



# 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](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending July 26, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released July 27, 2009, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Fair Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had a week of wet conditions that varied across the state. There were a total of 4 days suitable for field work. The primary field activities included: spraying, spreading manure, and inside maintenance. While the moisture was needed in some locations, it was not an optimal week for hay making and other field work. Agriculturalists are now hoping for a few warmer periods to help crops mature and get field work accomplished.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 26, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 1	<i>Percent</i> 8	<i>Percent</i> 81	<i>Percent</i> 10

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 55% silked or tasseled, compared to 62% at this time last year and the 67% five-year average. Eight percent of corn has reached the dough stage, versus 6% last year, and the average of 11%. The corn has an average height of 69 inches, which is 3 inches ahead of last year (66 in.), and 5 inches behind the five year average of 68 inches. Ninety-four percent of the wheat has been harvested statewide, which is on track with 94% last year and the 93% average. Eighty-eight percent of Pennsylvania's oats have turned yellow, which is comparable to last year's 84% and the five year average of 83%. Thirty-six percent of the oats are reported ripe, slightly behind last year's 40%, and the state's five year average. Oats harvesting has started and is 12% completed, compared with last year's 16% and the average of 17%. The alfalfa second cutting is 81% complete. This can be compared to 90% last year at this time, and the average of 85% complete. Third cutting alfalfa is 18% completed, compared to 28% last year, and the 25% five year average. Fifty-one percent of the second cutting of timothy/clover is completed, which surpasses both last year's progress (30%), and the average of 31% harvested. Thirty-seven percent of the peach crop has been harvested, compared to 26% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 28%. Eleven percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year (9%) and the five year average, which were both 8%.

**Crop Condition** The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 53% good, and 23% excellent. Oat conditions are at 0% very poor, 2% poor, 19% fair, 60% good and 19% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is now 0% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 48% good, and 23% excellent. Overall quality of hay also took a steep decline because of the rain to 4% very poor, 20% poor, 20% fair, 43% good, and 13% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 3% very poor, 11% poor, 23% fair, 47% good and 16% excellent. The peach conditions are 0% very poor, 0% poor, 5% fair, 68% good, and

27% excellent. The apple conditions declined last week at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 6% fair, 66% good, and 28% excellent.

**Nationwide as of July 19, 2009:** Cool air pushed deep into the Plains and the South, preceded and accompanied by widespread showers. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10 degrees F below normal in the upper Midwest, while hot weather prevailed from the Pacific Coast States into the south-central U.S. Weekly rainfall totaled 2 to 4 inches, with locally higher amounts, in many locations from the central Plains into the Southeast. From the lower Mississippi Valley into the Southeast, cooler, wetter weather aided previously stressed pastures and summer crops. Farther north, showery weather across the southern and western Corn Belt contrasted with mostly dry conditions in the Great Lakes region and parts of the Ohio Valley. Late-planted and slow-developing Midwestern summer crops continued to benefit from a lack of heat and adequate to abundant soil moisture reserves. Meanwhile across the nation's midsection, showers provided some drought relief in parts of Montana, Oklahoma, and Texas, while generally favorable conditions existed across the remainder of the Plains. However, extreme heat and historically dry conditions persisted through week's end across much of southern Texas. Elsewhere, hot, dry weather covered much of the West. An early-week storm produced mostly light rain in the Northwest, while isolated showers associated with the monsoon were generally confined to the Four Corners States. Early in the week, heat intensified across the West. **Corn:** By week's end, 31 percent of the Nation's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, on par with last year, but 23 points, or slightly over a week, behind the 5-year average. Overall, 71 percent of this year's crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago, but up 6 percent from last year. **Soybeans:** Overall, 67 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 66 percent last week and 61 percent last year. **Winter Wheat:** Nationwide, winter wheat producers harvested 6 percent of their crop during the week. At 72 percent complete, this year's harvest progress was on par with the pace a year ago, but 5 points slower than normal. With over 5 days suitable for fieldwork, producers in Nebraska, Ohio, and Colorado harvested the largest percentage of acreage at 27, 26, and 25 percent, respectively. **Oats:** Nationally, 97 percent of the oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 1 point slower than last year and the 5-year average. Progress was complete or nearly complete in all States except Minnesota and North Dakota. By July 19, fourteen percent of the Nation's crop was harvested, compared with 13 percent last year and 20 percent for the average. Overall, 56 percent of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, a 3 point decline from last week and 6 points below last year.

