



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 6, 2008

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Fair week for Field Work: The weather conditions throughout the state were again very rainy. The humid weather and sporadic showers continued to make field work difficult. Overall, 4 days were suitable for fieldwork. Principal farm activities included picking fruit, cutting and baling hay, spraying corn and potatoes, as well as harvesting barley and wheat.

condition, as 95 percent are rated as good or excellent, while apple condition remained at 80 percent good or excellent.

Livestock: The pasture condition continued to decline last week. Sixty percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is 5 points lower than last week. Seven percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 2% very poor, 5% poor, 33% fair, 47% good, and 13% excellent.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 6, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
4	23	61	12

U.S. as of June 29, 2008: Rain returned to the Midwest, although excessive rainfall totals were confined to scattered locations in the Ohio and mid-Mississippi Valleys. In Midwestern areas that have escaped flooding, however, warm weather promoted rapid corn and soybean growth. Meanwhile, scattered showers and thunderstorms provided local relief to drought-stressed pastures and rain-fed summer crops in the Southeast. Farther west, drought continued to adversely affect rain-red summer crops across the southern half of the High Plains, despite occasional showers. In contrast, heavy showers continued to disrupt winter wheat harvesting and other fieldwork on the east-central and southeastern Plains. Elsewhere, hot, mostly dry weather prevailed from the Rockies westward, promoting fieldwork and crop development. Meanwhile in the Southwest, the arrival of higher humidity and isolated showers signaled the approach of seasonal (monsoon) showers. Following a brief break from the heat, the West saw a return to above-normal temperatures at week's end. Late-week heat was especially impressive in the Northwest.

Crops: The corn condition last week remained about the same as the week before. Sixty-five percent of the crop is in good or excellent condition, which is up from the previous week's 64%. A higher percent of corn last week was rated poor, as 7 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 from 25 to 38 inches. Soybean condition continued to drop last week from 70 percent good and excellent to 63. Five percent of the soybeans were rated as poor or very poor. The state's soybean planting is nearing completion at 96 percent planted, which is 4 percentage points behind than last year and 1 point behind the five year average. Eighty-five percent of the soybeans have now emerged, which is 9 points behind last year and 7 points behind the average. Wheat condition continued to improve, as 89 percent of the state's wheat is in good or excellent condition. Only 1 percent of the wheat was estimated as poor or very poor. Ninety-nine percent of the wheat is yellowing, which is the same as last year, and 4 points above the average. A big jump in wheat ripening was made this week, as 70 percent of the wheat is estimated as ripe, which is less than last year's 80 percent, but 8 points above average. The wheat harvest is now in full swing, with 22% of the state's wheat estimated as harvested, compared to last year's 33% and the average of 24%. Ninety-seven percent of the barley crop is ripe, which is 1 point above both last year and the average. Eighty-four percent of the barley is harvested, compared to the previous year's 86 percent and the average of 82 percent. Oat condition improved, with 86 percent of the oats in good or excellent condition. Eighty-seven percent of the oat crop has begun the heading stage, which is 6 points less than last year, and 1 point behind the average. Thirteen percent of the oats are turning yellow, which is down 15 points compared to last year, and 7 points below average. Alfalfa stand condition is at 86 percent good or excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa progressed 3 points and is at 95 percent complete. This is 5 points behind last year, and the same as the average. The weather still appears to delay hay making, as the second cutting of alfalfa is only 40 percent complete. The timothy/clover stand condition improved and is at 78 percent good or excellent. The first cutting of timothy/clover is still behind last year's pace and is reported to be 83 percent complete. This is 12 points behind last year and the same as the average. The quality of hay improved last week and is at 63 percent good or excellent, with 9 percent rated as poor. Peaches are in good

Corn: Three percent of the corn acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, gaining only 1 percentage point during the week. This is 8 points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Major developmental delays continued in Missouri, where already saturated fields received additional rainfall during the week. Condition of the Nation's corn crop was rated 61 percent good to excellent, an improvement of 2 percentage points from the previous week. Condition ratings improved across much of the Corn Belt as fields continued to dry out.

Soybeans: Ninety-five percent of the crop had been planted, 4 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Planting progress was within 11 points of normal in all States except Missouri. Soybean emergence, at 90 percent, was 7 and 6 points behind last year and the 5-year average, respectively. Emergence delays followed planting delays, which resulted from excessive moisture throughout the Nation's mid-section. Eight percent of the soybean crop emerged during the week. Overall, 58 percent of the crop was rated good to excellent, a 1 point increase from last week.

