



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending June 29, 2008

Issued weekly, April-November

Released June 30, 2008, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair week for Field Work: The weather conditions throughout the state seemed to be hot and rainy. The humid weather combined with sporadic strong thunderstorms made field work difficult. Wind damage associated with the storms was reported in some areas. The rain seemed to affect dry hay making and soybean planting progress, as not much progress happened over last week. Overall, four days were suitable for fieldwork. Principal farm activities included harvesting barley and sweet cherries, spraying, planting soybeans, as well as cutting and baling hay. Farmers are still making preparations for the upcoming wheat harvest.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 29, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4	16	48	32

Crops: The corn condition remains primarily in good shape, but the overall condition declined slightly. Sixty-four percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition, down from the previous week's 72%. Only 5 percent of the corn is in poor or very poor condition. The corn continued to have good growth last week, as the average height grew to 25 inches. Soybean conditions are also still mainly in good shape. The soybean condition declined from 80 percent good and excellent to 70 percent good and excellent. Five percent of the soybeans were rated as poor or very poor. The state's soybeans are 93 percent planted, which is 6 percentage points lower than last year and 1 point behind the five year average. Eighty-three percent of the soybeans have now emerged, which is 5 points behind last year and 3 points behind average. Wheat conditions improved slightly, as 86 percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. Only 3 percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Eighty-nine percent of the wheat is yellowing, which is down 4 points compared to last year, and right with the average. Twenty-five percent of the wheat is now ripe, which is less than usual compared to last year's 39 percent and the average of 29 percent. Eighty-eight percent of the barley crop is ripe, which is 4 points above last year and 7 points above average. Barley harvesting remains strong, as only 58 percent has been harvested, compared to the previous year's 51 percent and the average of 52 percent. Oat conditions remained in good condition, with 79 percent of the oats in good or excellent condition. Eighty percent of the oat crop has begun the heading stage. Alfalfa stand condition is at 85 percent good or excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa only increased by one percentage point and is at 92 percent complete. This is 7 points behind last year, and 2 points above the average. The second cutting of alfalfa is 16 percent completed. The timothy/clover stand condition is at 76 percent good or excellent. The first cutting of timothy/clover did not progress much and is 70 percent complete, which is 19 points behind last year and 2 points behind the average. The quality of hay declined sharply because of the wet weather and is at 49 percent good or excellent, with 20 percent rated as poor. Peaches are still in good condition at 93 percent good or excellent, while apples condition improved to 80 percent good or excellent.

Livestock: The pasture conditions remained about the same. Sixty-five percent of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent

condition, which is down 2 points from last week. Six percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor. The overall state's pasture conditions were estimated as follows: 3% very poor, 3% poor, 29% fair, 50% good, and 15% excellent.

U.S. as of June 22, 2008: Highlights: The Midwest gained a much-needed reprieve from heavy rain, although residual flooding persisted through week's end in the mid-Mississippi Valley. Substantial agricultural problems including flooded lowlands, delayed crop development, and recovery from erosion and washouts--lingered in portions of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana. Meanwhile on the Plains, a sharp gradient persisted between adequate to locally excessive soil moisture in most areas and a significant drought on the central and southern High Plains. Heavy rain delayed winter wheat harvesting and other fieldwork on the southeastern Plains. Farther east, the condition of Southeastern pastures and rain-fed summer crops generally deteriorated under a very warm, mostly dry weather regime. Significant Southeastern rainfall was confined to Florida and areas along and near the Gulf and southern Atlantic Coasts. Hot and dry weather west of the Rockies promoted fieldwork and rapid crop growth. Warmth was especially beneficial in the Northwest, where a persistently cool spring had resulted in crop developmental delays. However, hot, dry, windy conditions also left conditions ripe for wildfire activity, which flared across northern and central California during a late-week lightning storm.

Corn: Two percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 2 points behind last year and the 5-year average for this date. Excessive moisture in the southern Corn Belt continued to delay development. Nationwide, 59 percent of the crop was rated good to excellent, 2 points higher than last week. Condition ratings improved slightly in the central Corn Belt.

