



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 11, 2010

Issued weekly, April-November

Released July 12, 2010, 4 pm

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Excellent Week for Field Work: The extremely hot temperatures, humidity levels, and drought conditions this week have damagingly hurt most of the crops, especially corn and soybeans. The hot and dry conditions were great for making dry hay and harvesting winter wheat in most areas. Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were haymaking, straw baling and harvesting winter wheat, barley and sweet corn.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 10, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
33	38	29	0

Crop Progress: The average corn silked is 21%, compared to last year's 19% and the 5 year average of 16%. The average corn height is 58 inches tall, compared to last year's 46 inches, and the 5 year average of 52 inches. Winter wheat is 99% ripe, ahead of both last year's and the average of 90%. The wheat harvest has begun at 87% harvested, well ahead of both last year's estimate of 44% and the average of 46%. Oats are 67% yellowed, which is also ahead of last year's 16% and the average of 33%. Ripe Oats are at 28%, ahead of the 5 year average of 4% and last year's 2%. Harvested oats are at 10% way ahead of last year and the 5 year average of zero. Soybean Blooming is at 33% ahead of a 5% average. Soybean pod setting is at 5% ahead of both last year and the 5 year average of zero. Alfalfa second cutting is 92%, compared to 62% last year and the 63% average. Alfalfa third cutting is at 23% well ahead of last year's 4% and the 6% average. The Timothy/Clover first cutting is 99% complete, compared to 94% last year, and the average of 92%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is at 22% with 18% last year and still above the 13% average.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn condition is 8% very poor, 20% poor, 31% fair, 32% good, and 9% excellent. Wheat condition is 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 58% good, and 25% excellent. Oat condition is 4% poor, 19% fair, 55% good, and 22% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 3% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 47% good, and 6% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 7% poor, 27% fair, 47% good, and 18% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are 8% poor, 29% fair, 56% good, and 7% excellent. The quality of hay made is 2% very poor, 9% poor, 26% fair, 38% good, and 25% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 15% very poor, 20% poor, 38% fair, 25% good and 2% excellent. Peach conditions are 1%

