	2427

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evaporation 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.

"Busy week trying to make hay between the rains. Corn and beans are looking surprisingly good. We have noticed no-till stands are weak in some fields due to the wet weather.

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

The first part of the week was sunny for hay making. Rains have made the corn really start to grow. Second cutting alfalfa is getting ready to harvest.

- David Stratton, Potter County

Rain showers created poor dry hay making weather. Some silage and baleage made. Some area pastures starting to show signs that summer has arrived, grass growth is slowing with the warm conditions.

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

Harvesting of wheat is under way. Fields are becoming lodged from the weather. Producers were busy making hay this week. The oats is turning yellow. I actually saw a field that was almost ripe. There are such variances in the county. There are a lot of bare spots in the corn fields where the wet spots are. The corn height still varies from a few inches to well over a foot, even in the same field.

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

Good Week for farming. Rainfall was 1/2 inch in my gauge.

- Dick A. Decker, Centre County

Everybody is busy trying to get hay cut.

- M.K., Huntington County

Rained again on 4 days this week. Some areas of county have received more than 7 inches of rain this month. Many corn and soybean fields are showing uneven heights caused by prolonged wet conditions since early May. Hay and small grain harvests remain a challenge because of rain and wet soils. Most of the cash grain growers have been prevented from planting some of their planned acreage.

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

Hay quantity was great, almost all of first cut was made old or late because of the rain, but we managed to get it without all but 10 percent rained on. Should finish the wheat this week and get half way through 2nd cut.

- Hugh Brown, Berks County

First dry week in ages!

- Tom Sierzega, Washington County"



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 20, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn, height (inches)	47	53	55
Barley, ripe	95	98	98
Barley, harvested	90	93	94
Winter wheat, ripe	72	97	94
Winter wheat, harvested	39	89	81
Oats, headed	90	93	96
Oats, yellow	37	67	70
Oats, Ripe	9	64	39
Soybeans, emerged	94	98	99
Alfalfa, 1 st cutting	98	98	99
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	42	71	67
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	7	20	13
Timothy clover, 1 st cut	79	92	91
Timothy clover, 2 nd cut	8	22	21
Peaches, harvested	10	14	16

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 20, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	3	10	29	37	21
Winter wheat	4	35	21	29	11
Oats	0	10	36	46	8
Soybeans	1	7	35	43	14
Quality of hay made	5	19	40	32	4
Pasture conditions	3	17	26	35	19
Peaches	0	0	20	80	0
Apples	0	0	30	70	0

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