Soybeans: Growers had planted 91 percent of their acreage, compared with 97 percent last year and 96 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence, at 82 percent complete, was 12 points behind last year and 11 points behind normal. Two percent of the acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage, 3 points behind last year and 2 points behind normal.

Winter Wheat: Ninety-five percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 4 points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Heading was complete in many States. In Most states, the crop was between 87 percent complete and fully complete. Producers had reaped 22 percent of the winter wheat crop by the end of the week, 1 point ahead of last year's pace, but 10 points behind the 5-year average.

Oats: Oat acreage was 47 percent headed, compared with 67 percent last year and 62 percent for the 5-year average. Acreage in nearly all States was heading behind schedule. Development was nearly 2 weeks behind in Iowa due to excessive moisture and heading was lagging between 6 and 30 points elsewhere, except in Pennsylvania and Texas. Nationwide, 66 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 4 points better than the previous week.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 29, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 29, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	85	59	72	4	0.65	4	8.55	-2.12	41	970	205	1,758
Franklin	88	53	70	3	1.48	5	11.89	-0.01	48	821	84	1,608
Meadville	83	54	69	3	1.37	6	11.27	-0.23	42	836	175	1,622
Mercer	85	49	69	2	1.46	5	11.53	-0.13	49	793	56	1,587
Springboro	85	50	68	-2	0.97	5	11.59	1.32	43	760	-20	1,519
Warren	83	50	69	2	1.14	5	11.01	-1.28	46	755	45	1,510
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	42	65	2	0.60	5	10.57	-1.83	48	594	104	1,273
Emporium	84	50	69	5	1.13	6	8.86	-3.54	48	792	234	1,571
Kane	81	47	66	4	0.91	5	10.61	-1.88	46	556	74	1,235
Laporte	78	53	67	-2	0.87	6	11.60	-0.16	52	709	-25	1,438
Lock Haven	86	51	71	3	0.26	5	9.52	-1.80	43	936	138	1,751
Port Allegany	82	47	67	3	0.80	6	9.33	-2.70	46	626	54	1,337
Renovo	86	52	71	3	0.90	3	10.27	-1.05	41	910	112	1,716
Ridgway	81	47	66	3	0.90	5	9.69	-2.71	46	627	69	1,352
Stevenson Dam	84	50	69	5	0.79	5	9.53	-2.87	45	787	229	1,561
Towanda	84	52	71	4	0.25	2	10.12	0.34	39	825	77	1,598
Wellsboro	83	50	69	6	0.84	6	8.60	-1.10	50	673	160	1,383
Williamsport	87	52	73	3	0.28	4	7.93	-3.38	41	1,056	147	1,895
Northeast												
Hawley	85	48	68	3	0.94	3	10.30	-0.79	38	717	116	1,459