Winter Wheat: Producers had harvested 36 percent of the crop, the same as last year but 12 points behind the 5-year average. Due to excessively wet fields, harvest progress trailed the 5-year average in Illinois, Kansas, and Missouri by 36, 33, and 37 points, respectively.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 6, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 6, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	54	68	-3	0.86	4	9.41	-2.08	45	1,097	191	1,955
Franklin	82	51	67	-3	1.56	4	13.45	0.43	52	941	70	1,798
Meadville	79	54	66	-3	1.44	4	12.71	0.16	46	946	161	1,802
Mercer	81	53	66	-3	1.30	4	12.83	0.15	53	910	42	1,774
Springboro	80	51	63	-8	2.42	4	14.01	2.82	47	855	-66	1,684
Warren	81	51	65	-4	1.19	4	12.20	-1.10	50	861	20	1,686
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	42	62	-3	1.30	5	11.87	-1.60	53	677	88	1,426
Emporium	82	51	67	2	0.41	4	9.27	-4.24	52	914	246	1,763
Kane	79	44	63	-2	0.96	4	11.57	-1.96	50	649	68	1,398
Laporte	76	54	65	-5	1.71	4	13.31	0.59	56	817	-51	1,616
Lock Haven	84	53	69	-1	0.47	3	9.99	-2.30	46	1,072	134	1,957
Port Allegany	80	47	63	-3	0.49	4	9.82	-3.26	50	720	41	1,501
Renovo	83	54	69	-1	0.89	4	11.16	-1.13	45	1,046	108	1,922
Ridgway	80	45	64	-3	1.22	4	10.91	-2.60	50	727	59	1,522
Stevenson Dam	84	51	68	3	0.52	4	10.05	-3.46	49	911	243	1,755
Towanda	84	52	68	-2	0.54	3	10.66	0.11	42	956	75	1,799
Wellsboro	76	46	63	-3	0.62	3	9.61	-0.96	52	742	124	1,522
Williamsport	83	55	70	-2	2.01	3	9.94	-2.35	44	1,200	142	2,109
Northeast												
Hawley	82	54	68	1	0.45	2	10.75	-1.13	40	841	122	1,653
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	55	69	-3	1.41	3	10.05	-1.37	45	1,093	100	1,955
Susquehanna	81	54	68	2	0.57	3	10.99	-1.59	50	884	198	1,720
West Central												
Butler	82	49	67	-4	0.83	4	10.38	-2.13	61	900	-15	1,776
New Castle	85	52	68	-3	1.16	4	9.63	-1.84	53	1,062	144	1,958
Slippery Rock	84	50	65	-3	1.07	5	11.64	-0.59	46	904	80	1,801
Central												
Altoona/Blair	82	53	69	-2	1.06	4	11.52	-0.02	51	1,080	73	1,952
DuBois	79	48	66	-3	0.57	5	11.04	-1.85	54	910	60	1,735
Lewistown	85	55	70	-2	0.25	5	14.07	1.81	43	1,118	9	1,998
Middletown	89	63	74	-2	0.65	3	12.44	0.35	39	1,361	97	2,285
Prince Gallitzi	79	47	66	-2	1.67	5	11.81	-2.54	48	843	71	1,676
Selinsgrove	86	56	70	-2	1.15	3	10.64	-1.77	39	1,102	79	1,981
State College	81	56	69	-2	0.61	3	13.14	1.78	42	1,119	130	2,002
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	91	57	72	-2	0.73	2	10.82	-1.45	36	1,187	43	2,077
Lehighton	87	57	71	-2	0.57	3	9.57	-2.73	44	1,067	-25	1,942
Matamoras	86	54	69	-2	0.82	3	9.91	-3.08	43	911	-66	1,745
Mt_Pocono	80	53	66	2	0.70	5	10.72	-2.92	46	802	188	1,597
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	55	69	-3	3.07	4	13.38	1.39	46	1,203	194	2,117
Derry	82	54	68	-3	2.38	5	18.01	5.96	55	1,031	101	1,917
Myersdale	79	46	66	-4	1.41	6	16.42	3.19	54	725	-182	1,534
Mount Pleasant	79	52	68	1	1.81	4	16.51	2.63	49	1,011	199	1,910
Pittsburgh Intl	81	55	69	-3	1.26	3	12.16	0.91	45	1,176	109	2,088
Connellsville	83	53	69	-3	2.03	5	19.02	5.88	54	1,150	52	2,063
Waynesburg	81	52	68	-3	2.93	5	17.06	4.99	47	1,003	29	1,903
South Central												
Biglerville	89	57	72	-3	0.75	4	14.96	3.74	41	1,238	-12	2,141
Everett	83	49	67	-5	1.29	5	17.47	6.50	49	949	-28	1,811
Hanover	88	55	72	-3	0.82	5	13.91	2.69	46	1,229	-21	2,127
Harrisburg_AP	89	61	73	-2	0.88	3	9.57	-2.52	29	1,352	81	2,279
South Mountain	82	52	68	-4	1.27	6	17.72	6.18	52	949	-51	1,799
York	89	55	72	-3	0.41	4	12.25	-0.12	45	1,303	52	2,222
Southeast												
Green Lane	90	62	74	2	0.62	4	12.73	0.89	39	1,247	167	2,157
Hamburg	91	58	73	3	1.11	4	9.46	-4.98	41	1,259	292	2,169
West_Chester	91	59	74	0	0.49	3	10.15	-3.18	34	1,210	-23	2,107
Lancaster	89	59	72	-2	0.42	3	9.32	-2.98	40	1,222	76	2,125
Neshaminy Falls	90	62	75	2	0.81	4	12.74	-0.78	37	1,268	125	2,180
New Holland	89	60	73	1	0.53	4	12.27	-0.03	38	1,305	159	2,215
Philadelphia	92	67	78	3	0.09	3	9.61	-2.34	34	1,540	197	2,485
Philadelphia NE	94	67	79	4	1.05	4	10.14	-1.81	38	1,616	273	2,564
Reading	93	60	74	2	0.37	3	8.61	-4.74	43	1,333	218	2,245
Valley Forge Na	90	58	74	-2	0.67	3	12.35	-0.02	39	1,198	-117	2,116
Willow Grove	90	65	76	3	0.90	4	11.71	-1.81	40	1,354	211	2,278

