



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending June 14, 2009

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** Although it may have been hit or miss across the state, the rainy and wet conditions had a large impact on field work and progress last week. There were a total of 3 days suitable for field work. Orchards and crops must be assessed to gauge how the recent rainy weeks have affected yield and quality expectations. A large amount of dry hay has yet to be cut, while quality dwindles with additional amounts of time that pass. Last week's primary activities included fruit thinning, evaluating fields, and taking care of any inside activities, while waiting for more favorable weather to get outside and into the field. Some corn and vegetables are still waiting to be planted as soil moisture continues to increase.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 14, 2009**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent 0	Percent 4	Percent 64	Percent 32

**Crops:** Corn condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, and 16% excellent. Ninety-three percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 95%, and the five year average of 97%. Corn is now 80% emerged, compared to last year's 77%, and the average of 87%. The emerged corn has an average height of 12 inches, which is one inch ahead of last year, and 2 inches behind the average. Soybean condition is 0% very poor, 1% poor, 34% fair, 51% good, and 14% excellent. Soybean planting is now 74% planted statewide, compared with last year's 84%, and the average of 88%. Fifty-eight percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 62%, and the average of 66%. The wheat condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 55% good, and 25% excellent. Forty-seven percent of the wheat has turned yellow, compared to 49% last year, and the average of 39%. Eighty percent of the barley has yellowed, compared to last year's 86%, and the average of 88%. Seven percent of the barley is ripe, compared to last year's 29%, and the average of 30%. Oat conditions are reported at 0% very poor, 2% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, and 17% excellent. Thirty percent of the oats have headed, compared with last year's 41%, and the average of 33%. Tobacco is 78% transplanted, compared to last year's 83%, and the 84% average.

**Fruit:** The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 4% poor, 5% fair, 68% good, and 23% excellent. The apple conditions were 0% very poor, 0% poor, 4% fair, 75% good, and 21% excellent.

**Livestock:** Pastures are 2% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 60% good, and 19% excellent. Alfalfa crop conditions are 1% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 52% good and 29% excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa is 79% completed, compared with last year's 80%, and the average of 79%. Timothy clover crop conditions continue to do well and are 0% very poor, 1% poor, 20% fair, 65% good, and 14% excellent. Forty-six percent of the timothy/clover cutting is complete, compared to last year's 55%, and the overall average of 49%. Overall quality of hay is 4% very poor, 6% poor, 22% fair, 59% good, and 9% excellent.

**Nationwide as of June 7, 2009:** A band of wet weather stretched across the U.S. from Oregon and northern California eastward into the Mid-Atlantic States. Showery weather also prevailed in the Southeast, while dry conditions were mostly confined to the Nation's northern tier and the Southwest. In the Southeast, heavy rain maintained adequate to locally excessive soil moisture reserves but hampered fieldwork, including soybean planting. Showery

weather also persisted from the lower Mississippi Valley into the southern Corn Belt, hampering fieldwork and increasing concerns with respect to disease in the maturing winter wheat crop. Across the remainder of the Midwest, cool, dry weather in the northern Corn Belt contrasted with beneficial showers across the previously dry western Corn Belt. Meanwhile, on the Plains, scattered showers boosted soil moisture reserves, although cool weather hampered crop growth across northern portions of the region. In fact, weekly temperatures averaged as much as 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit below normal from the northern Plains into the Northeast. Scattered frost affected the Northeast on June 1 and parts of the northern Plains and upper Midwest on June 2, 3, and 6. Near-normal readings prevailed across the remainder of the U.S., except in the Northwest, where temperatures averaged up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Elsewhere, mild, mostly dry weather in the Southwest contrasted with unusually wet conditions in the northern Intermountain West and neighboring areas. Chilly conditions prevailed early in the week across the Great Lakes region. June opened with daily-record lows in locations such as Scranton, Pennsylvania (36 degrees Fahrenheit). Another surge of cool air reached the northern Plains by June 2. By week's end, some late-season snow developed across the northern Rockies and northern High Plains.

**Corn:** By week's end, 97 percent of the Nation's corn acreage was planted, on par with last year's pace but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 87 percent complete, also on par with last year but 7 points behind normal. Following large jumps in the number of acres planted in previous weeks Overall, 69 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 60 percent a week ago and the previous year.

**Soybeans:** Nationally, 78 percent of the 2009 soybean crop was planted, 2 points ahead of last year but 9 points behind the average. Emergence jumped 19 points during the week to 55 percent complete, 3 points ahead of the previous year but 15 points behind the 5-year average.

**Winter Wheat:** Heading in this year's winter wheat crop reached 84 percent by week's end, compared with 82 percent last year and 88 percent for the average. Harvest was underway in several States. At 5 percent complete, harvest progress was 3 points slower than last year's pace and 5 points slower than normal. Overall, 44 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 45 percent a week ago and 47 percent last year.

