



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 24, 2011

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Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 7 days suitable for field work. Drought like conditions continued to grip the Keystone state for yet another grueling week of 100 degree days and little to no rain. Many producers throughout the state are seeing the arid conditions affect their late planted and double cropped, crops such as corn and oats suffer the most. Primary field activities for the week included harvesting sweet corn, wheat, and other vegetables, as well as baling straw.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 24, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
58	34	8	0

Crop Progress: Corn in the silk stage is at 58% compared to 71% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 61%. Corn has reached a measurable height of 70 inches, compared to 74 inches last year, and an average of 71 inches. Winter Wheat harvest is 99% complete compared to 89% a year ago and the average of 93%. Oats are 97% headed, behind last year's 99% and the average of 100%. Oats are 55% yellow compared to last year's 95% and the average of 86%. Oats are 17% ripe, behind the 67% at this time last year and the average of 43%. Oat harvest has begun and is 9% complete, compared to last year's 38% and the average of 19%. The second cutting of alfalfa is 95% completed, compared to 95% last year, and the average of 88%. The third cutting of alfalfa is underway and is 21% complete, compared to the 46% last year and the 5-year average of 25%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 39% complete, behind last year's 59%, and about the same as the 5-year average of 39%. Peach harvesting is 20% complete, compared to 34% at this time last year and the average of 25%. Apple harvesting is 10% complete slightly behind the 11% last year, but ahead of the average of 8%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 7% very poor, 23% poor, 42% fair, 23 % good, and 5% excellent. Oats conditions are; 6% very poor, 26% poor, 28% fair, 38% good, and 2% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 2% very poor, 12% poor, 39% fair, 39% good, and 8% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are; 4% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 60% good, and 3% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 2% very poor, 6% poor, 21% fair, 31% good, and 40% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 45% very poor, 17% poor, 24% fair, 14% good and 0% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 5% fair, 51% good and 44% excellent. Apple conditions are; 6% very poor, 11% poor, 17% fair, 53% good and 13% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 17, 2011: Temperatures east of the Rocky Mountains remained above normal during the week. On the central