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	53	71	2	0.53	4	8.64	-1.87	42	958	111	1,750
Susquehanna	83	51	69	4	0.89	5	10.42	-1.25	47	757	185	1,523
West Central												
Butler	85	52	69	1	1.48	7	9.55	-1.98	57	782	3	1,588
New Castle	90	53	72	4	1.58	6	8.47	-2.04	49	937	157	1,763
Slippery Rock	86	52	70	4	1.37	5	10.57	-0.68	41	794	95	1,621
Central												
Altoona/Blair	86	51	71	2	0.41	6	10.46	-0.20	47	947	83	1,749
DuBois	80	50	67	0	2.00	5	10.47	-1.49	49	798	76	1,553
Lewistown	87	54	72	1	1.19	5	13.82	2.54	38	974	19	1,784
Middletown	88	58	76	3	0.69	4	11.79	0.54	36	1,191	101	2,045
Prince Gallitzi	83	48	68	3	1.16	6	10.14	-3.09	43	730	78	1,493
Selinsgrove	90	52	72	3	0.64	5	9.49	-1.97	36	959	85	1,768
State College	84	55	71	2	0.39	5	12.53	2.06	39	982	136	1,795
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	87	53	73	2	0.74	3	10.09	-1.27	34	1,029	47	1,849
Lehighton	86	54	71	-1	0.21	2	9.00	-2.39	41	921	-15	1,726
Matamoras	87	51	69	-2	0.34	2	9.09	-2.94	40	776	-56	1,540
Mt_Pocono	79	48	67	4	0.15	4	10.02	-2.64	41	688	179	1,413
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	51	70	1	0.37	2	10.31	-0.77	42	1,071	206	1,915
Derry	83	52	69	2	1.25	6	15.63	4.56	50	906	113	1,722
Myersdale	81	46	66	-3	1.07	5	15.01	2.89	48	614	-160	1,353
Mount Pleasant	83	50	69	3	1.81	6	14.70	1.87	45	881	194	1,710
Pittsburgh Intl	84	52	71	1	2.98	5	10.90	0.56	42	1,043	125	1,885
Connellsville	85	51	71	1	0.81	5	16.99	4.90	49	1,013	65	1,856
Waynesburg	86	50	70	1	1.99	6	14.13	3.00	42	874	41	1,704
South Central												
Biglerville	88	57	74	2	1.07	3	14.21	3.69	37	1,082	2	1,915
Everett	85	51	69	0	0.63	5	16.18	6.03	44	829	-7	1,621
Hanover	88	55	73	0	0.25	3	13.09	2.57	41	1,073	-7	1,901
Harrisburg_AP	89	56	75	2	0.82	2	8.69	-2.56	26	1,187	90	2,044
South Mountain	83	50	69	-1	0.89	4	16.45	5.79	46	824	-33	1,604
York	88	54	74	2	0.16	3	11.84	0.37	41	1,149	64	1,998
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	57	74	4	0.59	3	12.11	1.17	35	1,077	153	1,917
Hamburg	88	55	75	6	0.34	3	8.35	-4.97	37	1,096	276	1,936
West_Chester	91	54	74	2	0.46	1	9.66	-2.62	31	1,038	-26	1,865
Lancaster	87	56	74	2	0.63	4	8.90	-2.36	37	1,064	79	1,897
Neshaminy Falls	90	55	75	3	0.16	3	11.93	-0.45	33	1,091	110	1,933
New Holland	89	56	75	3	0.61	4	11.74	0.48	34	1,140	155	1,980
Philadelphia	92	62	78	5	0.24	1	9.52	-1.47	31	1,343	180	2,218
Philadelphia NE	94	62	79	6	0.28	2	9.09	-1.90	34	1,412	249	2,290
Reading	90	57	76	5	0.30	4	8.24	-4.13	40	1,164	209	2,006
Valley Forge Na	91	53	73	-1	1.02	2	11.68	0.27	36	1,031	-108	1,879
Willow Grove	89	59	76	5	0.16	3	10.81	-1.57	36	1,173	192	2,027

