



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending July 25, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Poor week for Field Work: Three days were suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent short, 60 percent adequate and 36 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included hay making, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting wheat and oats, picking fruit, repairing fences and machinery, and baling straw.

Crops: Corn silking was 67 percent complete, which was ahead of last year at 24 percent and the 5-year average of 46 percent. Corn in dough stage was at 14 percent. The average height of corn was 75 inches statewide, while last year corn was 53 inches, and the 5 year average was 61 inches. Corn condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 39 percent excellent. Winter Wheat has been 84 percent harvested, compared to 63 percent last year and 86 percent as the five year average. Winter wheat condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 43 percent good and 7 percent excellent. Oats were 70 percent yellow compared to 53 percent in 2003, and 73 percent for the 5-year average. Oats were 29 percent ripe, compared with 20 percent last year and 46 percent for the five year average. Seven percent of Oats have been harvested and the five year average was 25 percent. Oat condition was 1 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 43 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Potatoes were 5 percent harvested. Alfalfa second cutting was 69 percent complete, compared to 56 percent last year, and 71 percent for the 5-year average. Alfalfa third cutting was 17 percent complete, 13 percent complete last year, and the 5-year average was 20 percent. Alfalfa crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 54 percent good and 17 percent excellent. The first cutting of timothy clover was 92 percent complete, compared with 85 percent last year and 92 percent for the 5-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover was 15 percent complete, compared to last year at 12 percent, and the 5-year average of 23 percent.

The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 50 percent good and 16 percent excellent. The quality of hay made was 9 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

Peach harvest was 38 percent complete, compared to 20 percent last year, and 23 percent for the 5-year average. Peach condition was rated 8 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 48 percent excellent. Apples were 7 percent harvested, 6 percent harvested last year, and 6 percent for the five year average. Apple condition was rated 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 53 percent good and 13 percent excellent.

Livestock: During the last week, the pasture condition in Pennsylvania was rated 1 percent poor, 31 percent fair, and 68 percent good. Animals were being rotated on to different pastures across the state.