and southern Plains, temperatures averaged as much as 10°F above normal. In contrast, temperatures along the Pacific Coast and in Great Basin were below normal. The eastern Corn Belt and most of the Gulf Coast States received rain during the week, while the central and southern Plains remained relatively dry. Near-normal temperatures, sunshine, and abundant soil moisture reserves provided almost ideal conditions for corn and soybean development in the Midwest, while relentlessly hot, dry weather persisted on the southern Plains. In the latter region, temperatures exceeded the century mark several days during the week. Tropical moisture provided some relief to the Mid- Atlantic Coast and the Southeast. Similarly, monsoon showers in the Southwest dumped localized amounts of 2 to 3 inches of rain on Arizona during the week. **Corn:** Nationally, 35 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage by July 17, twenty-seven percentage points behind last year and 12 points behind the 5-year average. With near normal temperatures and little precipitation across the Corn Belt, silking advanced 27 percentage points or more in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri during the week. Overall, 66 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week and 6 points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** Despite double-digit progress in most of the major estimating states during the week, blooming, at 40 percent complete, was 18 percentage points behind last year and 12 points behind normal. Overall, 64 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 3 points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** By week's end, producers had harvested 68 percent of this year's winter wheat crop. This was 2 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant progress was evident Michigan, where 31 percent of the crop was harvested during the week. Harvest in Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing state, neared completion, while the Nebraska harvest was 32 percentage points behind normal. **Small Grains:** Nationally, 89 percent of the nation's oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end, 9 percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Harvest was underway in many states, but heading in North Dakota—45 percentage points behind normal—remained significantly delayed. By July 17, thirteen percent of the oat crop was harvested, 6 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 59 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 19 percentage points below the same time last year. Sixty-two percent of the barley crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end. This was 17 percentage points behind last year and 21 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 76 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 10 percentage points below the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 24, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 24, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	96	70	82	11	0.19	2	17.97	4.54	57	1,570	300	2,566
Franklin_AG	100	65	82	12	0.46	3	17.55	1.76	61	1,606	392	2,611
Meadville-Port	97	67	81	13	0.55	3	18.94	3.88	65	1,628	523	2,629
Mercer	97	65	80	11	1.33	3	18.84	3.76	72	1,577	372	2,604
Springboro	98	62	80	9	0.79	3	18.58	5.18	64	1,381	100	2,351
Warren	98	57	79	10	0.13	1	17.77	2.14	58	1,445	266	2,437
North Central												
Bradford Region	97	59	78	13	1.27	1	21.01	5.14	66	1,236	386	2,170
Oswayo	102	57	77	11	0.05	1	17.29	1.99	57	1,246	291	2,200
Kane	98	54	76	11	0.00	0	21.89	5.96	55	1,185	345	2,132
Laporte	93	66	79	9	0.34	2	27.82	12.89	62	1,327	113	2,289
Lock Haven	105	65	84	13	0.36	2	15.73	1.23	51	1,759	465	2,795
Port Allegany	99	58	79	13	0.21	2	18.92	3.62	58	1,333	378	2,293
Renovo	105	60	82	12	0.32	3	18.84	4.34	61	1,705	411	2,735
Ridgway	102	57	79	12	0.04	2	16.39	0.25	59	1,343	388	2,329
Stevenson Dam	106	59	80	13	0.15	1	19.21	3.07	54	1,588	633	2,599
Towanda	98	62	81	11	0.00	0	22.90	10.53	50	1,526	301	2,531
Wellsboro	101	61	80	14	0.55	1	18.29	5.80	60	1,304	408	2,252
Williamsport	103	65	84	11	0.39	2	21.70	7.15	50	1,864	425	2,924
Northeast												
Hawley	95	61	78	10	0.12	2	24.51	10.66	54	1,348	322	2,340
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	98	66	82	11	0.45	1	18.46	4.86	56	1,709	343	2,750
Susquehanna	96	62	79	12	0.36	2	20.03	5.21	55	1,429	444	2,424
West Central												
Butler	99	63	80	9	1.21	2	15.89	1.04	59	1,640	377	2,685
New Castle	100	65	83	12	0.65	3	17.95	4.21	60	1,772	500	2,819
Slippery Rock	102	62	81	13	1.18	3	16.90	2.34	56	1,631	487	2,669
Central												
Altoona/Blair	103	67	85	13	0.00	0	14.19	0.59	47	1,861	490	2,916
DuBois	101	63	80	11	0.06	2	17.56	2.55	58	1,524	345	2,529
Lewistown	106	66	84	11	0.70	2	19.45	4.84	46	1,883	377	2,953
Middletown	103	70	87	11	0.02	1	20.84	6.67	45	2,081	375	3,184
Prince Gallitzi	100	63	81	14	0.21	1	14.01	-3.21	51	1,541	462	2,539
Selinsgrove	103	61	82	10	0.08	2	20.14	5.55	57	1,756	352	2,806
State College	101	67	84	13	0.00	0	15.39	1.96	45	1,776	423	2,812
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	104	66	85	11	0.04	1	16.51	1.88	47	1,936	378	3,017
Lehighton	100	64	82	9	0.03	1	18.22	3.49	52	1,675	182	2,735
Matamoras	95	56	77	6	0.51	2	23.26	7.80	54	1,449	101	2,471
MT_Pocono	94	63	79	13	0.04	2	24.11	7.97	55	1,423	532	2,419
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	95	70	82	10	2.02	3	14.07	-0.23	63	1,942	564	3,024
Indiana_PA	99	66	81	11	0.86	3	18.50	1.91	71	1,709	383	2,755
Myersdale	91	58	74	4	0.27	2	18.29	2.10	59	1,287	41	2,288
Chalk_Hill	91	59	75	3	0.95	3	28.97	13.16	67	1,341	-138	2,355
Pittsburgh Intl	96	69	81	9	1.22	2	14.09	0.69	55	1,896	448	2,974
Connellsville	97	63	80	8	1.65	4	19.15	3.34	73	1,812	333	2,887
Waynesburg	94	65	79	9	4.91	3	27.58	13.02	60	1,708	377	2,782
South Central												
Biglerville	101	66	86	11	0.00	0	17.81	4.80	43	1,983	304	3,071
Everett	99	54	80	9	0.00	0	19.16	6.09	48	1,622	281	2,678
Hanover	102	68	84	9	0.17	1	14.13	1.12	44	1,963	284	3,045
Harrisburg_AP	102	69	86	11	0.05	1	18.93	4.76	41	2,078	365	3,179
South Mountain	97	66	81	9	0.00	0	16.14	2.54	49	1,607	243	2,651
York	100	65	83	9	0.32	2	15.65	1.21	46	1,972	300	3,071
Southeast												
Green Lane	102	68	84	11	0.00	0	15.00	0.68	47	1,943	463	3,031
Hamburg	104	67	85	14	0.00	0	15.81	-1.37	50	1,926	586	3,002
West_Chester	104	65	84	9	0.04	1	11.41	-4.67	36	1,965	306	3,056
Lancaster	103	68	85	11	0.00	0	17.07	2.15	46	2,018	459	3,110
Neshaminy Falls	103	70	86	12	0.74	1	15.63	-1.03	36	2,053	501	3,144
New Holland	102	66	84	10	0.03	1	16.33	1.41	46	1,991	432	3,074
Philadelphia	103	73	87	10	0.59	1	11.85	-2.60	36	2,359	558	3,477
Philadelphia NE	105	71	88	11	0.00	0	13.46	-0.99	37	2,191	390	3,302
Reading	106	70	87	13	0.06	2	14.96	-0.89	49	2,134	609	3,240
Sellersville	101	66	83	9	0.00	0	16.37	2.05	46	1,810	330	2,878
Doylestown_AG	103	67	85	12	0.00	0	14.87	-1.79	43	2,043	491	3,143

