



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending June 28, 2009

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*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."*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Compared with the last several weeks, the weather was ideal for field work, with warmer temperatures and sunshine throughout the state. There were a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Farmers were busy trying to make first or second cuttings of hay, depending on previous conditions. Last week's primary activities included hay making, weed control/prevention, and harvesting barley. Primary fruit and vegetable activities were hilling potatoes, thinning peaches, harvesting the season's first cherries, and assessing disease due to the previously wet conditions.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 28, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 0	<i>Percent</i> 5	<i>Percent</i> 73	<i>Percent</i> 22

**Crops:** Corn condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 56% good, and 20% excellent. Corn is now 95% emerged, compared to last year's 99%, and the average of 98%. The emerged corn has an average height of 25 inches, which is one inch behind last year, and 6 inches behind average. Soybean condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 46% good, and 21% excellent. Soybean planting is now 92% planted statewide, compared with last year's 93%, and the average of 97%. Seventy-six percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 83%, and the average of 89%. The wheat condition is 1% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 47% good, and 17% excellent. Eighty-two percent of the wheat has turned yellow, compared to 86% last year, and the average of 89%. Fifteen percent of the winter wheat is ripe, compared with last year's 22%, and the 5 year average of 28%. Five percent has been harvested statewide, up two percent from last year at this time, and consistent with the 5 year average of 5%. Ninety-two percent of the barley is ripe, compared to last year's 84%, and the average of 83%. Fifty percent of the state's barley has been harvested, which is close to last year's 53%, and the 5 year average of 54%. Oat conditions are reported at 0% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 64% good, and 16% excellent. Seventy-two percent of the oats have headed, compared with last year's 77%, and the average of 76%. Tobacco is 97% transplanted, compared to last year's 100%, and the 99% average.

**Hay:** Alfalfa crop conditions are 0% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 57% good and 25% excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa is 96% completed, compared with last year's 92%, and the average of 92%. The second cutting has begun in some areas, with 34% complete. This can be compared to 15% last year at this time, and the 5 year average of 27% complete. Timothy clover crop conditions continue to do well and are 0% very poor, 0% poor, 21% fair, 59% good, and 20% excellent. Seventy-nine percent of the timothy/clover cutting is complete, compared to last year's 70%, and the average of 75%.

Overall quality of hay is reported at 1% very poor, 6% poor, 17% fair, 54% good, and 22% excellent.

**Fruit:** The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 7% poor, 10% fair, 52% good, and 31% excellent. The apple conditions were 0% very poor, 1% poor, 5% fair, 58% good, and 36% excellent.

**Pasture** Pasture conditions declined slightly from last week, and are 3% very poor, 5% poor, 17% fair, 45% good, and 30% excellent.

**Nationwide as of June 21, 2009:** Soaking rains drenched areas from the east-central Plains into the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States, maintaining abundant to locally excessive soil moisture for summer crops. In the Midwest, heavy rain caused some renewed lowland flooding. Significant rain also fell across parts of the northern Plains and southern High Plains. In contrast, hot, dry weather resulted in drought development or intensification across the southeastern Plains and the western and central Gulf Coast regions, where weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 7 degrees F above normal. Hot weather also expanded into the lower Southeast, where temperatures approached or reached 100 degrees F. Elsewhere, highlights included cool weather in the Southwest, above-normal temperatures and mostly dry conditions in the Pacific Northwest, and unusually heavy showers across the northern Intermountain region. The 2009 corn crop continued to develop at a slower-than-normal pace in many locations across the Corn Belt because of delayed spring planting. The average height of this year's crop was shorter-than-normal. Overall, 70 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago, but 11 points better than a year ago. Soybean producers had planted 91 percent of this year's soybean crop by June 21, one point ahead of last year, but 4 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence reached 84 percent complete by week's end, 4 points ahead of 2009, but 6 points behind the average. Overall, 67 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, a slight improvement from a week ago and 10 points better than last year. Nationwide, 95 percent of the 2009 winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage compared with 93 percent a year ago and 97 percent for the 5-year average, and was complete or nearly complete in all States except Idaho, Montana, and South Dakota. Across the country, harvest was complete on 20 percent of this year's acreage, 2 points slower than a year ago and 11 points below the average. Forty-five percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 1 point from last week, but down 1 point from 2008. 52 percent of the oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 5 points ahead of the pace last year, but 7 points behind normal. Fifty-six percent of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, up 1 point from last week, but down 10 points from a year ago.