poor, 3% fair, 57% good, and 39% excellent. Apple conditions are 4% poor, 19% fair, 44% good, and 33% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 4, 2010: Near to above average temperatures prevailed across much of the country during the week, promoting winter wheat harvesting in the Great Plains and helping to dry previously soggy corn and soybean fields in areas of the Corn Belt. Although rainfall in portions of the Southeast helped to alleviate declining crop conditions and improve soil moisture levels, hot temperatures throughout much of the region continued to deplete the dry soil. Elsewhere, abundant rainfall in southern Texas brought on by Hurricane Alex provided much needed moisture for heat-stressed crops in some areas and led to head sprouting in sorghum fields in others. **Corn:** Nationally, 19 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage by week's end, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. While silking was at or on a near-normal pace in Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, above average temperatures coupled with adequate soil moisture levels in recent week had pushed progress to 27 and 23 percentage points ahead of normal in Illinois and Indiana, respectively. Overall, 71 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but equal to the same time last year. In Iowa, the percentage of the crop rated good to excellent declined 7 points from last week as excessive rainfall in previous weeks led to increased yellowing in some fields and poor emergence or drowned plants in others. **Soybeans:** By July 4, soybean emergence had advanced to 97 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year but on par with the 5-year average. Blooming advanced 14 percentage points during the week as mostly warm temperatures and adequate soil moisture levels provided ideal growing conditions across much of the major soybean-producing regions. By week's end, 23 percent of the 2010 soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 66 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but equal to the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers had harvested 54 percent of this year's winter wheat crop by week's end, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. With over five days suitable for fieldwork, harvest was most active in Indiana and Ohio, where 34 and 40 percent of the winter wheat crop was combined during the week, respectively. Overall, 63 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition as harvest surpassed the midpoint, down slightly from ratings last week but 16 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 11, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 11, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	63	78	8	1.22	2	11.38	-0.65	41	1,376	386	2,294
Franklin	95	56	77	8	1.14	1	13.02	-0.75	39	1,315	364	2,234
Meadville	92	57	76	8	1.02	2	13.30	0.06	47	1,249	391	2,162
Mercer	92	57	76	8	1.02	2	13.51	0.15	47	1,320	375	2,250
Springboro	92	57	75	5	1.41	1	15.37	3.57	41	1,157	152	2,027
Warren	94	55	75	6	1.46	1	12.15	-1.80	37	1,185	266	2,085
North Central												
Bradford Region	89	45	71	7	1.32	1	11.82	-2.32	39	958	309	1,803
Oswayo	93	46	72	7	1.79	2	12.75	-0.97	42	954	211	1,786
Kane	90	47	72	8	0.98	1	11.48	-2.73	38	942	301	1,777
Laporte	93	57	76	8	1.24	2	9.72	-3.62	50	1,148	200	2,029
Lock Haven	98	56	79	9	0.60	1	9.07	-3.84	31	1,441	420	2,399
Port Allegany	92	51	73	8	0.61	1	11.04	-2.68	39	1,044	301	1,905
Renovo	97	56	78	8	1.70	1	11.19	-1.72	36	1,382	361	2,338
Ridgway	93	48	73	8	0.40	1	10.53	-3.69	39	1,042	308	1,914
Stevenson Dam	95	55	77	12	1.10	1	10.78	-3.44	37	1,285	551	2,222
Towanda	96	56	77	8	0.80	1	8.84	-2.23	35	1,218	257	2,139
Wellsboro	92	56	75	10	1.02	1	9.60	-1.51	36	1,044	362	1,922
Williamsport	99	58	81	10	1.40	1	9.37	-3.54	32	1,639	493	2,627
Northeast												
Hawley	96	56	77	10	0.85	2	10.06	-2.36	34	1,116	326	2,000
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	96	58	80	9	0.27	2	6.95	-5.08	31	1,482	402	2,422
Susquehanna	94	58	77	11	2.35	3	11.26	-1.95	42	1,190	436	2,100
West Central												
Butler	93	54	74	5	1.06	1	16.13	2.97	42	1,283	288	2,212
New Castle	96	58	78	8	0.19	1	13.17	1.08	39	1,425	426	2,369
Slippery Rock	96	54	75	8	0.47	1	12.49	-0.38	44	1,332	435	2,273
Central												
Altoona/Blair	94	56	77	7	0.47	1	11.65	-0.48	38	1,450	359	2,400
DuBois	92	54	76	7	0.43	1	11.51	-1.98	42	1,275	349	2,206
Lewistown	100	58	81	9	0.68	1	9.32	-3.59	35	1,522	320	2,503
Middletown	100	67	83	8	1.61	3	12.57	-0.10	29	1,778	410	2,779
Prince Gallitzi	93	51	75	8	1.02	1	12.80	-2.34	40	1,132	288	2,050
Selinsgrove	100	59	81	9	1.05	1	6.31	-6.72	25	1,483	372	2,452
State College	94	58	79	9	2.12	1	9.38	-2.56	34	1,480	407	2,438
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	101	64	82	9	5.69	2	15.20	2.30	30	1,587	347	2,557
Lehighton	99	59	80	7	0.43	2	11.16	-1.76	32	1,421	237	2,384
Matamoras	97	56	77	7	0.65	2	10.07	-3.60	32	1,275	213	2,202
Mt_Pocono	94	60	76	12	0.08	2	9.68	-4.64	38	1,202	524	2,104
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	93	62	79	8	0.91	1	12.33	-0.28	40	1,658	564	2,621
Indiana_PA	92	55	75	6	1.12	1	13.29	-1.23	46	1,291	235	2,230
Myersdale	89	49	71	2	0.49	1	10.69	-3.34	43	995	9	1,881
Mount Pleasant	91	55	75	7	2.20	1	13.59	-1.00	37	1,394	510	2,330
Pittsburgh Intl	93	59	79	8	1.64	1	13.72	1.88	37	1,593	437	2,552
Connellsville	96	57	77	6	2.59	1	13.69	-0.17	44	1,534	347	2,493
Waynesburg	91	57	76	6	0.31	1	13.11	0.36	36	1,427	369	2,367
South Central												
Biglerville	97	65	82	8	0.14	2	7.93	-3.80	25	1,639	288	2,620
Everett	97	51	77	6	1.07	1	9.84	-1.71	35	1,315	254	2,260
Hanover	99	61	79	5	0.21	2	6.92	-4.81	30	1,621	270	2,599
Harrisburg_AP	100	63	82	7	1.02	3	12.40	-0.27	32	1,737	362	2,731
South Mountain	94	55	76	6	0.23	1	7.09	-5.04	29	1,293	209	2,229
York	97	61	79	6	0.66	3	7.56	-5.40	32	1,578	230	2,551
Southeast												
Green Lane	101	65	82	9	1.19	2	9.74	-2.76	32	1,641	469	2,631
Hamburg	101	65	83	12	1.35	2	11.10	-4.09	31	1,631	577	2,615
West_Chester	102	60	81	7	3.33	2	11.69	-2.40	26	1,611	277	2,591
Lancaster	101	65	82	9	1.29	3	8.42	-4.59	31	1,675	432	2,656
Neshaminy Falls	103	64	81	9	0.38	2	7.72	-6.61	32	1,689	449	2,686
New Holland	101	66	82	9	1.40	2	9.53	-3.48	30	1,677	434	2,657
Philadelphia	103	73	85	10	0.55	2	7.78	-4.85	29	2,056	606	3,073
Philadelphia NE	104	70	85	9	1.15	1	7.72	-4.91	42	1,895	445	2,903
Reading	102	66	83	11	0.44	2	10.30	-3.73	32	1,805	594	2,804
Sellersville	100	58	80	8	1.22	2	10.90	-1.60	33	1,511	339	2,475
Willow Grove	101	70	83	11	1.12	2	8.39	-5.94	28	1,776	536	2,775

