



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending June 21, 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."*

**Poor Week for Field Work:** Cooler, wet conditions prevailed throughout the state, with many areas receiving 2 or more inches of rain for the week. There were a total of 2 days suitable for field work. Once again, rain made hay making difficult, and continued to pose a challenge for the first cutting quality. Many farmers and agriculturalists look forward to better predicted weather conditions this week to get back on track. The freeze in late May/early June appears to have caused damage to strawberries, apples, and peaches. Last week's primary activities included spraying, fertilizing, and continuing to assess crops to replant or gauge effects that recent weather has had upon them.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 21, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 0	<i>Percent</i> 6	<i>Percent</i> 44	<i>Percent</i> 50

**Crops:** Corn condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 52% good, and 19% excellent. Ninety-six percent of the state's corn has been planted. This is compared to last year's 99%, and the five year average of 99%. Corn is now 91% emerged, compared to last year's 93%, and the average of 95%. The emerged corn has an average height of 18 inches, which is two inches ahead of last year, and 3 inches behind the average. Soybean condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 38% fair, 44% good, and 14% excellent. Soybean planting is now 86% planted statewide, compared with last year's 91%, and the average of 94%. Seventy-four percent of soybeans have emerged, compared to last year's 80%, and the average of 80%. The wheat condition is 1% very poor, 4% poor, 38% fair, 39% good, and 18% excellent. Fifty-one percent of the wheat has turned yellow, compared to 64% last year, and the average of 68%. Ninety-seven percent of the barley has yellowed, compared to last year's 95%, and the average of 95%. Fifty-eight percent of the barley is ripe, compared to last year's 56%, and the average of 61%. Oat conditions are reported at 0% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 59% good, and 21% excellent. Fifty-four percent of the oats have headed, compared with last year's 59%, and the average of 56%. Tobacco is 92% transplanted, compared to last year's 98%, and the 95% average.

**Fruit:** The peach conditions were 0% very poor, 6% poor, 10% fair, 61% good, and 23% excellent. The apple conditions were 0% very poor, 1% poor, 5% fair, 74% good, and 20% excellent.

**Livestock:** Pastures are 3% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 51% good, and 29% excellent. Alfalfa crop conditions are 1% very poor, 4% poor, 15% fair, 56% good and 24% excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa is 84% completed, compared with last year's 90%, and the average of 87%. The second cutting has begun in some areas, with 8% complete. This can be compared to 9% last year at this time, and the 5 year average of 14% complete. Timothy clover crop conditions continue to do well and are 0% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 66% good, and 17% excellent. Fifty-nine percent of the timothy/clover cutting is complete, compared to last

year's 67%, and the overall average of 64%. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 11% poor, 23% fair, 55% good, and 10% excellent.

### Nationwide as of June 14, 2009:

The country's mid-section was abnormally wet during the week, while areas along the Canadian and Mexican borders, as well as in the Southeast were mostly dry. A slow-moving frontal boundary brought more than 4 inches of rainfall to some locations in the already-soggy Corn Belt. Temperatures in most of the western half of the country were cooler than normal. Temperatures across the majority of the eastern United States were warmer than normal. In Alaska, weekly temperatures averaged as much as 5 degrees F above normal, while warm, dry weather persisted in Hawaii.

**Corn:** Nationally, 95 percent of the 2009 corn crop had emerged, 1 point ahead of last year's pace, but 3 points slower than the 5-year average. Seventy percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, a slight improvement from a week ago and 13 points better than the previous year.

**Soybeans:** By week's end, 87 percent of the soybean crop was planted, 4 points ahead of last year, but 5 points behind the average. Following several weeks of intense planting, crop emergence reached 72 percent complete nationwide, 3 points ahead of development a year ago, but 11 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-six percent of the nation's soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 10 points better than a year ago.

**Winter Wheat:** Heading in this year's winter wheat crop advanced to 90 percent complete, 2 points ahead of 2008, but 3 points behind the average. Four percent of the winter wheat crop was harvested during the week, leaving progress, at 9 percent complete, 7 points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. Nationally, 44 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago, but down 3 points from the previous year.

**Small Grains:** Ninety-three percent of this year's spring wheat crop had emerged by week's end, 6 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Emergence was complete or nearly complete in all States except North Dakota. Seventy-five percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 73 percent a week ago and 67 percent last year. Nationally, 93 percent of the barley crop had emerged, 6 points slower than the pace a year ago and 5 points slower than the average. Eighty percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition, a 6 point improvement from a week ago and 11 points better than a year ago. By week's end, 40 percent of the 2009 oat crop was at or beyond the headed stage, compared with 38 percent last year and 45 percent for the 5-year average. The most crop development was evident in Ohio and Iowa, where 29 and 25 percent of the crop put on heads during the week. Overall, 55 percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago, but down 7 points from the previous year.