## Weather Data For Week Ending June 28, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 28, 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	91	58	70	2	0.01	1	8.47	-2.04	40	821	95	1,572
Franklin	90	52	69	2	0.05	1	12.94	1.25	40	800	100	1,545
Meadville	86	56	69	3	0.32	1	10.06	-1.25	41	785	158	1,522
Mercer	89	54	69	3	0.00	0	11.82	0.34	41	798	97	1,545
Springboro	89	54	68	-2	0.03	1	8.84	-1.26	40	668	-73	1,378
Warren	88	55	68	2	0.05	1	12.25	0.15	35	726	52	1,452
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	83	45	64	2	0.45	4	10.41	-1.78	43	564	101	1,233
Oswayo	87	47	66	2	0.48	3	11.03	-0.78	45	566	24	1,240
Kane	86	46	64	2	0.04	2	12.06	-0.24	39	536	80	1,199
Laporte	84	54	67	-1	0.44	4	13.23	1.66	49	602	-96	1,316
Lock Haven	89	56	71	3	0.00	0	10.76	-0.36	38	890	130	1,667
Port Allegany	86	49	65	2	0.38	1	11.03	-0.78	36	604	62	1,296
Renovo	89	54	70	2	0.00	0	9.01	-2.11	39	805	45	1,573
Ridgway	86	49	66	2	0.19	1	10.40	-1.79	38	617	89	1,301
Stevenson Dam	87	53	69	5	0.17	1	10.02	-2.17	37	772	244	1,516
Towanda	90	54	69	2	1.31	2	12.27	2.62	40	757	45	1,510
Wellsboro	84	52	66	3	0.35	3	10.86	1.35	40	556	71	1,247
Williamsport	91	57	73	4	0.11	1	10.87	-0.26	41	1,031	164	1,855
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	84	55	69	4	0.96	4	15.66	4.71	39	672	103	1,406
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	57	70	2	0.47	1	10.82	0.48	37	938	131	1,737
Susquehanna	86	56	68	4	0.60	4	14.35	2.83	44	696	156	1,431
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	89	54	69	2	0.01	1	10.52	-0.84	43	785	44	1,536
New Castle	91	54	71	4	0.29	1	11.44	1.11	41	910	168	1,679
Slippery Rock	90	53	70	4	0.29	2	13.64	2.58	44	813	148	1,563
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	85	53	69	-1	1.08	2	10.52	0.01	47	882	58	1,652
DuBois	83	52	68	2	0.61	2	13.83	2.04	44	800	114	1,532
Lewistown	89	57	72	2	0.05	2	13.93	2.84	45	929	15	1,722
Middletown	89	63	75	3	0.01	1	16.53	5.42	44	1,138	95	1,974
Prince Gallitzi	88	48	68	3	0.85	3	10.34	-2.72	44	701	81	1,403
Selinsgrove	90	56	71	2	0.00	0	14.89	3.61	38	887	55	1,664
State College	87	58	71	2	0.06	1	10.19	-0.12	43	915	109	1,695
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	87	59	72	0	0.09	2	13.72	2.51	44	976	39	1,779
Lehighton	83	53	70	-2	0.14	1	16.51	5.28	40	852	-41	1,634
Matamoras	85	58	69	1	1.67	5	14.11	2.24	41	746	-46	1,496
Mt_Pocono	84	56	67	4	0.77	4	14.43	1.93	50	693	213	1,418
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	88	58	72	3	0.06	2	9.79	-1.13	47	1,084	258	1,896
Indiana_PA	84	54	68	0	0.45	2	5.23	-7.14	28	897	96	1,654
Myersdale	83	49	65	-4	0.00	0	14.96	3.01	47	617	-120	1,297
Mount Pleasant	85	53	69	3	0.02	1	13.95	1.29	47	911	258	1,688
Pittsburgh Intl	89	57	72	3	0.26	2	10.40	0.21	45	1,089	212	1,897
Connellsville	87	55	69	-2	0.05	1	16.71	4.79	51	971	64	1,776
Waynesburg	87	55	70	1	0.17	2	12.15	1.16	49	905	111	1,687
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	87	60	73	1	0.14	1	16.66	6.25	47	1,034	0	1,841
Everett	86	57	70	2	0.33	3	15.21	5.18	55	773	-23	1,470
Hanover	88	57	72	-2	0.02	1	13.77	3.36	43	1,054	20	1,869
Harrisburg_AP	90	62	75	3	0.08	1	13.78	2.67	44	1,154	104	1,988
South Mountain	83	54	68	-2	0.10	1	17.54	7.03	48	775	-42	1,537
York	88	57	72	0	0.00	0	11.59	0.28	37	1,061	21	1,872
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	86	61	72	2	0.19	1	14.47	3.66	47	1,001	121	1,809
Hamburg	89	60	73	5	0.17	1	17.89	4.78	48	1,032	252	1,848
West_Chester	89	59	72	0	0.12	1	14.95	2.85	42	1,001	-18	1,792
Lancaster	88	60	73	2	0.00	0	12.53	1.45	41	1,061	120	1,868
Neshaminy Falls	88	59	73	2	0.70	4	16.64	4.43	43	1,024	87	1,835
New Holland	89	61	73	2	0.00	0	14.54	3.46	40	1,057	116	1,873
Philadelphia	90	66	75	2	0.19	2	13.57	2.72	47	1,272	158	2,128
Philadelphia NE	88	62	74	0	0.45	3	12.49	1.64	45	1,130	16	1,965
Reading	88	61	73	3	0.64	1	13.16	0.95	44	1,125	214	1,947
Sellersville	85	58	72	2	0.09	2	14.44	3.63	44	910	30	1,703
Willow Grove	86	61	73	2	0.11	1	27.00	14.79	42	1,088	151	1,911