## Weather Data For Week Ending July 26, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 26, 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	81	55	69	-4	1.41	5	15.35	1.70	53	1,296	-18	2,327
Franklin	81	54	67	-4	2.71	6	17.52	1.43	55	1,239	-17	2,264
Meadville	77	51	67	-3	2.49	5	15.55	0.21	55	1,219	76	2,236
Mercer	79	53	67	-4	1.80	5	15.56	0.22	54	1,239	-6	2,266
Springboro	80	48	66	-6	1.28	6	14.35	0.71	57	1,069	-255	2,059
Warren	80	53	66	-4	2.45	6	16.40	0.52	50	1,131	-88	2,137
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	76	48	64	-3	1.49	6	15.13	-1.00	58	862	-20	1,811
Oswayo	77	47	63	-4	1.00	6	14.90	-0.62	61	879	-110	1,833
Kane	77	49	63	-3	3.02	6	18.56	2.37	55	838	-34	1,781
Laporte	76	52	65	-6	1.04	5	16.62	1.45	65	992	-264	1,986
Lock Haven	84	56	70	-2	1.60	4	17.15	2.41	52	1,385	49	2,442
Port Allegany	78	52	65	-3	0.82	6	13.82	-1.70	52	940	-49	1,912
Renovo	83	57	70	-2	1.25	6	13.30	-1.44	56	1,281	-55	2,329
Ridgway	79	52	65	-3	1.31	5	14.56	-1.86	53	962	-27	1,926
Stevenson Dam	81	54	68	2	0.75	4	12.02	-4.40	51	1,215	226	2,239
Towanda	83	53	69	-3	0.54	5	14.90	2.33	55	1,219	-48	2,252
Wellsboro	77	48	64	-3	1.68	4	15.05	2.36	54	898	-32	1,869
Williamsport	83	57	72	-1	1.88	3	14.77	-0.02	53	1,589	104	2,693
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	80	53	66	-3	0.27	3	18.57	4.50	51	1,083	19	2,097
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	56	70	-3	0.29	5	14.06	0.22	52	1,452	42	2,531
Susquehanna	81	53	67	-1	0.78	4	17.60	2.54	59	1,136	115	2,151
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	79	53	66	-6	2.43	6	14.84	-0.27	57	1,211	-94	2,242
New Castle	83	54	68	-4	1.48	5	14.20	0.22	54	1,399	85	2,448
Slippery Rock	81	52	67	-3	1.93	5	17.38	2.56	57	1,268	86	2,298
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	80	53	69	-4	0.66	6	12.90	-0.92	61	1,340	-75	2,390
DuBois	79	53	67	-4	1.85	6	17.74	2.49	60	1,199	-20	2,211
Lewistown	84	58	70	-5	1.72	4	18.65	3.80	57	1,450	-104	2,523
Middletown	87	61	74	-3	1.15	4	19.36	4.97	56	1,774	16	2,890
Prince Gallitzi	80	50	65	-4	0.99	5	13.55	-3.97	58	1,093	-22	2,075
Selinsgrove	83	55	69	-4	3.02	3	19.43	4.60	47	1,408	-42	2,465
State College	82	58	69	-3	1.43	5	13.35	-0.30	57	1,409	12	2,469
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	85	57	71	-4	1.62	3	19.57	4.66	53	1,535	-73	2,618
Lehighton	81	57	68	-7	1.11	4	21.06	6.05	53	1,337	-204	2,399
Matamoras	83	55	68	-5	1.09	2	18.19	2.47	50	1,208	-184	2,238
Mt_Pocono	79	53	67	0	0.91	5	18.57	2.15	66	1,107	182	2,112
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	58	70	-3	2.22	4	12.96	-1.59	60	1,621	199	2,713
Indiana_PA	79	55	68	-4	0.73	5	7.92	-8.97	42	1,353	-15	2,390
Myersdale	79	51	64	-6	0.68	3	16.94	0.43	56	962	-324	1,922
Mount Pleasant	81	53	69	-1	1.59	4	17.54	0.85	59	1,395	226	2,452
Pittsburgh Intl	80	56	70	-4	1.66	5	12.75	-0.89	56	1,619	125	2,707
Connellsville	84	54	70	-3	1.48	4	20.26	4.15	64	1,492	-33	2,577
Waynesburg	82	51	67	-5	1.69	4	15.29	0.47	60	1,364	-9	2,426
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	86	58	73	-4	3.89	5	20.99	7.78	57	1,618	-111	2,705
Everett	85	50	68	-4	0.64	4	16.29	3.00	58	1,251	-134	2,228
Hanover	86	57	73	-3	1.39	5	16.03	2.82	53	1,634	-95	2,729
Harrisburg_AP	87	60	73	-4	1.87	4	16.75	2.36	55	1,766	1	2,880
South Mountain	81	54	69	-4	2.37	4	22.02	8.20	60	1,238	-170	2,280
York	86	56	72	-3	1.72	5	14.55	-0.11	46	1,629	-93	2,720
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	86	59	71	-3	0.34	4	17.55	2.95	55	1,579	51	2,667
Hamburg	85	59	70	-3	0.60	3	21.96	4.48	60	1,578	194	2,674
West_Chester	86	57	72	-5	0.41	4	17.08	0.70	52	1,586	-123	2,657
Lancaster	85	57	72	-4	1.30	5	15.37	0.17	52	1,649	40	2,736
Neshaminy Falls	89	59	73	-2	1.49	4	19.73	2.72	53	1,628	28	2,719
New Holland	85	58	71	-4	0.42	4	16.24	1.04	50	1,646	37	2,742
Philadelphia	89	64	75	-3	0.31	4	14.93	0.20	56	1,977	122	3,113
Philadelphia NE	87	61	73	-5	1.20	5	16.13	1.40	55	1,769	-86	2,884
Reading	87	60	73	-3	0.78	5	17.20	1.07	57	1,736	161	2,838
Sellersville	86	57	70	-5	1.62	4	19.91	5.31	53	1,452	-76	2,525
Willow Grove	86	60	72	-3	1.66	6	33.83	16.82	55	1,702	102	2,805