### Weather Data For Week Ending June 21, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 21, 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	80	50	66	-2	2.69	5	8.46	-1.11	39	676	81	1,357
Franklin	82	48	65	-3	2.66	5	12.89	2.34	39	666	90	1,341
Meadville	80	47	65	-1	2.65	5	9.74	-0.52	40	652	140	1,319
Mercer	81	50	65	-2	3.36	4	11.82	1.43	41	661	81	1,338
Springboro	82	43	63	-6	1.70	4	8.89	-0.23	39	543	-68	1,183
Warren	82	46	63	-4	2.12	4	12.20	1.22	34	595	42	1,251
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	76	40	60	-2	2.00	4	9.96	-1.04	39	464	90	1,063
Oswayo	80	39	61	-3	2.42	4	10.55	-0.04	42	454	10	1,058
Kane	77	40	61	-2	1.68	4	12.02	0.84	37	436	68	1,029
Laporte	74	50	60	-7	1.81	6	12.79	2.27	45	483	-92	1,127
Lock Haven	81	53	66	-2	1.81	4	10.76	0.69	38	745	114	1,452
Port Allegany	78	40	61	-3	2.01	4	10.65	0.06	35	495	51	1,117
Renovo	81	49	66	-2	1.62	4	9.01	-1.06	39	665	34	1,363
Ridgway	78	43	62	-1	1.60	4	10.21	-0.86	37	507	79	1,121
Stevenson Dam	79	48	65	3	2.05	4	9.85	-1.22	36	638	210	1,312
Towanda	80	50	64	-3	1.79	5	10.96	2.08	38	626	37	1,309
Wellsboro	75	46	61	-2	1.87	5	10.51	1.95	37	442	52	1,063
Williamsport	81	56	68	-2	1.56	3	10.76	0.63	40	867	139	1,621
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	76	51	61	-3	1.70	6	14.70	4.59	35	540	78	1,204
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	53	64	-4	1.54	5	10.35	0.93	36	793	121	1,522
Susquehanna	76	51	62	-2	2.07	5	13.75	3.19	40	566	130	1,231
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	81	47	65	-3	2.64	5	10.51	0.13	42	651	37	1,332
New Castle	83	50	67	2	4.23	4	11.15	1.80	40	762	149	1,461
Slippery Rock	83	47	65	0	4.68	5	13.35	3.34	42	674	124	1,354
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	80	56	67	-2	1.49	4	9.44	-0.16	45	747	58	1,447
DuBois	75	49	64	-2	3.05	3	13.22	2.50	42	674	107	1,336
Lewistown	81	53	67	-3	1.86	4	13.88	3.77	43	776	6	1,499
Middletown	81	58	69	-4	2.39	4	16.52	6.25	43	960	80	1,726
Prince Gallitzi	80	46	63	-2	2.80	4	9.49	-2.52	41	575	65	1,207
Selinsgrove	83	54	67	-3	2.22	4	14.89	4.66	38	737	43	1,444
State College	80	55	66	-2	1.93	3	10.13	0.73	42	766	94	1,476
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	79	54	65	-5	2.84	4	13.63	3.29	42	820	34	1,553
Lehighton	79	55	64	-5	2.65	4	16.16	5.82	39	712	-37	1,424
Matamoras	76	50	63	-6	2.66	5	12.44	1.48	36	609	-48	1,289
Mt_Pocono	73	50	60	-3	1.69	7	13.66	2.13	46	571	186	1,226
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	56	70	3	1.78	5	9.73	-0.32	45	928	236	1,670
Indiana_PA	79	52	67	0	0.77	3	4.78	-6.47	26	767	95	1,454
Myersdale	79	45	63	-4	3.25	4	14.84	3.86	46	513	-100	1,123
Mount Pleasant	81	50	67	2	2.94	4	13.93	2.35	46	776	238	1,483
Pittsburgh Intl	83	55	70	2	3.25	4	10.14	0.86	43	936	198	1,674
Connellsville	82	51	68	-2	3.03	4	16.66	5.72	50	835	69	1,570
Waynesburg	83	45	68	2	1.86	4	12.46	2.38	49	776	113	1,488
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	82	57	68	-4	2.01	4	16.52	6.88	46	870	-5	1,607
Everett	80	53	67	-2	1.81	5	14.88	5.62	52	631	-33	1,258
Hanover	84	54	69	-3	1.26	3	13.75	4.11	42	900	25	1,645
Harrisburg_AP	82	56	69	-4	1.89	4	13.70	3.43	43	976	89	1,740
South Mountain	78	51	65	-3	1.56	3	17.44	7.84	47	648	-34	1,340
York	83	55	68	-4	0.53	1	11.59	1.26	37	906	23	1,647
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	77	53	66	-4	1.83	6	14.28	4.25	46	844	108	1,582
Hamburg	80	57	66	-2	3.43	4	17.72	5.68	47	869	225	1,615
West_Chester	80	54	66	-6	1.25	5	14.83	3.71	41	842	-19	1,563
Lancaster	82	56	69	-2	1.40	4	12.53	2.43	41	898	108	1,635
Neshaminy Falls	79	51	66	-6	2.38	5	15.94	4.73	39	862	77	1,603
New Holland	81	55	67	-3	1.71	3	14.54	4.44	40	895	105	1,641
Philadelphia	79	55	68	-5	1.50	4	13.38	3.44	45	1,091	145	1,877
Philadelphia NE	79	52	67	-6	1.47	4	12.04	2.10	42	960	14	1,725
Reading	81	57	68	-3	2.13	3	12.52	1.29	43	959	198	1,711
Sellersville	78	52	65	-5	1.51	3	14.35	4.32	42	758	22	1,481
Willow Grove	79	52	66	-5	3.64	4	26.89	15.68	41	924	139	1,677