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.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had another week of hot, humid and sunny days. It was another pretty dry week. There were morning temperatures around the 60's. Daytime temperatures were in 80-90's. There were some spotty showers in part of the county, but no accumulation Wednesday. Thursday evening, York Springs received 0.5" and Friday evening received 0.2". Other areas of the county received only 0.2" to 0.4" from Thursday into Friday. On Sunday, there were really spotty thunderstorms with showers. South of York Springs received no rainfall. York Springs and Heidlersburg areas received some showers. Hunterstown received 0.6", and Gettysburg area received some rainfall. Corn is pretty much done being planted. Some corn showed signs of stress last week due to the humidity and hot temperatures. Soybeans are still being planted. More soybeans will be planted after wheat is harvested. The barley harvest is completed with nice yields reported. Wheat harvest is slow due to weather conditions. Some sunny days in the future should help. Hay continues to be baled with good yields reported. Most of the first cutting of good mixed hay has been baled. The alfalfa third cutting will soon be harvested. Fruit crops are doing well. Apricots and black raspberries are being picked. The black raspberries are a nice crop. Some early sweet corn will soon be in tassel, with some already being picked in certain areas. Other vegetables are progressing but need some moisture to continue. Overall our crops do not look too bad; however we are still dry in most parts of the county. We could use more rainfall to keep the crops going this early in the season.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Apples and peaches continue to show normal growth. There has been 0.5 to 0.7 inches of rain reported in northern Adams County over the last week. There were some scattered reports of hail with no serious damage.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - There were several showers last week. We are still very short of moisture. Humidity and showers late in the week slowed wheat harvest and hay making. Corn is growing well, and some corn is near the tassel stage. The June drop in apples and peaches have not let up and it seems that the crop is getting shorter. Cool and damp weather created problems with chemical thinning. Some growers are reporting the smallest crop in years. Cherry crop is coming up light as well.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Showers over the weekend provided some relief but it was spotty. Some areas of the county received a good rain. As soon as we get a string of dry days, the wheat harvest will start. Hay making slowed down with the threat of rain every day.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Spraying of corn and potatoes were some of the activities this week, along with trying to make hay between the rain showers.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - The days last week were overcast and damp, but there was only 1/8 inch rainfall for the week. Last week was not good for hay drying.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - Most crops are in need of rain. The showers received rarely lasted long and at times had little effect. Slight loss of corn yield has occurred because of the lack of moisture. Wheat harvest is going well, making a lot of straw.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - A lot of patriot hay was made this weekend. We finally had a dry enough period to get the first cutting started for dry hay. Corn and beans are starting to take off. Pastures are still doing well due to all the rains throughout the area.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The hay is overly ripe and many acres of the first crop are yet to be harvested.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - There were spotty showers last week. We could use more rain for corn, soybeans, potatoes and truck crops. Wheat and straw harvest progressed last week. We are expecting double cropped soybeans to be planted this week. More no-till tobacco has been planted in the county this year. The fields are looking good.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor - There was rain or drizzle every day this past week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Rain finally arrived and made a favorable improvement on the corn and soybeans; however, some corn fields are showing signs of soil compaction. Wheat harvest has begun with favorable yields being reported. The barley harvest has concluded and many farmers have finished double cropping soybeans and corn in the stubble. Making of second cutting hay is being done with the yields being very close to those of the first cutting. The main activities for the week were spraying, harvesting and planting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Last week was another wet week. Generally the forage quality has been poor because of wet conditions and late harvest. Barley and wheat are ripening and there is concern with sprouting because of the delayed harvest.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - The scattered thunderstorms gave some relief to dry soil conditions. Wheat harvest is beginning to move into full swing even though it was slowed by weather over the holiday weekend.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 6, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn average height, inches	38	53	44
Barley, ripe	97	96	96
Barley, harvested	84	86	82
Wheat, turning yellow	99	99	95
Wheat, ripe	70	80	62
Wheat, harvested	22	33	24
Oats, heading or headed	87	93	88
Oats, turning yellow	13	28	20
Soybeans, planted	96	100	97
Soybeans, emerged	85	94	92
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	95	100	95
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	40	71	45
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	83	95	83
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	7	10	7

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 6, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	7	28	47	18
Wheat	0	1	10	65	24
Oats	1	0	13	67	19
Soybeans	0	5	32	45	18
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	11	69	17
Timothy clover stand	0	3	19	59	19
Quality of hay made	0	9	28	56	7
Pasture	2	5	33	47	13
Peaches	0	0	5	63	32
Apples	0	0	20	54	26

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