



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 18, 2010

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Good Week for Field Work: The hot temperatures, humidity levels, and little rain this week have affected most of the crops in varying ways. The hot and dry conditions were ideal for making dry hay and baling straw. Some areas received rain which aided in field and pasture growth, and turned the fields green again. Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were haymaking, straw baling, pasture cutting and harvesting winter wheat, oats, peaches and sweet corn.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 18, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
16	29	54	1

Crop Progress: The average corn silked is 54%, compared to last year's 36% and the 5 year average of 38%. Corn dough averages out at 3% compared to last year's 7% and the average of 4%. The average corn height is 70 inches tall, compared to last year's 57 inches, and the 5 year average of 64 inches. Winter wheat harvest is continuing at 96% harvested, well ahead of both last year's estimate of 79% and the average of 77%. Oats are 88% yellowed, which is also ahead of last year's 60% and the average of 63%. Ripe oats are at 40%, way ahead of the 5 year average of 16% and last years 11%. Harvested oats are at 21%, ahead of last year's 2% and the 5 year average of 5%. Soybean blooming is at 53%, ahead of a 9% average. Soybean pod setting is at 18%, ahead of both last year and the 5 year average of zero. Potatoes are at a 1% harvest rate, lower than last year's 4% and average of 2%. Alfalfa second cutting is 100%, compared to 74% last year and the 77% average. Alfalfa third cutting is at 28%, well ahead of last year's 9% and the 12% average. Timothy/Clover second cutting is at 41% with 35% last year and 23% average. Peach harvest is 25%, ahead of last year's 21% and the average of 14%. Apples harvested is at 5%, below last year's 9%, but ahead of the 5 year average of 3%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn condition is 3% very poor, 12% poor, 31% fair, 38% good, and 16% excellent. Oat condition is 5% poor, 23% fair, 48% good, and 24% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 26% fair, 50% good, and 17% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 6% poor, 22% fair, 50% good, and 22% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair, 54% good, and 10% excellent. The quality of hay made is 1% very poor, 8% poor, 20% fair, 45% good, and 26% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 18% very poor, 20% poor, 33% fair, 26% good and 3% excellent. Peach conditions are 1% poor, 2% fair, 60% good, and 37% excellent. Apple conditions are 4% poor, 20% fair, 43% good, and 33% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 11, 2010: Highlights: Hot and dry weather in many of the eastern States promoted fieldwork and rapid crop development during the week. Temperatures averaged well above normal in the Great Lakes region, and the northeastern Atlantic Coast States. Warm and dry conditions across most of the Southeast provided favorable growing conditions for many of the cotton-producing areas. Above average temperatures were also experienced in the Pacific Northwest. Meanwhile, cooler temperatures were experienced throughout much of the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. Moderate to heavy rains rainfall occurred in the central Great Plains and eastern Corn Belt, helping improve soil moisture levels. However, lingering rains in the central Great Plains has led to delays in the 2010 winter wheat harvest. **Corn:** Above average temperatures coupled with adequate soil moisture levels provided ideal growing conditions across much of the Cornbelt. Nationally, 38 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage by week's end, 23 percentage points ahead of last year and 12 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Silking was at or ahead of normal pace in all of the 18 major producing States with the exception of Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota. In Indiana and Ohio, ample soil moisture levels and warm weather in recent weeks pushed progress to 38 and 32 percentage points ahead of normal, respectively. Overall, 73 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from ratings last week and from the same time last year. In Iowa, the percentage of the crop rated good to excellent increased 6 points from last week as the crop benefited from drier weather. **Oats:** Nationwide, 95 percent of the 2010 oat crop was headed by week's end, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Heading was complete or nearly complete in all estimating States except North Dakota, which typically lags behind other States in heading development and was actually at normal pace by week's