U.S. As of July 18, 2004: Corn: Fifty percent of the crop had reached the silk stage, 15 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Doughing, at 9 percent complete, was 4 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Soybeans: Blooming was 59 percent complete, compared with 43 percent last year and 52 percent for the 5-year average. Sixteen percent of the acreage had set pods, 8 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Growers had harvested 76 percent of their acreage, 1 point behind last year and 3 points behind normal. Barley heading advanced to 89 percent complete, 1 point behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Ninety-three percent of the oat crop was headed, compared with 96 percent last year and 94 percent for the 5-year average. Growers had harvested 5 percent of their acreage, the same as last year but 4 points behind normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 25, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 25, 2004					GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest												
Erie	84	57	70	-3	0.24	2	15.04	1.49	61	1,481	167	2,465
Franklin	88	53	69	-3	2.04	5	21.83	5.85	68	1,434	178	2,438
Meadville	85	51	68	-2	0.50	5	18.41	3.18	65	1,355	212	2,329
Mercer	85	50	68	-3	1.00	6	16.01	0.79	55	1,179	-66	2,140
Springboro	84	49	67	-5	0.46	3	19.62	6.07	69	1,352	28	2,315
Warren	83	53	68	-4	1.88	5	25.41	9.64	73	1,330	111	2,318
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	46	63	-3	0.89	4	18.11	2.09	78	1,111	229	2,064
Emporium	85	49	68	2	1.94	4	19.16	2.85	64	1,422	433	2,424
Kane	79	41	60	-6	0.71	5	18.65	2.58	59	710	-162	1,604
Laporte	85	52	68	-4	2.00	5	20.52	5.45	71	1,219	-37	2,187
Lock Haven	87	54	70	-2	1.25	3	24.07	9.43	54	1,601	265	2,668
Port Allegany	84	45	65	-2	1.22	4	16.61	1.19	62	1,192	203	2,146
Renovo	86	51	70	-2	1.10	4	18.51	3.87	58	1,562	226	2,599
Ridgway	83	49	66	-3	0.36	2	21.73	5.42	53	1,182	193	2,141
Stevenson Dam	88	50	69	2	1.84	4	18.68	2.37	62	1,481	492	2,501
Towanda	88	54	71	-1	0.61	4	15.37	2.89	60	1,468	201	2,479
Wellsboro	80	48	66	-2	1.59	4	18.57	5.95	61	1,179	249	2,142
Williamsport	88	56	72	-2	0.95	3	17.09	2.40	68	1,696	211	2,773
Northeast												
Hawley	85	54	68	0	2.17	3	14.70	0.73	48	1,224	160	2,194
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	58	70	-2	1.19	3	14.64	0.89	53	1,551	141	2,597
Susquehanna	88	52	70	3	1.01	4	17.62	2.67	56	1,481	460	2,504
West Central												
Butler	84	54	69	-2	1.00	5	18.66	3.66	71	1,446	141	2,450
New Castle	87	54	71	-1	1.13	3	17.53	3.65	52	1,580	266	2,595
Slippery Rock	86	51	69	-1	1.47	6	18.84	4.13	70	1,517	335	2,542
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	52	68	-4	0.55	5	16.18	2.47	61	1,568	153	2,589
DuBois	80	50	66	-5	1.25	3	21.37	6.23	73	1,349	130	2,341
Lewistown	86	55	71	-4	0.59	4	17.07	2.31	54	1,701	148	2,768
Middletown	86	64	74	-3	1.86	3	18.12	3.83	49	1,972	215	3,076
Prince Gallitzi	84	50	66	-3	1.00	3	19.98	2.60	57	1,370	255	2,361
Selinsgrove	86	59	71	-2	2.06	3	19.03	4.30	58	1,646	196	2,701
State College	83	57	70	-3	0.81	4	15.95	2.40	52	1,612	215	2,648
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	60	72	-3	1.43	3	16.05	1.25	49	1,754	146	2,840
Lehighton	86	59	71	-4	1.49	4	20.27	5.36	62	1,549	8	2,607
Matamoras	86	56	69	-4	1.06	3	12.60	-3.00	48	1,336	-56	2,348
Tobyhanna	82	56	68	2	1.10	4	20.87	4.57	69	1,315	390	2,306
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	57	71	-2	0.01	1	14.98	0.53	56	1,755	334	2,809
Derry	84	54	69	-4	1.72	4	21.89	7.10	67	1,542	218	2,574
Myersdale	81	49	66	-5	0.33	1	17.96	1.58	52	1,273	-13	2,253
Mount Pleasant	84	52	68	-2	0.32	3	17.69	1.13	48	1,574	405	2,597
Pittsburgh Intl	84	57	71	-2	0.13	2	17.32	3.79	56	1,796	303	2,848
Rector	86	51	69	-1	2.70	4	22.82	6.26	68	1,585	416	2,620
Waynesburg	85	54	69	-2	0.02	1	17.73	3.03	57	1,616	243	2,645
South Central												
Biglerville	88	56	73	-3	1.22	4	22.08	8.98	58	1,763	35	2,837
Everett	83	53	67	-5	0.59	3	16.92	3.73	51	1,360	-25	2,346
Hanover	87	60	73	-3	0.25	3	19.63	6.53	50	1,860	132	2,938
Shippensburg	86	61	73	-3	1.40	3	20.04	6.71	51	1,899	183	2,974
South Mountain	83	58	70	-3	0.21	3	18.55	4.84	46	1,522	114	2,539
York	87	59	73	-3	1.56	3	17.93	3.38	47	1,832	111	2,917
Southeast												
Green Lane	92	62	74	1	1.27	3	19.49	5.00	52	1,955	427	3,064
Hamburg	88	61	73	2	3.11	3	18.61	1.24	58	1,757	373	2,842
Hopewell	87	62	73	-4	1.82	3	21.00	5.84	65	1,794	-18	2,881
Lancaster	86	61	73	-3	1.51	4	21.30	6.21	55	1,834	226	2,929
Neshaminy Falls	92	64	74	0	2.45	2	20.70	3.82	49	1,921	322	3,022
New Holland	86	62	73	-3	1.37	3	18.87	3.78	55	1,830	222	2,911
Philadelphia	88	66	76	-3	1.20	2	20.43	5.82	49	2,127	273	3,243
Philadelphia NE	89	66	75	-3	2.58	2	20.74	6.13	50	2,059	205	3,172
Reading	88	62	73	-2	2.47	4	19.50	3.49	51	1,863	288	2,962
Valley Forge Na	95	54	73	-4	2.05	2	18.89	3.73	46	1,830	18	2,919
Willow Grove	87	64	74	-1	3.00	2	16.64	-0.24	49	1,932	333	3,040

