



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending July 27, 2003

Fair Week for Field Work: There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 3 percent short, 73 percent adequate and 24 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included, making haylage, baylage and dry hay; harvesting wheat and making straw; spraying herbicides; spreading manure; spreading lime and fertilizer; and caring for livestock.

Crops: The beginning of the week brought some violent storms with some places receiving 5-6 inches of rain in short amounts of time, but the rest of the week brought lots of sunshine. Corn height averaged 56 inches, 9 inches behind last year and 7 inches behind the five-year average. Corn silked increased to 32 percent, 18 percent behind last year and 25 percent behind the five-year average. The condition of corn was rated 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Soybeans emerged increased to 99 percent complete, one percent behind last year and the five-year average. Soybean condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The percent of winter wheat ripe increased to 94 percent, 5 percent behind last year and the five-year average. Winter wheat harvested jumped to 73 percent complete 22 percent behind last year and 20 percent behind the five-year average. Wheat condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 47 percent good and 7 percent excellent. Barley harvested increased to 92 percent complete, 2 and 4 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. The percent of oats headed increased to 100 percent, 1 percent ahead of last year and the five-year average. Oats turning yellow increased to 60 percent, 18 percent behind last year and 23 percent behind the five-year average. Oats ripe increased to 24 percent, 45 percent behind last year and 34 percent behind the five year average. The condition of oats was rated 10 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Hay conditions improved from the previous week. The quality of hay made was rated 3 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Sixty-two percent of the second cutting of alfalfa was completed, 22 percent behind last year and 15 percent behind the five-year average. Also, 15 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, 13 percent behind last year and 9 percent behind the five-year average. Of the first cutting of timothy clover, 88 percent was completed, 9 percent behind last year and 7 percent behind the five-year average. Also, 14 percent of the second cutting of timothy clover was completed, 17 percent behind last year and 15 percent behind the five-year average.

Livestock: The sun and occasional rain last week has the pasture conditions favorable. However, farmers reported that cattle have done some damage by grazing in wet fields. Three percent of the pasture land was rated very poor, 9 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 49 percent good and 10 percent excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Weather conditions continue to be favorable for fruit tree growth. Peach conditions were rated at 8 percent fair, 54 percent good and 38 percent excellent. Peaches harvested were rated 24 percent complete, 3 percent behind last year and 4 percent behind the five-year average. Apple conditions were rated at 1 percent poor, 3 percent fair, 94 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Apples harvested were rated 9 percent complete, 3 percent ahead of last year and 2 percent ahead of the five-year average.