end. Oat growers had harvested 9 percent of the crop, compared with 7 percent last year and 8 percent for the 5-year average. Overall, 80 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 21 percentage points better than the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers had harvested 63 percent of this year's winter wheat crop by week's end, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was complete in Arkansas and North Carolina, and nearly complete in Missouri. With six days suitable for fieldwork, significant harvest progress was made in Michigan and Ohio, where 43 and 47 percent of the winter wheat crop was combined during the week, respectively. Elsewhere, lingering showers have hampered fieldwork in Nebraska, where the crop is 25 percentage points behind the normal harvesting pace. In Kansas, mild temperatures, damp weather, and high humidity slowed wheat harvest in most areas.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 18, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 18, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	90	66	77	6	0.00	0	11.38	-1.42	41	1,565	427	2,553
Franklin	91	57	75	5	0.18	3	13.20	-1.69	42	1,492	401	2,481
Meadville	88	60	74	6	0.80	6	14.10	-0.12	53	1,419	428	2,402
Mercer	88	60	74	5	0.87	6	14.38	0.08	53	1,492	407	2,492
Springboro	88	59	73	2	1.45	3	16.82	4.14	44	1,318	166	2,258
Warren	89	55	74	4	0.42	3	12.57	-2.29	40	1,352	293	2,322
North Central												
Bradford Region	84	53	70	5	0.93	4	12.75	-2.34	43	1,099	345	2,014
Oswayo	87	51	70	5	0.49	3	13.24	-1.36	45	1,096	241	1,998
Kane	86	47	69	4	1.25	2	12.73	-2.42	40	1,076	330	1,981
Laporte	84	64	73	3	0.64	3	10.36	-3.85	53	1,309	221	2,260
Lock Haven	91	57	77	6	0.37	2	9.44	-4.34	33	1,628	460	2,656
Port Allegany	87	56	72	7	0.79	5	11.83	-2.77	44	1,200	345	2,131
Renovo	90	57	75	5	0.37	3	11.56	-2.22	39	1,557	389	2,583
Ridgway	88	49	71	5	1.03	3	11.56	-3.71	42	1,192	339	2,134
Stevenson Dam	88	55	74	8	1.00	3	11.78	-3.49	40	1,452	599	2,459
Towanda	90	58	74	5	0.37	3	9.21	-2.56	38	1,390	289	2,381
Wellsboro	88	58	74	8	1.01	5	10.61	-1.27	41	1,212	418	2,160
Williamsport	91	60	78	6	0.56	3	9.93	-3.89	35	1,836	535	2,894
Northeast												
Hawley	89	56	74	6	0.54	4	10.60	-2.59	38	1,284	368	2,238
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	91	60	77	6	0.54	3	7.49	-5.39	34	1,673	439	2,683
Susquehanna	89	58	74	7	0.56	5	11.82	-2.28	47	1,362	485	2,342
West Central												
Butler	88	56	74	4	0.53	3	16.66	2.59	45	1,451	314	2,450
New Castle	94	57	77	7	0.04	1	13.21	0.21	40	1,615	469	2,629
Slippery Rock	92	54	75	7	1.75	2	14.24	0.46	46	1,506	476	2,517
Central												
Altoona/Blair	87	60	75	4	2.20	4	13.85	0.91	42	1,624	385	2,644
DuBois	87	60	73	5	0.12	2	11.63	-2.70	44	1,439	380	2,440
Lewistown	90	61	77	5	2.70	4	12.02	-1.82	39	1,715	352	2,766
Middletown	93	65	80	5	3.19	4	15.76	2.25	33	1,989	439	3,060
Prince Gallitzi	87	50	72	4	0.88	4	13.97	-2.29	43	1,289	319	2,277
Selingsgrove	91	60	77	5	1.86	4	8.17	-5.70	29	1,671	405	2,710
State College	87	63	75	4	0.83	3	10.21	-2.56	37	1,657	436	2,685
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	92	60	78	4	1.66	3	16.86	3.05	33	1,785	377	2,825
Lehighton	90	59	76	3	2.71	3	13.87	-0.02	35	1,601	252	2,634
Matamoras	91	56	75	4	0.65	4	10.72	-3.93	36	1,450	234	2,447
Mt_Pocono	87	54	74	8	1.20	4	10.88	-4.42	42	1,371	581	2,343
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	65	77	6	1.68	3	14.01	0.49	43	1,845	599	2,878
Indiana_PA	87	58	74	3	1.33	4	14.62	-1.03	50	1,458	258	2,467
Myersdale	84	50	70	-1	1.60	2	12.29	-2.93	45	1,134	8	2,090
Mount Pleasant	86	61	74	6	2.10	2	15.69	0.12	39	1,561	544	2,567
Pittsburgh Intl	88	67	77	5	0.19	1	13.91	1.23	38	1,784	474	2,813
Connellsville	89	64	76	4	1.78	4	15.47	0.56	48	1,720	379	2,749
Waynesburg	88	59	75	4	0.58	2	13.69	-0.04	38	1,600	395	2,610
South Central												
Biglerville	95	61	79	5	1.35	3	9.28	-3.15	28	1,843	317	2,894
Everett	89	56	75	4	2.70	4	12.54	0.15	39	1,490	281	2,505
Hanover	94	60	79	4	1.60	4	8.52	-3.91	34	1,822	296	2,870
Harrisburg_AP	93	62	79	4	2.54	4	14.94	1.43	36	1,942	385	3,006
South Mountain	89	58	74	3	1.84	4	8.93	-4.01	33	1,463	231	2,469
York	92	58	78	4	3.91	4	11.47	-2.31	36	1,776	254	2,819
Southeast												
Green Lane	93	62	79	6	1.66	3	11.40	-2.08	35	1,843	507	2,903
Hamburg	92	60	78	6	4.15	3	15.25	-1.03	34	1,825	617	2,879
West_Chester	94	58	78	4	3.41	3	15.10	-0.08	29	1,805	296	2,855
Lancaster	91	61	78	5	3.80	3	12.22	-1.84	34	1,876	465	2,927
Neshaminy Falls	94	60	80	7	2.46	3	10.18	-5.40	35	1,900	492	2,967
New Holland	94	66	79	6	3.13	3	12.66	-1.40	33	1,882	471	2,932
Philadelphia	96	71	82	6	4.92	4	12.70	-0.91	33	2,282	643	3,369
Philadelphia NE	93	63	81	5	2.47	2	10.19	-3.42	44	2,112	473	3,190
Reading	94	63	80	6	1.69	3	11.99	-3.02	35	2,013	634	3,082
Sellersville	91	59	77	4	1.76	3	12.66	-0.82	36	1,702	366	2,736
Willow Grove	95	65	80	7	2.82	2	11.21	-4.37	30	1,987	579	3,056