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.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

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.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had another week of very dry weather. Temperatures were mostly around 80 degrees. Most of the week was hot and humid. Morning temperatures during the beginning of the week were in the 50's to 70-80 degrees by mid week. At the end of the week, it was really hot and humid and morning temperatures stayed in the 70's and 80's. Monday evening thunderstorms produced 1/2 inch of rain in some parts of the county and other areas received nothing or up to two tenths of an inch. Some parts of the county, mostly in the Gettysburg and Cashtown areas, reported that small hail fell for 10 minutes. The weekend didn't bring any significant amount of rainfall. Thunderstorms rolled through the county on both Saturday and Sunday, but only a tenth of an inch of rain fell in some areas. This was just enough to settle the dust but a majority of the county received nothing. Rainfall is desperately needed for the future of 2008 crops. The soil moisture level is very low with cracks appearing in the soil. Corn and soybeans continue to be planted. Corn will normally be finished by the end of June, unless the dairy producers need additional corn for silage. Soybeans are being planted after barley. Depending on soil moisture level, some soybeans will be planted after wheat. Barley harvest is going well. Some wheat was harvested last week. Next week we will see a lot more wheat harvested. Hay continues to be baled as dry hay. The producers are reporting a heavy crop of hay compared to last year. The barns are quickly filling with hay. It was so wet this spring, a delay in planting corn occurred. Producers are really concerned about the dry conditions and lack of moisture occurring already. If we do get some rainfall it is very sporadic. Tart and Sweet Cherries are being harvested, but we have not heard any reports of their yield. Apples and peaches are looking good. Sweet corn is finally starting to get some height to it after sitting dormant for so long. Producers are working very long days trying to plant crops, make hay, and harvest small grains. Various jobs are being done all at the same time due to the spring weather conditions.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Scattered showers in the area this week left some wind damage and a few scattered areas of hail. Most areas saw little significant rain. A good general soaking would help insure a good yield for the corn and soybeans. Last week was a good week for making hay. Quality was as good as any this year. We started to harvest tart cherries, but it is too early to tell what the yield will be.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Sporadic showers have hit the county continuously, leaving the fields very wet. Little progress happened on making dry hay. Crops are looking good. Oat crops are heading. The wheat is yellowing and close to ripe.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There was one inch of rainfall last week. Crops are looking good.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Much needed rain was received last week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Making dry hay was almost impossible with the weather patterns we have experienced. Storms were popping up almost every afternoon with the strongest thunderstorms producing large amounts of rain over the weekend. Pasture conditions have had rapid re-growth from the rains, which has been good for the rotational grazers. Corn and soybeans are also doing well, however some hot and dry days are needed to give them an extra push.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The first crop hay has past its prime for quality. The storms have flattened many acres of hay. Those who harvested haylage should have a nice second crop, which is ready to harvest. Many producers are concerned about weevils and other pests. Oats, wheat, soybean, and corn crops appear to be ok.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Considering the late start, fruit and vegetable crops are progressing nicely. We currently have good growing conditions.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - Corn and soybeans for the most part are looking good. Soil moisture depends on what part of the county you live in. Brief showers popped up here and there, sometimes heavy. No-till corn had its challenges depending on when it was planted. I think that moisture stress is less than it could be because of no-till.

LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA) - Most areas were hit with storms this week, but precipitation amounts have been limited. All crops are progressing fairly well at this point. Second cutting hay seems to be slow growing. Pastures are starting to slow down and brown in some areas because of inadequate rainfall. The oat crop is very short in places.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger - We had rain almost every day last week. Some days had only a drizzle that continued off and on all day. It was a difficult week to make hay.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Last week was another wet week. Some dry hay was made. Corn has some population problems. Haymaking is at a virtual standstill.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The southern section of Snyder and the eastern end of Juniata Counties have not seen any measurable rainfall in the past three weeks; therefore, the crop conditions have deteriorated somewhat. The oats and wheat crops are ripening prematurely, and the corn is rolling nearly every day. Barley harvest is all but complete and the second cutting of alfalfa is beginning. The main activities for the week were planting corn and soybeans, haymaking, spraying herbicides, and baling barley straw.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - We are still waiting for a good dry period. The warm, wet conditions have been excellent for corn and soybean growth, but harvesting quality forage has been difficult. Because of the early season cold and wet conditions, the stands of some early-planted crops are a little spotty.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Scattered thunderstorms have given small amounts of rain, usually less than one quarter of an inch in spots. A good soaking, wide area rain is needed. Wheat is still pretty green underneath. We have received reports of armyworm damage on corn and timothy.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 29, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn average height, inches	25	36	31
Barley, ripe	88	84	81
Barley, harvested	58	51	52
Wheat, turning yellow	89	93	89
Wheat, ripe	25	39	29
Oats, heading or headed	80	84	75
Soybeans, planted	93	99	94
Soybeans, emerged	83	88	86
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	92	99	90
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	16	44	27
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	70	89	72

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 29, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	4	31	54	10
Wheat	3	0	11	61	25
Oats	1	0	20	62	17
Soybeans	0	5	25	63	7
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	1	13	66	19
Timothy clover stand	0	3	21	58	18
Quality of hay made	15	5	31	37	12
Pasture	3	3	29	50	15
Peaches	0	0	7	66	27
Apples	0	0	20	60	20

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

United States
Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

FIRST CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