U.S. as of July 20, 2003: Highlights: Hurricane Claudette tracked across southern Texas and the Southwest region, producing beneficial rain and local flooding. Most acres west of the Mississippi Valley encountered above-normal temperatures and small amounts of precipitation, causing crop conditions to deteriorate. Thunderstorms in the eastern Corn Belt brought above-normal rainfall, while temperatures remained below normal. Corn: Forty-two percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 5 percentage points behind last year's 47 percent at this time and 11 points behind the 5-year average of 53 percent. Six percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, slightly behind last year and the average pace of 7 and 8 percent, respectively. Despite below-normal temperatures, most development occurred in the central and eastern Corn Belt. Pennsylvania remained 3 weeks behind the 5-year average due to unfavorable weather in the planting season. Soybeans: Forty-nine percent of the crop was blooming and 10 percent was setting pods, compared with 56 percent blooming and 15 percent setting pods on this date last year. On average, 60 percent of the acreage would be blooming and 18 percent setting pods by this date. Record-setting temperatures and lack of precipitation enhanced development in the western Corn Belt, despite decreasing crop conditions. Winter Wheat: Harvest advanced to 81 percent complete, compared with 84 percent last year and the 5-year average of 83 percent. In Ohio, harvest accelerated 71 percentage points from last week due to the excellent weather conditions and level of maturity. The barley crop was 93 percent headed, compared with 88 percent last year and the 5-year average of 90 percent. Heading was nearly complete or virtually complete in all States. The crop condition deteriorated in all States, due to abnormally high temperatures and dry conditions. The oat crop advanced to 97 percent headed, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest progress, at 6 percent, was behind last year and the 5-year average of 17 and 13 percent, respectively. In Pennsylvania, heading increased at a slow pace despite the improved crop condition.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 27, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - July 27, 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	79	58	70	-2	1.56	4	13.52	-0.24	52	1300	-36	2301
Franklin_AG	80	54	68	-4	3.63	5	20.13	+3.89	76	1183	-94	2230
Meadville	81	58	68	-2	3.50	4	17.60	+2.11	60	1205	+43	2240
Mercer	80	47	64	-7	4.61	4	21.92	+6.46	53	1001	-264	2023
Springsboro	81	54	67	-5	1.76	4	18.65	+4.89	60	1119	-226	2115
Warren	82	50	67	-4	6.56	5	22.43	+6.42	59	1146	-93	2162
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	77	47	65	-1	3.59	6	18.53	+2.27	64	907	+9	1878
Emporium	82	48	68	+1	5.24	6	17.87	+1.31	65	1209	+203	2259
Kane	76	43	62	-4	5.92	5	19.02	+2.70	55	624	-263	1507
Laporte	80	54	68	-4	1.53	4	17.44	+2.16	61	1045	-232	2016
Lock_Haven	88	55	71	-1	1.77	3	15.19	+0.33	58	1412	+55	2483
Port_Alegany	79	51	65	-2	5.55	5	17.91	+2.28	56	970	-36	1942
Renovo	86	54	69	-3	2.49	5	15.24	+0.38	65	1332	-25	2398
Ridgway	80	44	65	-3	4.70	5	16.09	-0.47	57	970	-36	1982
Stevenson_Dam	84	50	67	+0	3.21	5	17.13	+0.57	70	1187	+181	2235
Towanda	83	56	69	-2	2.96	6	18.32	+5.65	74	1175	-113	2190
Well_sboro	81	52	68	+2	3.15	5	16.45	+3.66	57	1003	+56	1975
Williamsport_AP	86	58	72	-2	1.19	3	15.95	+1.04	58	1465	-43	2536
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	83	53	69	+0	2.11	5	15.56	+1.38	52	1036	-47	2050
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	57	72	+1	2.32	3	16.38	+2.43	54	1398	-34	2442
Susquehanna	86	58	72	+5	1.40	4	19.61	+4.43	52	1319	+280	2341
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	82	53	68	-4	2.70	5	18.98	+3.74	64	1292	-34	2371
New_Castle	85	56	70	-2	3.14	5	20.41	+6.31	57	1389	+54	2475
Slippery_Rock	83	55	69	+0	2.70	4	21.34	+6.40	61	1324	+123	2402
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Bair_C	86	54	71	-2	0.41	4	14.21	+0.29	68	1336	-101	2387
Du_Bois	79	51	67	-4	3.33	6	18.04	+2.67	70	1138	-101	2167
Lewistown	89	55	72	-2	2.01	4	15.98	+1.01	55	1515	-63	2596
Middletown	90	63	76	+1	3.59	4	19.94	+5.44	63	1665	-119	2751
Prince_Galitz	83	51	68	-2	1.69	5	16.18	-1.49	60	1197	+64	2220
Selinsgrove	86	57	71	-2	2.92	4	16.26	+1.32	59	1397	-76	2462
State_College_P	86	58	70	-2	1.45	4	17.05	+3.29	62	1420	+1	2484
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	91	59	76	+2	4.09	3	17.86	+2.81	58	1547	-85	2615
Lehighton	85	57	71	-4	2.92	3	20.47	+5.33	65	1342	-223	2389
Matamoras	84	54	70	-3	1.79	5	15.68	-0.17	59	1137	-277	2148
Tobyhanna	88	59	74	+8	2.89	4	21.77	+5.22	62	1413	+471	2461
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	57	71	-1	0.67	4	16.13	+1.46	69	1605	+161	2717
Derry	85	58	70	-2	1.33	4	19.95	+4.91	60	1392	+47	2457
Meyersdale	84	46	66	-5	0.24	3	18.95	+2.29	66	981	-326	1986
Mount_Pleasant	83	53	68	-2	1.18	5	21.36	+4.53	67	1371	+183	2455
Pittsburgh_Intl	83	58	71	-2	2.74	5	17.90	+4.14	62	1576	+60	2683
Rector	86	53	70	+1	1.27	5	20.62	+3.79	58	1372	+184	2449
Waynesburg	84	54	69	-2	1.11	4	24.26	+9.31	66	1441	+47	2540
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	90	60	74	-2	0.90	3	20.43	+7.12	70	1552	-202	2636
Everett	89	51	70	-2	0.28	5	17.74	+4.34	66	1359	-48	2428
Hanover	89	59	75	-2	1.41	3	19.68	+6.37	54	1564	-190	2646
Shippensburg	91	60	76	+2	0.38	3	18.36	+4.83	56	1658	-84	2749
South_Mountain	83	54	70	-3	1.14	3	22.73	+8.81	60	1230	-200	2258
York_AP	89	57	75	+0	1.21	5	15.34	+0.57	61	1582	-165	2664
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	93	60	77	+3	3.46	3	21.01	+6.27	55	1666	+114	2750
Hamburg	88	59	74	+3	5.33	3	21.22	+3.59	57	1509	+103	2577
Hopewell	88	53	74	-4	3.45	3	19.50	+4.08	57	1462	-377	2514
Lancaster_AP	88	61	75	+1	2.01	4	15.40	+0.06	54	1563	-71	2640
Neshami_ny_Falls	93	62	78	+5	1.04	3	16.03	-1.15	55	1647	+23	2720
New_Holland	89	62	75	+0	1.25	4	18.89	+3.55	59	1545	-89	2616
Philadelphia	92	67	80	+4	0.94	2	16.27	+1.40	50	1952	+70	3057
Philadelphia_NE	90	64	78	+1	0.69	3	16.05	+1.18	55	1746	-136	2833
Reading_AP	90	60	76	+2	3.12	3	16.74	+0.47	56	1618	+18	2690
Valley_Forge_Na	92	52	75	-2	1.32	4	18.04	+2.62	55	1488	-351	2549
Willow_Grove	89	64	77	+3	2.27	3	14.29	-2.89	49	1612	-12	2684

