



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 2, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released August 3, 2009, 4 pm

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Fair Week for Field Work: It was another wet week in Pennsylvania with a total of 3 days suitable for field work. When farmers were able to get in the fields, primary activities included: harvesting wheat, oats, some fruits, and sweet corn. Crops continue to be assessed for losses due to runoff and disease. Some areas are still waiting for much needed sun, while others were happy to receive the rain.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 2, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 0	<i>Percent</i> 3	<i>Percent</i> 72	<i>Percent</i> 25

Crop Progress: Corn is 73% silked or tasseled, compared to 78% at this time last year and the 80% five-year average. Ten percent of corn has reached the dough stage, versus 15% last year, and the average of 22%. The corn has an average height of 79 inches, which is 10 inches ahead of last year (69 in), and 3 inches ahead of the five year average of 76 inches. Ninety-seven percent of the wheat has been harvested statewide, which is on track with 99% last year and the 96% average. Ninety-four percent of Pennsylvania's oats have turned yellow, which is ahead of last year's 87% and the five year average of 91%. Fifty-nine percent of the oats are reported ripe, behind last year's 68%, and the state's five year average of 67%. Oats harvesting is 24% completed, behind last year's 37% and the average of 36%. The alfalfa second cutting is 87% complete. This is behind last year's 92% and the average of 90% complete. Third cutting alfalfa is 30% completed, behind last year's 42%, and the 39% five year average. Fifty-seven percent of the second cutting of timothy/clover is completed, which surpasses both last year's progress (47%), and the average of 44%. Forty-two percent of the peach crop has been harvested, compared to 30% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 37%. Twelve percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year (10%) and behind the average of 14%.

Crop Condition The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 52% good, and 24% excellent. Oat conditions are at 0% very poor, 1% poor, 21% fair, 58% good and 20% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 0% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 58% good, and 19% excellent. Overall quality of hay continued to decline because of the rain to 2% very poor, 16% poor, 31% fair, 35% good, and 16% excellent. Pasture conditions improved because of the rain and are at 2% very poor, 8% poor, 31% fair, 45% good and 14% excellent. The peach conditions are 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 64% good, and 36% excellent. The apple conditions improved last week at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 76% good, and 24% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 26, 2009: Widespread showers and below-normal temperatures maintained nearly ideal conditions for Midwestern corn and soybean development, albeit at a slower-than-normal pace. Weekly rainfall totaled at least 2 inches in several locations, including much of the Ohio Valley. Farther east, parts of New England received