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 some rainfall last week but we are still dry. Monday was in the 80's with 0.5" of rain. Tuesday morning was in the 70's and had some showers with no accumulation. On Wednesday morning we had a nice rainfall ranging from 0.6" of rain in York Springs to 1.1" in the Hunterstown area. The humidity was high during the week continuing into the weekend. Corn continues to show drought stress throughout the county. Some corn does look a little better since we received rainfall but others are still looking poor. Soybeans are looking okay. Some producers are planting double-cropped soybeans since we received some rainfall. Hay is being made and oats are being harvested. Early apples, peaches, plums, and apricots are being harvested in the county. Irrigation in the fruit and vegetable crops is occurring to help the crops along. Sweet corn is also being harvested in the county. Overall the crops are hanging in there considering the drought conditions throughout the county. Corn is probably the hardest hit crop overall.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most of the fruit trees received 0.6" to 1.25" of rain through the events of this past week. While helpful, the soil moisture is still deficit. Peaches are being harvested with size being slightly smaller than in previous years. Growers continue to do touch-up thinning on apples; while the season appears to be 10 days to 14 days earlier than normal.

BERKS COUNTY, Steve DeBroux - The leaf margins of the upper 2-3 leaves of our trees, show what appears to be scorching. This is more than likely due to the heat and drought conditions.

BUCKS COUNTY, Austin Drager - Rains from last week saved the majority of the corn and soybean crop. Corn that was already tasseled will be limited, but all the later corn should still yield.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - Many farmers are finishing the making of their second dry hay crop. Some farmers started harvesting wheat and yields are at 90 to 95 bushels per acre. Soybeans are setting pods and many acres of corn are in tassel. Rain is needed.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - The county is very dry in some areas where corn and soybeans are wilting. We received 2.5" of rain this past week so crops have improved.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Another good week for making hay and silage. Short periods of rain in the beginning and end of the week gave crops a much needed boost. Overall corn crop looks good and soybeans are finally starting to take off.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Another hot, dry week. We did get a few small showers, but the heat is now starting to do damage on the corn and alfalfa. Yields will definitely be lower this fall in corn and late cuttings of alfalfa; only time will tell if it is a disaster.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill - Soybeans have recovered nicely from the drought. Corn however has suffered some significant yield loss in many areas.

LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby - Last weeks showers re-energized corn and soybean crops in the region.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - No measurable amount of rain has been reported this week in this part of Mercer County. Extremely dry conditions have the crops in the stress and suffer mode. Most of the rain has been in the northern part of the county. Sweet corn production is in full swing this week. Wheat harvest for the most part is all completed. A local newspaper ran an article on the problems Vomitoxin is causing in the infected wheat.

POTTER COUNTY, Dave Stratton (FSA) - A very good week for making hay. More rain is needed to keep the crops growing.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The recent rains were a blessing; however, in some situations it is too late. The rains did cause the hay fields to green up, but with another round of 90 plus degree temperatures being forecast, they may turn brown again. Oats harvest is in full swing with the yields being very good. Due to the heat and drought, the soybeans are showing signs of stress. The main activities for the week were harvesting wheat and oats, baling straw, clipping pastures, and praying for a change in the weather patterns.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Even with the 0.3" of rain, the fields are still very dry. Corn is about half tasseled. Some dry hay being baled but most is either chopped or baleage.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters, (FSA) - Had some much needed rain in spots this week. Hot temperatures certainly are helping the corn.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker - Moisture has encouraged corn growth and tassel emergence; however, height is much shorter than normal for the corn that is in tassel. A number of farmers appear to be skipping the third cutting of alfalfa due to the very short re-growth which would make harvesting difficult. Much needed rainfall will be necessary for grain fill and an improvement in soil moisture.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Another few days of rainfall this week after last week's significant precipitation, have dramatically improved all crops. With continued normal moisture and temperatures, we should experience almost no yield loss from the early July heat and dryness.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 18, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	54	36	38
Corn, dough	3	7	4
Corn average height, inches	70	57	64
Wheat, harvested	96	79	77
Oats, turning yellow	88	60	63
Oats, ripe	40	11	16
Oats, harvested	21	2	5
Potatoes, harvested	1	4	2
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	100	74	77
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	28	9	12
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	41	35	23
Peaches, harvested	25	21	14
Apples, harvested	5	9	3

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 18, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	3	12	31	38	16
Oats	0	5	23	48	24
Soybeans	1	6	26	50	17
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	6	22	50	22
Timothy clover stand	1	5	30	54	10
Quality of hay made	1	8	20	45	26
Pasture	18	20	33	26	3
Peaches	0	1	2	60	37
Apples	0	4	20	43	33

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