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 a hot and humid week of weather. Most mornings started in the mid to high 70's and daytime temperatures were 90-103 degrees. Thursday evening some areas received a light shower of rain and other areas received nothing. Saturday morning another shower was received. Some areas had 1/2 inch but were already too dry so it was hard to see what 1/2 inch did for the crops. Most crops are showing drought stress. A lot of the corn is already done for the year and turning brown. Various maturity levels within the fields are apparent throughout the county. Soybeans are starting to show drought affects also. Hay is still being baled with some producers now finished and the fields are brown. Wheat harvest is completed with some producers having good quality wheat and others having vomitoxin affecting quality. Fruit crops continue to progress and most producers are irrigating. Sweet corn is being harvested and other vegetables are also coming along. We need rain badly.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - We received a much needed rain over the weekend. All areas of the county got rain, some as much as 2.5 inches. Some of the earlier corn is in tassel; early beans have started to flower. Most of the wheat is harvested, oats began last week. Sweet corn harvest began in earnest at the end of the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Friday showers were badly needed, having 1 inch in my rain gage. We need additional rain to get top soil moisture levels back to where crop stress is reduced.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - The counties are very dry. It rained on Friday with 0.25 inch that fell. Crops over all appear to be in excellent condition. Winter wheat is being harvested and hearing that yields are from 75 to 95 bushels per acre.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Good week for finishing hay and grass silage making. Much needed rains came in on Friday helping to give crops a boost. Corn and soybeans were showing signs of stress from the previous dry weather. Livestock producers that are rotating pastures are in much better shape than producers that are only utilizing one area.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Eugene Sweigard - We are now in drought conditions.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - One shower in parts of the area this week did nothing to slow the rapid decline in the quality of the crops due to extremely hot temperatures and drying winds. The heat has been hard on the crops and livestock. We need a change to cool and damp weather soon.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - Well we finally got the much needed rain for the crops. The 2 week dry spell with the hot and humid weather streak finally broke last Friday evening. Received 1 inch of rain that was well needed. All of the oats turned yellow with a tint of green showing. The corn is really growing and looks better since the rain. The soybeans are taking off now too. Hope everyone has a safe farming work week.

JUNIATA COUNTY Greg Hostettler - Extremely dry conditions this week. Corn is turning brown in some locations.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Settler - Friday night 0.5 inch of much needed rain helped break the heat and put life back in the grain and hay fields.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart - Heat and continued dry weather have taken a toll on all crops. Corn is short and starting to tassel in many areas because of the drought stress. One positive of the dry weather is that it has inhibited any disease development.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill - Rain is badly needed because corn is losing yield potential rapidly. Soybeans seem to be doing much better thus far.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Excellent week for wheat harvest with the 90+ degrees of heat for five days in a row. Many wheat producers reporting yields of 60 to 85 bushels and many having wheat moisture as low as 11.2% on Wednesday. Many of the elevators are testing for wheat toxins because vomitoxin is the one of main concern. Local producers of sweet corn started to harvest and market. The rain on Friday resulted in 0.6 inch of rainfall. The county still needs more rain.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger - Ground is very dry, even after 1.2 inches of rain Saturday night.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr - Rainfall touched most of the county over the weekend. Amounts varied from 0.5 inch to 3 inches. Hot, breezy conditions dried out the topsoil over the weekend and most areas are back to needing moisture today. Third cutting alfalfa will be very short throughout the county and corn and soybean yield estimates are well below county averages.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The conditions of the corn and soybeans continued to deteriorate as the heat and dry weather continued into Friday night; when most areas had significant rainfall. However, the rainfall was not enough to solve the drought conditions. Some of the corn is beyond recovery. The third cutting of alfalfa is next to nothing. Many farmers kept their cattle inside during the day, and the pastures have dried up. Grain harvesting and baling hay and straw were the main activities for the week.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Very hot and humid this past week. Corn and other crops are still showing signs of stress. Some very much needed rain came Friday evening having anywhere from 0.8 inch on our hill to 1.5 inches in the valleys. The first corn tassels were spotted Sunday afternoon.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA) - The entire county needs rain badly. Three-fourths is very dry and corn is curling. The southeast corner had showers a while back so corn is doing better but not for long, if rain doesn't come soon. Hay needs moisture now if there is to be a second crop for grass hay and third and fourth for alfalfa.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NR) - Some much needed rain came on Friday. Corn and soybeans are under severe stress due to very hot, dry conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 11, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	21	19	16
Corn average height, inches	58	46	52
Wheat, ripe	99	90	90
Wheat, harvested	87	44	46
Oats, turning yellow	68	16	33
Oats, ripe	28	2	4
Oats, harvested	10	0	0
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	92	62	63
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	23	4	6
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	99	94	92
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	22	18	13

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 11, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	8	20	31	32	9
Wheat	1	1	15	58	25
Oats	0	4	19	55	22
Soybeans	3	12	32	47	6
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	7	27	47	18
Timothy clover stand	0	8	29	56	7
Quality of hay made	2	9	26	38	25
Pasture	15	20	38	25	2
Peaches	0	1	3	57	39
Apples	0	4	19	44	33

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