more than 4 inches of rain, much of which fell during the approach and passage of a coastal storm on July 23-24. Meanwhile, heavy rain also soaked portions of the central and southern Plains and the Mid-South, but drier weather prevailed in the Southeast. Nevertheless, conditions for many Southern pastures and summer crops were better than those observed during the second half of June, when hot, dry weather gripped the region. Elsewhere, hot, dry weather persisted in much of the West and expanded across the northern High Plains. Scattered showers, associated with the Southwestern summer rainy season, were mostly confined to the Four Corners States. Winter wheat harvesting advanced with few delays across the northern Plains and the Northwest, but some spring-sown small grains in the latter region were in need of rain. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 6 degrees F below normal in a broad area centered on the middle Mississippi Valley. Farther west, readings averaged more than 6 degrees F above normal in Deep South Texas and scattered locations in the Great Basin and neighboring regions. Readings remained below 90 degrees F for the entire week throughout the Midwest, but soared to 110 degrees F or higher in the Desert Southwest. Meanwhile, intensifying heat across the High Plains and the Northwest resulted in local readings above 100 degrees F as far north as Montana and Washington. **Corn:** Silking advanced 24 points during the week, leaving progress at 55 percent complete, on par with last year, but 21 points behind the 5-year average. Under ideal growing conditions, development was most rapid in the Corn Belt. Meanwhile, 7 percent of the Nation's corn acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, equaling the maturity pace from a year ago, but 10 points slower than normal. Overall, 70 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from a week ago, but up 4 points from a year ago. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 63 percent of this year's soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 3 points ahead of last year, but 13 points behind the average. Following a sluggish start to spring planting, crop development advanced rapidly across much of the growing region, but remained at or behind the average pace in all States except South Dakota. Pod set was evident in 20 percent of the 2009 soybean crop by July 26, one point ahead of last year, but 16 points behind the 5-year average. Pod set had begun in all estimating States. Overall, 67 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week, but 5 points better than last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers had harvested 79 percent of their winter wheat acreage by week's end, on par with last year, but 5 points slower than the average. **Oats:** Nationwide, producers had harvested 19 percent of their oat crop, 1 point ahead of last year's pace, but 14 points behind the 5-year average. The pace was behind normal in all estimating States except Texas, and had yet to begin in North Dakota. Overall, 55 percent of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down 1 point from last week and 2 points from a year ago.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 2, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 2, 2009						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	84	62	72	0	1.11	5	16.46	2.03	58	1,449	-19	2,550	
Franklin	85	57	70	0	3.00	5	20.52	3.43	60	1,383	-14	2,478	
Meadville	81	58	69	0	1.42	5	16.97	0.58	60	1,356	80	2,443	
Mercer	83	58	70	2	2.40	6	17.96	1.78	60	1,382	-3	2,479	
Springboro	83	55	69	-3	1.75	5	16.10	1.62	62	1,205	-266	2,265	
Warren	84	57	70	0	2.30	5	18.70	1.91	55	1,271	-88	2,347	
North Central													
Bradford Region	78	47	65	0	2.01	5	17.14	0.10	63	969	-22	1,988	
Oswayo	82	50	66	-1	2.46	5	17.36	1.07	66	989	-113	2,013	
Kane	80	51	66	1	2.30	5	21.34	4.24	60	948	-29	1,961	
Laporte	79	55	68	-3	5.47	5	22.09	6.15	70	1,117	-282	2,181	
Lock Haven	85	60	72	1	2.35	5	19.50	3.92	57	1,540	57	2,667	
Port Allegany	82	54	67	2	2.01	5	15.83	-0.46	57	1,062	-40	2,104	
Renovo	85	61	72	1	1.45	4	14.75	-0.83	60	1,436	-47	2,554	
Ridgway	81	55	67	0	2.54	5	17.10	-0.28	58	1,084	-24	2,118	
Stevenson Dam	84	60	70	4	2.83	4	14.85	-2.53	55	1,356	248	2,450	
Towanda	87	54	70	-1	3.04	4	17.94	4.73	59	1,361	-49	2,464	
Wellsboro	79	54	66	-1	3.70	5	18.75	5.40	59	1,011	-36	2,052	
Williamsport	87	60	73	1	2.28	5	17.05	1.44	58	1,755	109	2,929	
Northeast													
Hawley	83	58	70	2	2.90	4	21.47	6.63	55	1,226	34	2,310	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	60	72	0	2.29	4	16.35	1.74	56	1,608	44	2,757	
Susquehanna	84	57	70	3	3.11	6	20.71	4.81	65	1,278	131	2,363	
West Central													
Butler	82	58	70	-1	3.05	5	17.89	1.87	62	1,354	-98	2,455	
New Castle	89	60	73	3	2.19	5	16.39	1.60	59	1,559	98	2,678	
Slippery Rock	84	56	71	2	1.86	4	19.24	3.58	61	1,411	96	2,511	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	85	59	71	-1	1.23	5	14.13	-0.39	66	1,490	-77	2,610	
DuBois	80	54	68	-2	2.59	5	20.33	4.24	65	1,327	-27	2,409	
Lewistown	87	62	72	-2	1.22	4	19.87	4.20	61	1,608	-109	2,751	
Middletown	88	65	77	1	1.25	4	20.61	5.45	60	1,963	23	3,149	
Prince Gallitzi	84	55	69	1	1.67	4	15.22	-3.32	62	1,226	-15	2,278	
Selinsgrove	87	62	73	1	0.83	3	20.26	4.66	50	1,573	-32	2,700	
State College	82	62	71	-1	2.41	4	15.76	1.34	61	1,559	10	2,689	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	87	59	75	2	1.46	4	21.03	5.16	57	1,714	-62	2,867	
Lehighton	83	62	72	-2	2.46	4	23.52	7.59	57	1,495	-214	2,627	
Matamoras	86	60	73	1	2.17	4	20.36	3.75	54	1,369	-177	2,469	
Mt_Pocono	81	56	70	4	3.06	4	21.63	4.29	70	1,252	208	2,327	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	61	73	2	1.95	5	14.91	-0.48	65	1,780	205	2,942	
Indiana_PA	82	61	71	1	0.98	6	8.90	-8.98	48	1,500	-15	2,607	
Myersdale	82	53	67	-4	1.56	5	18.50	0.97	61	1,084	-349	2,114	
Mount Pleasant	84	59	72	4	2.12	5	19.66	1.99	64	1,550	248	2,677	
Pittsburgh Intl	84	61	73	1	1.98	5	14.73	0.31	61	1,782	134	2,940	
Connellsville	87	62	73	1	2.33	6	22.55	5.47	70	1,664	-16	2,819	
Waynesburg	84	59	71	0	1.62	6	16.91	1.18	66	1,514	-6	2,646	
South Central													
Biglerville	88	63	75	-1	1.20	5	22.05	8.14	62	1,793	-111	2,950	
Everett	88	59	72	0	1.91	6	18.20	4.15	64	1,404	-135	2,451	
Hanover	88	62	75	-1	1.44	5	17.47	3.56	58	1,810	-94	2,975	
Harrisburg_AP	87	63	76	0	1.89	5	18.64	3.48	60	1,949	2	3,133	
South Mountain	82	58	70	-2	1.28	4	23.30	8.78	64	1,382	-178	2,494	
York	86	61	75	0	1.44	5	15.99	0.56	51	1,805	-92	2,966	
Southeast													
Green Lane	87	63	76	3	3.74	5	21.29	5.71	60	1,763	72	2,921	
Hamburg	87	64	76	4	2.15	5	24.11	5.62	65	1,760	222	2,926	
West_Chester	88	62	76	2	2.40	5	19.48	2.13	57	1,771	-113	2,912	
Lancaster	85	62	76	2	0.21	3	15.58	-0.56	55	1,831	51	2,988	
Neshaminy Falls	89	62	77	3	3.15	4	22.88	4.69	57	1,819	51	2,980	
New Holland	87	64	75	2	2.26	5	18.50	2.36	55	1,826	46	2,992	
Philadelphia	92	68	81	5	1.90	4	16.83	1.18	60	2,196	152	3,402	
Philadelphia NE	89	65	79	2	1.77	5	17.90	2.25	60	1,972	-72	3,157	
Reading	88	63	77	4	1.53	4	18.73	1.66	61	1,928	183	3,100	
Sellersville	87	60	75	3	3.14	5	23.05	7.47	58	1,630	-61	2,773	
Willow Grove	88	65	78	5	4.07	4	37.90	19.71	59	1,899	131	3,072	