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)** - The corn is of various heights within the same field. Soybeans are coming along nicely, but later planted soybeans are still getting established. Haymaking was halted quickly by rainfall at midweek. Oats were being combined at the beginning of last week. Peaches have a nice flavor for early peaches. Apricots, plums, and some early varieties of apples are also being harvested. Vegetables are doing ok, with some being harvested.

**BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour** - On and off rain showers and humidity hampered the completion of wheat harvest and slowed the progress of oat combining. Some areas received more rain than others, but all in all, Berks County corn and soybeans are looking good. Second cutting grasses are ready when the weather cooperates.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier** - We continue to get rain on a regular basis, thus far. Corn varies in height from 6 inches to over 7 feet. Late soybeans are starting to canopy. Quality of the wheat was variable this year.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little** - The corn really needs hot days. Potato blight is in the county. All the potato growers are watching carefully. Most are following a good spraying program.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Rain and cool weather continues. Field work continues to be difficult.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner** - Some much needed rain fell this past week. Most farmers are hoping that summer will arrive with heat. The cool weather for the past 3 weeks slowed the growth of all crops.

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William R. Clouser** - Blight, primarily affecting potatoes and tomatoes, is occurring in areas that have encountered unusually wet and cloudy conditions. So far, the condition is not wide-spread. Pastures with a large percent of Kentucky bluegrass are in poor condition.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum** - Wheat harvest has been a bear with all the frequent showers. We expect grain quality to suffer.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - It was a wet and miserable week. Soybeans are starting to show stress from the cool and damp conditions, with their height and color a serious concern. Crop insurance adjusters have been out surveying

fields. Corn height is a little short for this time of year. Hay quality is quickly going down hill.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - We had numerous showers affecting the area that ranged from 1 to 5 inches. Some hail was reported, but it was very spotty. The corn crop still looks excellent, as well as the pastures and hay. This could be the best crop in several years.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - Last week we had 1.60 inches of rain. We should be cutting some oats this week if the rain holds off. The soybeans and second cutting hay are looking great. The corn is growing tall and green.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - No two areas got the same amount of rain. The main activities for the week were some hay making and some tobacco topping.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill** - The rains over the past few days have been million dollar rains for our corn and tobacco crop.

**MERCER COUNTY, Gary Micsky** - The Wednesday & Thursday rains were perfect for the corn needs.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - No hay was able to be made due to the off and on rain all week. Sweet corn is still slow to mature. Total rainfall for the week was 1.8 inches. The Amish have not been able to thresh their wheat.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - There was warmer weather all week, with rain late in the week. The corn on bottom ground has started tasseling. The corn on the hills and wetter ground is not very good to good.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - Heavy showers during the later part of the week eased the drought conditions. The oats are near ready. Haymaking was limited during the week. The main activities for the week were maintenance, spraying, and spreading manure.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump** - Rains over the past week have supplied some much needed moisture for the crops.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - Last week was a very wet week with almost no harvesting progress. Many corn fields have uneven heights because of the early season wet conditions. Corn and soybeans look good overall.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 26, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	55	62	67
Corn, dough	8	6	11
Corn average height, inches	69	66	74
Wheat, harvested	94	94	93
Oats, turning yellow	88	84	83
Oats, ripe	36	40	44
Oats, harvested	12	16	17
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	81	90	85
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	18	28	25
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	51	30	31
Peaches, harvested	37	26	28
Apples, harvested	11	9	8

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 26, 2009**

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	18	53	23
Oats	0	2	19	60	19
Soybeans	0	4	25	48	23
Quality of hay made	4	20	20	43	13
Pasture	3	11	23	47	16
Peaches	0	0	5	68	27
Apples	0	0	6	66	28

**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

<b>FIRST CLASS MAIL</b> POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
---