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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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 another week of hot and humid weather. High temperatures this week reached 101 and morning temperatures didn't dip below high 70's. Corn is really struggling due to drought stress conditions due to excessive heat and humidity this week. It is at the critical stage for most of corn where it is starting to pollinate and now going to be stunted etc. Soybeans that were double-cropped are not emerging due to lack of moisture. Other soybeans that were planted earlier are doing ok but also showing drought stress signs. Hay continues to be made in the county. Fruit and vegetable crops are being irrigated where possible but the producers' ponds are not recharging due to lack of rainfall. Fruit crops seem to be holding their own for now but could use some rain to help with fruit sizing. Early apples, peaches, apricots and plums are being harvested. Overall, the county is really suffering from lack of rainfall. The producers are still putting in long days but had to really watch this week with the high temperatures so they weren't affected by heat stroke. We need rain very soon and may be too late for some crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Extreme heat has made soil moisture short. Most growers are irrigating.

BEDFORD COUNTY, Robin Robertson

Producers are experiencing very dry conditions. Corn that is only 3 feet tall has started to tassle. Corn is yellowing at the roots and is curling.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

This was a very hot and humid week, conditions are deteriorating quickly. Corn is short, curled, turning brown, and tasseling. Oats short, almost ripe, small grains, light. Little to no hay or pasture. Springs are drying up. New seedings have poor stands. Things look pretty bleak in Cambria County.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, David Stolz

Condition of crops dropping due to drought and heat.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Very dry top soil, showers needed. No rainfall during the week. Good weather for grain harvesting.