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 - Adams County had various amounts of rainfall last week. Most daytime temperatures were into the 80's, with morning temps in the 70's and humid. Corn is really growing. Some fields still have different heights. Soybeans are looking better; however the double-cropped soybeans are still less than six inches tall. Hay making has halted due to the recent rains. Oats are ready to harvest, but the harvest has been delayed due to the rains. Peaches continue to be harvested with good yields. Earlier varieties of apples, plums, sweet corn, and apricots are also being harvested. Other apples are sizing up nicely. Some deer damage on sweet corn was reported in some areas of the county. Overall, Adams County's crops are looking pretty good, however; the storms that have been coming through can change that status very quickly.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Beth Abbott - Wet weather has prevented dry hay from being harvested, resulting in lower quality. Cooler temperatures are having effect on crops.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, David Stolz - Cambria County is wet to very wet. Southern Somerset County is very dry!

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - Between the rains, producers were trying to harvest wheat and oats. Again, the week consisted of rain and more rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There were two days when harvesting could be done.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker - With intermittent rains, it has been difficult to cut and bale the third cutting alfalfa. Double cropped soybeans after wheat received much needed rain. Corn and soybean yields are not expected to top yields received in the previous two years.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - Wheat and oats harvesting has started. Corn is growing and tasseling. Wet weather has hurt the harvesting of early potatoes. There have been gardens hit hard by the blight. Farmers are spraying to keep blight in check. This has been a poor year for making quality hay.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Once again, the off and on rain showers dampened expectations of having a productive work week. Pastures are in better condition than usual for this time of year. We just need some sun!

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Overabundance of rain this past week has delayed any attempt for finishing up the 3rd cutting. Some oat fields remain to be cut, and straw harvest has been delayed due to rain events. Corn and soybean crops will greatly benefit from the soil moisture levels that have now been totally recharged.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - More rain again this week. Some areas suffered wind and hail damage. Corn crop has gone from a good crop to a great crop prospects. Sufficient rain and cool weather during pollination should lead to an excellent yield.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - I have been in this business for a few more years than I care to admit, but our soil moisture conditions at this stage of the year simply come close to being beyond belief.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - The weather has been hot and humid this past week, which is good for corn and soybean growing. The first sweet corn should be ready in about 10-14 days. The leaves on the soybeans seem bigger than usual this year.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - A change in the weather pattern would be a great help.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - After a significant dry spell, the rains have refreshed the fields. The corn, soybeans and tobacco appear in good shape. We are a week or so behind an average season.

MERCER COUNTY, Gary Micsky - Soybeans have responded to warmer temperatures and weed control.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger - Upper Northumberland County had 3.75 inches of rain this past week. We cannot even walk in the lawns. Our farm pond has been over flowing for 5 days.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Significant rainfall curtailed many of the planned field activities. Harvesting oats, clipping pastures and spreading manure were the main activities. The heavy rainfall and lack of sunshine is showing up in the condition of the soybeans.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Rain every other day is not good for haymaking. Rain is good for the pastures, which are lush and green. This is unusual for July.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler - Rain has greatly helped soil moisture conditions and corn crop over the past week; however, there have been some runoff problems. High humidity and rain have created harvest problems for forage crops.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - After several dry days early in the week, wet weather returned with some areas receiving several inches of rainfall. Well-drained fields of corn and soybeans are doing very well. Good portions of the oats remain unharvested and are deteriorating. There is mounting concern over the summer's below normal temperatures and the potential adverse impact on crop maturities.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - A couple of substantial rains during the week have relieved the dry conditions, but have slowed or shut down hay and small grain harvesting. We could now use some sun to help dry things out a bit.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 2, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	73	78	80
Corn, dough	10	15	22
Corn average height, inches	79	69	76
Wheat, harvested	97	99	96
Oats, turning yellow	94	87	91
Oats, ripe	59	68	67
Oats, harvested	24	37	36
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	87	92	90
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	30	42	39
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	57	47	44
Peaches, harvested	42	30	37
Apples, harvested	12	10	12

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 2, 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	52	24
Oats	0	1	21	58	20
Soybeans	0	5	18	58	19
Quality of hay made	2	16	31	35	16
Pasture	2	8	31	45	14
Peaches	0	0	0	64	36
Apples	0	0	0	76	24

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