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.*

"Massive rain storms this week stopped field work and caused extra work in cleaning up after the storms. Some areas of Crawford County received over 8 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. The upcoming week looks to be good weather through Friday, so hopefully first cutting will be completed.

-- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

Plenty of rain here in Erie County and NW PA. Only small amounts of field work done until Friday when things did dry out. Plenty of work to be done with wheat to harvest, second cutting of hay to make, and potatoes to spray. Everything is certainly green compared to past summers!

-- Lew Steckler, Erie County

Rain drops keep falling on my head! Another wet week but crops needed the moisture. Cooler temperatures have slowed up crop growth and drying of grain crops. Severe storms have hit the area knocking out electricity. A total of 6+ inches of water have fallen in the county. High winds have fallen grain crops making combining more difficult. A week of warmer temperatures would be welcome to enhance crop growth.

-- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

Scattered heavy showers. Wheat harvesting continues. Corn height in the county varies from a few inches to a few feet.

-- Dolly Little, Cambria County

Lots of hail damage in a widespread area in Northern Dauphin County. There were 2.5 to 4 inches of rain reported in many areas. Remaining small grain stands have been flattened by rains. Late planted corn needs a lot of growing to mature by fall. Hoping for a late fall frost in many areas.

-- Paul H. Craig, Dauphin County

We worked last week on hay and are busy having calves.

-- Marina K., Huntington County

Recent rains were badly needed by field crops. Much of the corn has good color and is growing well, unfortunately much of the acreage is at least a month behind normal years. Leafhopper numbers in the alfalfa fields are reported to be very high. The quality and yield of wheat being harvested is less than expected.

-- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

Had between 1 and 2 inches of rain this week. Harvest of small grain and hay remains difficult because of wet conditions.

-- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

Good week for harvesting wheat. Yields are somewhat less than expected. Test weight slightly less than normal. Corn is progressing quite well. Producers with short season corn will begin to harvest corn for silage very soon. Lack of extreme heat has helped to ensure a good pollination for the crop. Ears are silking. Fruit crops look very good at this time.

-- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

Welcome rains turned into unwanted rain and the week progressed. Some areas received 5-6 inches or more, most averaged around 3 inches. Earliest corn is tasseling, soybeans are being sprayed, wheat harvest resumed on Saturday, and there is still timothy to be made. A few producers have tomatoes and sweet corn but the majority is a week away.

-- Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery County"



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 27, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Corn, Silk	32	50	57
Corn, height (inches)	56	65	63
Barley, harvested	92	94	96
Winter wheat, ripe	94	99	99
Winter wheat, harvested	73	95	93
Oats, headed	100	99	99
Oats, yellow	60	78	83
Oats, Ripe	24	69	58
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	62	84	77
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	15	28	24
Timothy clover, 1 st cut	88	97	95
Timothy clover, 2 nd cut	14	31	29
Peaches, harvested	24	27	28
Apples, harvested	9	6	7

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 27, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	3	6	24	38	29
Winter wheat	4	14	28	47	7
Oats	0	10	47	38	5
Soybeans	2	5	30	53	10
Quality of hay made	3	15	36	32	14
Pasture conditions	3	9	29	49	10
Peaches	0	0	8	54	38
Apples	0	1	3	94	2

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