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, Lee Showalter - It was another wet week. Peach thinning continues and "June drop" on apples is just about over. Apple set, while somewhat uneven, appears to be adequate for a full crop.

BEDFORD COUNTY, Robin Robertson - Bedford County is still experiencing very wet conditions. Corn re-planting is continuing. The weather has been unfit for any kind of hay making. Green chopping seems to be the way to go at this particular point in time.

BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour - Field conditions across the county continued to diminish. A lot of corn acres have been, and will need to be replanted. Hay making has been at a standstill.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - We had rain every day last week. Many farmers may be forced to take the prevented planting provision of their crop insurance for corn. Very little hay has been made. We need several days of hot, windy weather to dry the soils. It is shaping up to be a poor year for most Bucks County farmers.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - It rained all week. The ground is saturated. There was very little drying time except early in the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Rainy week made haymaking difficult.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - Field work was halted again this week due to frequent rain showers and thunderstorms. Despite the wet weather, the corn crop is taking advantage of the intermittent sun. Soybeans are turning slightly yellow. Second cuttings of grass and alfalfa are nearly impossible.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - Farmers are applying weed control to spring planted crops. The freeze from late May and early June caused damage to the strawberries, apples and peaches.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dave Reedy (FSA) - It was another wet and cold week. Good hay making weather is in the forecast, and warmer temperatures will get us back on track in the growing season.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - It was difficult to make hay with all the rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Much needed rains arrived this week, however most of the rain was absorbed by the previous dry soil conditions.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Showers again this week slowed haymaking and the harvest of barley. Barley that has been harvested is good quality. Lodging is a problem with a resulting loss of yield that makes this an average crop thus far.

INDIANA COUNTY, DAVID B. OVERDORFF - I have not made any more hay since the first cutting back about a month ago. The weather has not been cooperating.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Blue mold has surfaced in the tobacco crop, which will be a challenge to manage if this wet weather continues. Corn stands are variable, as slugs and wet soils continue to reduce stands.

LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby - Soils are supersaturated with water, making field work nearly impossible. Much of the first cutting of hay is lost.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P.RUST - Monday and Tuesday were excellent days for hay making. Sweet corn tassels appeared June 16.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The soil is saturated. One needs to be careful with field activities for the fear of swamping. The crop conditions continue to deteriorate; however, the second cutting of alfalfa is doing well.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Some field work was possible Monday thru Wednesday. Rain has the tractors sitting idle. Flooding has some low lying fields under water.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Three fair weather days to start the week allowed for some dry hay to be baled. Warm, wet conditions have been excellent for corn and soybean growth. Many early planted corn fields have somewhat spotty stands.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 21, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	96	99	99
Corn, emerged	91	93	95
Corn average height, inches	18	16	21
Barley, turning yellow	97	95	95
Barley, ripe	58	56	61
Barley, harvested	13	19	21
Wheat, turning yellow	51	64	68
Oats, heading or headed	54	59	56
Soybeans, planted	86	91	94
Soybeans, emerged	74	80	80
Tobacco, transplanted	92	98	95
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	84	90	87
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	8	9	14
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	59	67	64

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 21, 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	25	52	19
Wheat	1	4	38	39	18
Oats	0	2	18	59	21
Soybeans	1	3	38	44	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	4	15	56	24
Timothy clover stand	0	2	15	66	17
Quality of hay made	1	11	23	55	10
Pasture	3	3	14	51	29
Peaches	0	6	10	61	23
Apples	0	1	5	74	20

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