**Small Grains:** Barley seeding was virtually complete, with 96 percent of the Nation's crop sown by the end of the week, 4 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Nationwide, 79 percent of the crop had emerged, 18 points slower than a year ago and 16 points, or more than a week behind normal. Seventy-four percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 72 percent last week and 68 percent last year. Nationally, emergence was evident in 96 percent of this year's oat acreage, 1 point below last year and 2 points below the 5-year average. Thirty-three percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end, on par with last year but 2 points behind the normal pace. Overall, 55 percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 1 point from a week ago and 6 points from the previous year.

### Weather Data For Week Ending June 14, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 14, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	77	48	64	-3	0.30	3	5.77	-2.82	34	566	92	1,177
Franklin	80	46	66	2	1.32	3	10.23	0.80	34	564	103	1,169
Meadville	76	46	65	2	0.37	2	7.09	-2.09	35	549	142	1,146
Mercer	81	44	66	2	0.72	2	8.46	-0.81	37	556	88	1,163
Springboro	78	42	62	-4	0.40	2	7.19	-0.95	35	452	-38	1,022
Warren	80	46	64	-1	0.88	2	10.08	0.29	30	503	60	1,089
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	77	38	61	2	0.52	3	7.96	-1.80	35	390	96	919
Oswayo	80	38	63	2	0.46	3	8.12	-1.21	37	377	23	911
Kane	79	38	62	3	1.13	3	10.34	0.34	33	359	71	882
Laporte	78	50	64	-1	1.38	5	10.98	1.54	39	409	-54	983
Lock Haven	86	51	70	5	1.12	3	8.95	0.00	34	629	117	1,266
Port Allegany	80	46	64	3	0.41	4	8.70	-0.63	33	418	64	970
Renovo	85	52	67	3	0.41	4	7.39	-1.56	35	553	41	1,181
Ridgway	81	46	65	4	1.40	2	8.61	-1.34	33	422	84	966
Stevenson Dam	85	48	68	7	0.66	3	7.80	-2.15	32	534	196	1,138
Towanda	85	53	67	3	1.31	4	9.17	1.12	33	527	52	1,140
Wellsboro	81	44	63	3	1.19	3	8.64	1.06	32	364	60	915
Williamsport	87	56	72	6	0.59	5	9.20	0.12	37	741	142	1,425
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	79	50	67	6	4.78	5	13.00	3.78	29	459	93	1,053
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	58	70	5	1.58	5	8.81	0.37	31	691	144	1,350
Susquehanna	78	54	66	4	2.52	6	11.68	2.10	35	478	137	1,073
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	83	46	66	2	0.26	3	7.87	-1.47	37	543	46	1,154
New Castle	85	51	68	3	0.33	4	6.92	-1.45	36	639	144	1,268
Slippery Rock	83	46	66	3	0.66	4	8.67	-0.26	37	569	126	1,179
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	80	54	69	4	0.67	5	7.95	-0.71	41	628	63	1,258
DuBois	80	44	66	2	1.48	4	10.17	0.57	39	573	116	1,165
Lewistown	84	53	70	3	1.43	4	12.02	2.94	39	657	21	1,310
Middletown	85	61	73	4	1.84	4	14.13	4.77	39	827	98	1,523
Prince Gallitzi	82	44	67	4	0.72	3	6.69	-4.27	37	483	74	1,045
Selinsgrove	84	54	70	4	0.63	2	12.67	3.50	34	618	53	1,255
State College	83	52	70	4	0.59	4	8.20	-0.22	39	650	102	1,290
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	83	59	70	2	1.84	4	10.79	1.29	38	710	65	1,373
Lehighton	81	58	69	2	3.33	6	13.51	4.02	35	611	-3	1,253
Matamoras	79	55	67	2	2.75	6	9.78	-0.27	31	521	-12	1,131
Mt_Pocono	77	56	66	6	3.61	6	11.97	1.40	39	499	201	1,084
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	55	69	4	0.74	4	7.95	-1.26	40	788	220	1,460
Indiana_PA	81	46	68	3	0.11	2	4.01	-6.16	23	648	97	1,265
Myersdale	79	45	64	-2	0.91	2	11.59	1.52	42	417	-80	957
Mount Pleasant	83	48	69	6	1.50	4	10.99	0.53	42	655	224	1,292
Pittsburgh Intl	84	52	69	2	0.23	3	6.89	-1.53	39	795	187	1,463
Connellsville	85	51	69	2	1.35	4	13.63	3.67	46	707	74	1,372
Waynesburg	83	51	67	2	1.07	5	10.60	1.43	45	645	104	1,287
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	85	58	72	3	0.68	5	14.51	5.71	42	740	15	1,407
Everett	84	53	69	4	0.78	6	13.07	4.58	47	510	-31	1,067
Hanover	87	57	72	3	0.67	4	12.49	3.69	39	764	39	1,439
Harrisburg_AP	86	61	74	5	0.77	4	11.81	2.45	39	843	107	1,537
South Mountain	82	52	66	0	1.98	5	15.88	7.22	44	541	-17	1,163
York	85	58	72	4	0.07	2	11.06	1.76	36	776	41	1,447
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	83	60	70	3	1.12	4	12.45	3.19	40	733	131	1,401
Hamburg	84	61	71	6	3.39	5	14.29	3.30	43	752	232	1,428
West_Chester	84	58	71	2	1.40	4	13.58	3.44	36	729	17	1,380
Lancaster	85	58	73	5	0.55	3	11.13	2.01	37	766	118	1,433
Neshaminy Falls	83	60	69	1	1.55	6	13.56	3.26	34	751	109	1,422
New Holland	85	60	72	4	0.55	5	12.83	3.71	37	772	124	1,448
Philadelphia	85	63	73	3	1.75	5	11.88	2.83	41	960	171	1,676
Philadelphia NE	84	61	71	0	1.05	5	10.57	1.52	38	841	52	1,536
Reading	84	61	72	5	1.70	5	10.39	0.14	40	834	212	1,516
Sellersville	83	55	68	1	1.37	5	12.84	3.58	39	655	53	1,308
Willow Grove	83	59	70	2	5.08	6	23.25	12.95	37	808	166	1,491