CENTRE COUNTY, Tim Craul

Spotty rainfalls throughout the area have impacted crops widely in the last couple of weeks in the Ridge and Valley. Soil moisture in the woodland is below 30 inches while cropped land has moist soil conditions starting at 12 inches. Crops planted late do not have root structure to reach current soil moisture and show large signs of stress. Crops planted early, especially corn, are showing better resistance to dry soil conditions because root system is in the moist soil. Yields for spring crops other than oats will be impacted if several inches of rain do not fall during seed/fruit formation.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

If we don't get rain soon, some may have to find winter feed for livestock.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, David Reedy

Another dry, hot week has further stressed crops. Short season vegetable crops are affected the most but late planted grain is seeing the kind of stress that assures yield loss. Even timely planted corn and beans are severely stressed and need significant rain this week. Grazing will need supplemented and subsequent forage hay crop cuttings are in jeopardy without rainfall soon.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum

Dry. Some corn and soybeans are dying-will not recover. Need rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Extremely hot and dry weather has been putting quite a bit of stress on crops. Corn leaves are curling and soybeans seem to be at a standstill. Hay fields that have been recently cut show minimal re-growth. Pastures have dried up quickly and water for livestock is becoming a concern.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Lack of substantial amounts of rain is affecting all crops. Vegetables have been especially affected by the lack of rainfall.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Very hot and dry weather is taking its toll on the milk production this week. Corps are all suffering more from the heat than lack of rain. Early corn that is shading the soil so it is not as stressed as late planted corn or double cropped corn. Hay and pastures have stopped growing. Peaches are coming on and early apples are being picked. Lots of quality problems with fruit due to early hail.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas

With the heat we have experienced this week, I question if some of the days were truly safe for outside heavy physical labor.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Ovedorff

Well this past week we got some much needed rain. On Monday the 18th we got .75" and Saturday the 23rd we got .60". The oats are looking good but not as tall as past years. The straw will be short. The rain has helped the corn and soy beans but some of the damage done to the corn will not recover. Some corn did not even grow. Not enough moisture to sprout or died soon after when it shot out of the ground. Looks like some chances of rain this week but still going to be hot and humid. Everyone have a safe farming week and keep cool.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhardt

Crops have started to suffer from the hot dry weather. A few scattered rain showers across the county have helped crops in some areas while those areas that were missed by rain are showing signs of stress. The dry weather has helped farmers make good dry hay from third cutting that is coming off now. We will have to see if this heat negatively affects corn pollination.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Corn crop is going back rapidly, soybeans still holding here in Lancaster.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

The weather that allowed wheat harvest to be completed and a third cutting of alfalfa to be worked on continued this past week with even higher temperatures and humidity. All the corn planted in the county shows signs of stress from the 100 degree temperatures and lack of rain. Some soybeans are now affected by the drought conditions. A fourth cutting of alfalfa is doubtful.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

We received 1.6 inches of rain this week -MUCH NEEDED. Local sweet corn harvesting kicked into high gear this week along with pickles, cantaloupes, zucchini, and onions with the vegetable growers. Wheat harvest is complete with many low yields being reported in the area.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Extreme heat and very dry soil conditions caused significant crop stress. Only a few spotty thunderstorms around provide only a ¼" at best for some, most areas receive only a few drops. Some corn is not unrolling in the morning and areas of soybean fields are browning out. Some sweet corn that tasseled Friday and Saturday has no pollen and the same may be true for some field corn fields. I have received a few reports of cattle and chickens dying from the heat on Friday. Temperatures reached around 105 on Friday and 100 Saturday.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

All field crops are showing stress from the extreme heat and persistent dry conditions.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The heat and dry weather have moved in and the condition of the crops are deteriorating very rapidly. The main activities for the week were harvesting wheat, baling straw, baling hay and spraying.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Heat and dry conditions are stressing crops and beginning to threaten yields. Most areas received some rain from the isolated thunderstorms late in the week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 24, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	58	71	61
Corn average height, inches	70	74	71
Wheat, harvested	99	89	93
Oats, heading or headed	97	99	100
Oats, turning yellow	55	95	86
Oats, ripe	17	67	43
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	95	95	88
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	21	46	25
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	39	59	39
Peaches, harvested	20	34	25
Apples, harvested	10	11	8

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 24, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	7	23	42	23	5
Oats	6	26	28	38	2
Soybeans	2	12	39	39	8
Timothy clover stand	4	5	28	60	3
Quality of hay made	2	6	21	31	40
Pasture	45	17	24	14	0
Peaches	0	0	5	51	44
Apples	6	11	17	53	13

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