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)** - Some of the corn is coming up spotty due to the wet conditions. Soybeans continue to be planted. Barley is being harvested, with wheat maturing. Oats are maturing and changing colors. Many producers made hay last week as the weather was finally favorable for doing so. Quality of hay will not be the best. Sweet cherries are being harvested, and tart cherries will follow. Apples and peaches are looking good. Strawberries are done being harvested. Vegetables are slowly progressing due to late start. Producers are welcoming the sunshine, so they can get fieldwork completed, and some crops harvested.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - Peach thinning is just about complete. Not much rain last week, coupled with some bright, sunny days was helpful in advancing crop quality.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - This week's activities included hay making and hilling potatoes.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Most days were suitable for field work last week. Some days were overcast and had short showers.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA)** - Farmers are applying weed control measures to the fields. Alfalfa weevils have been a problem this year. Most planted spring crops are uneven in stature.

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William Clouser** - Things are progressing more normally except for corn and soybeans.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dave Reedy (FSA)** - Most early grass hays lost their first cutting. Most farmers chose to mow it down and wait for the second cutting, or they harvested it for mulch. Timothy and legume forage crops are OK. Spring grain and vegetable crops should be back on track now that we have dried out.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Finally a dry week to complete the barley harvest, second cutting of alfalfa and other delayed field work. Temperatures warmed up which helped the corn and soybeans to grow.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were excellent hay making days. Corn was cultivated and side dressed all week. Sweet corn is earing well.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The warmer temperatures along with the sunshine have made a tremendous improvement in the crop conditions. The barley harvest is near completion. The wheat appears to be poor quality; however, the oats have headed and look very good.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney** - Some dry hay was made on high ground at the beginning of the week, but the rain showers soon returned. Corn on dry ground looks great, but the corn on marginal and wet ground is in need of sunshine and dry weather.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Corn responded to the heat, but so did the weeds. The fields were just starting to dry out when we got more rain. There is lots of first cutting hay to be made.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling (EXT)** Warmer weather finally has vegetable crops progressing well. Wet weather has favored diseases in fruit and vegetable crops.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Last week was the best dry hay baling week of the season. Warmer temperatures and adequate moisture are combining for excellent growing conditions. Looks like some early-planted sweet corn could be ready by late next week.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 28, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, emerged	95	99	98
Corn average height, inches	25	24	31
Barley, ripe	92	84	83
Barley, harvested	50	53	54
Wheat, turning yellow	82	86	89
Wheat, ripe	15	22	28
Wheat, harvested	5	3	5
Oats, heading or headed	72	77	76
Soybeans, planted	92	93	97
Soybeans, emerged	76	83	89
Tobacco, transplanted	97	100	99
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	96	92	92
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	34	15	27
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	79	70	75

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 28, 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	3	20	56	20
Wheat	1	6	29	47	17
Oats	0	3	17	64	16
Soybeans	0	3	30	46	21
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	15	57	25
Timothy clover stand	0	0	21	59	20
Quality of hay made	1	6	17	54	22
Pasture	3	5	17	45	30
Peaches	0	7	10	52	31
Apples	0	1	5	58	36

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