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)** - Not much field work was completed last week. Corn and soybeans are still being planted, with a lot more to go. Producers are talking about prevented planting for corn. This is because the wet soil caused farmers to not finish planting before the June 10<sup>th</sup> crop insurance deadline. Some of the acreage that was going to be corn will be switched to soybeans if the weather conditions change. Some of the early corn has been replanted due to poor pollination. Wheat and barley are maturing. Barley will probably be harvested in the next week, with the wheat harvest occurring towards the end of June. Hay making is very slow this year. Strawberries are being harvested. The rainfall is affecting the strawberry crop. Apples are looking pretty good and getting some size to them. Peaches are looking ok for now.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - The fruit crops continue to grow normally. Growers are looking forward to the return of bright, sunny days. Peach growers are actively thinning their crops. Many growers report that thinning is progressing rapidly. Most say that they have an adequate set for a full, commercial crop of peaches. The speed of the thinning process would indicate that the peaches weren't extremely heavy in their initial set. This should be helpful in growing a crop with good fruit size.

**BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA)** - This past week in Berks County was hazy, hot and humid, with rain showers just about every day. Little to no fieldwork was completed, with the exception of small amounts of hay. So far this month, we have received over 4.5" of rain. We should hope this doesn't keep up.

**BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA)** - Frequent showers are slowing down the progression of field work.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier** - There was heavy rains over the weekend again. Some corn has been re-planted twice. It's going to be a very bad year for quality hay. Many grass fields have yet to be cut. Very few beans are in the ground compared to other years. This has been a very stressful, wet spring!

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William R. Clouser** - The rain has significantly improved hay and pasture growth. Unfortunately, hay quality has suffered from the limited amount of days available for making dry hay. Much of the corn is yellow, and slug damage has been significant. Some of the corn may need to be replanted. The weather conditions have also delayed soybean planting in the region.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - It was a great ending of the week for field work. Lots of hay was mowed down. Crops are looking good.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Storms with pea size hail affected several fruit growing areas. An insignificant portion of the area was affected. A few barley fields are being harvested, but no reports of yield or quality.

**INDIANA COUNTY, DAVID B. OVERDORFF** - The first planting of oats have headed. All of the corn is looking good. The soybeans that have been planted are also looking good also. The weather has not been cooperating.

**LACKAWANNA John Esslinger** - The mid-May freeze damaged the apple crop more extensively than first thought. Some orchards are a total loss, with some losing only 50%. Apple scab and fire blight are more severe than normal. Vegetable planting is proceeding at a slow rate due to the rainy weather.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth (NRCS)** - The wet weather has made planting pumpkins and tobacco very challenging. Some parts of the county are getting severe lodging of small grain, while other parts are not affected. Crops that are planted are really growing. Pastures are doing well.

**LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby** - Frequent rains are making it extremely difficult to complete soybean planting.

**MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST** - Tuesday and Wednesday were excellent hay drying days. Some of the field and sweet corn is yellow and slow to grow because we had three nights in the 40's. We are behind in rainfall.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The weather improved at the end of the week. The corn has a pale color. Soybeans are slow growing, and the oats are yellow in the poorly drained areas. Slugs and flea beetles have done a lot of damage in many areas. Some farmers have begun replanting. Barley is turning color and is near ready to be harvested. The second cutting of alfalfa is looking good; however, there are a few leafhoppers showing up.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy** - Last week was very wet. We received approximately 2" of rain. The showers are making it very difficult to make dry hay.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 14, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	93	95	97
Corn, emerged	80	77	87
Corn average height, inches	12	11	14
Barley, turning yellow	80	86	88
Barley, ripe	7	29	30
Wheat, turning yellow	47	49	39
Oats, heading or headed	30	41	33
Soybeans, planted	74	84	88
Soybeans, emerged	58	62	66
Tobacco, transplanted	78	83	84
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	79	80	79
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	46	55	49

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 14, 2009**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	3	23	58	16
Wheat	0	3	17	55	25
Oats	0	2	23	58	17
Soybeans	0	1	34	51	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	2	16	52	29
Timothy clover stand	0	1	20	65	14
Quality of hay made	4	6	22	59	9
Pasture	2	2	17	60	19
Peaches	0	4	5	68	23
Apples	0	0	4	75	21

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