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) - We have gone from near drought conditions to saturated soils in the past two weeks, having received about 7" of rain. All field work has come to a standstill. Corn and beans look very good, but making hay is a real challenge. The small grains still left in the field will be about worthless when they finally get harvested.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Wheat harvest started, crops look great, wet conditions keep making 2nd hay cutting difficult. 12" additional rainfall during the week in my gauge.

FOREST/CLARION/VENANGO COUNTIES, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - It has rained everyday this week. Farmers are starting to harvest wheat. It appears to be little wet and yields are being reported around 60 bushels/ acre. COC members estimate corn crop to be normal compared to last year at this time. The quality of hay this year is very poor. Sweet corn appears to be of normal or above normal yields.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Fruit and vegetable crops are progressing nicely. Recent rains provided needed moisture for the short term but more rain is needed to sustain the current yield and quality potential.

MERCER/LAWRENCE COUNTIES, D. Earl Smith (FSA) - Rain showers slowed the wheat harvest this week. Late planted corn seems to be catching up. Soybeans looking great. Strange as it might seem, some producers are saying that they could use some rain.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Another slow week for field work. More rain Sunday and late in the week, over 8 inches for the month so far and more in the forecast. Some oats were harvested by mid week and there is still wheat to combine. Soil moisture is still excessive preventing beans to be sprayed and hay making. Corn and soybeans are looking good.

POTTER/MCKEAN/CAMERON COUNTIES, David Stratton (FSA) - -Another extremely wet week. The Rice crop is looking good.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Several days of ideal weather for crops and then heavy rains hit, with a range of 1 to 4 inches on Thursday and Friday. There are several unconfirmed reports of poor corn pollination. The soybeans are beginning to set pods and are looking good. The major activities were haymaking, harvesting wheat and oats, baling straw, and spraying herbicides and insecticides

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Very little crop work done. Wet rainy weather hard to do much field work. Second cutting alfalfa starting to go backwards.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Another poor week for harvesting with at least a light shower or sprinkle each day. A few areas received heavy downpours from slow moving thunderstorms while some of the county has only seen about an inch of rainfall in July. In these dry areas the grass is browning and the corn is showing stress. Oats harvest is a struggle with the grass quickly overtaking the ripe crop.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz - Cloudy, damp days continue providing excellent growing conditions for corn and soybeans. With most of plantings and harvests winding down, producers are taking a well earned breather and completing maintenance and in some cases getting ready for corn silage harvest. Green bean harvest continues with good yields and good reports on most vegetable crops.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 25, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	67	24	46
Corn, dough	14	1	13
Corn average height, inches	75	53	61
Wheat, harvested	84	63	86
Oats, turning yellow	70	53	73
Oats, ripe	29	20	46
Oats, harvested	7	3	25
Potatoes, harvested	5	0	4
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	69	56	71
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	17	13	20
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	92	85	92
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	15	12	23
Peaches, harvested	38	20	23
Apples, harvested	7	6	6

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 25, 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	15	40	39
Wheat	3	10	37	43	7
Oats	1	13	32	43	11
Soybeans	1	2	11	54	32
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	24	54	17
Timothy clover stand	1	5	28	50	16
Quality of hay made	9	16	34	27	14
Pasture	0	1	31	68	0
Peaches	0	0	8	44	48
Apples	0	8	26	53	13

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