



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 17, 2011

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Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 7 days suitable for field work. The hot and dry weather continued to punish the majority of the state this week. While the heat and dry conditions are weighing heavily on many producers' minds some counties also have the potato leafhopper, grass hopper, and spider mites to try and protect their crops from. Primary field activities for the week included applying fertilizer, spraying insecticides, baling hay, and spreading fertilizer.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 17, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
37	36	27	0

Crop Progress: Corn has begun to silk and is at 31% compared to 49% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 37%. Corn has reached a measurable height of 62 inches, compared to 68 inches last year, and an average of 64 inches. Winter Wheat harvest is 87% complete compared to 88% a year ago and the average of 79%. Oats are 94% headed, behind last year's 99% and the average of 98%. Oats are 22% yellow compared to last year's 85% and the average of 63%. Oats are 6% ripe, behind the 38% at this time last year and the average of 17%. The second cutting of alfalfa is 88% completed, compared to 94% last year, and the average of 78%. The third cutting of alfalfa is underway and is 9% complete, compared to the 27% last year and the 5-year average of 14%. Timothy/Clover first cutting is 99% complete, about the same as this time last year, but ahead of the average of 95%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 37% complete, slightly behind last year's 38%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 24%. Peach harvesting is underway and is 10% complete, compared to 21% at this time last year and the average of 15%. Apple harvesting has begun and is 5% complete slightly ahead of the 4% last year and the average of 3%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 4% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 46% good, and 12% excellent. Oats conditions are; 0% very poor, 16% poor, 34% fair, 45% good, and 5% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 7% poor, 24% fair, 56% good, and 12% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 66% good, and 6% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 1% very poor, 8% poor, 26% fair, 31% good, and 34% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 28% very poor, 15% poor, 33% fair, 22% good and 2% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 5% fair, 52% good and 43% excellent. Apple conditions are; 6% very poor, 11% poor, 17% fair, 51% good and 15% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 10, 2011: While near normal temperatures, sunshine, and abundant soil moisture reserves provided almost ideal conditions for corn and soybean development in the Midwest, relentlessly hot, dry weather persisted on the southern Plains, where temperatures exceeded

the century mark several days during the week. Tropical moisture provided some relief to the unusually dry Mid Atlantic Coast and Southeast regions of the country, with rainfall totals surpassing 400 percent of normal in some locations. Similarly, monsoon showers in the Southwest dumped 2 to 3 inches of rainfall on Arizona during the week.

Corn: By week's end, 14 percent of the Nation's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 22 percentage points behind last year and 12 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Despite nearly ideal growing conditions throughout much of the Midwest, silking delays of 12 percentage points or more behind normal were evident in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, the five largest corn-producing States. Overall, 69 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 4 percentage points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** Warm, sunny weather promoted rapid development of the United States soybean crop during the week, with double-digit blooming progress evident in 13 of the 18 major estimating States. At 21 percent complete, blooming was 17 percentage points behind last year and 12 percentage points behind normal due to planting delays earlier in the season. Overall, 66 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but slightly below the same time last year.

Winter Wheat: By week's end, producers had harvested 63 percent of this year's winter wheat crop, slightly ahead of last year but on par with the 5-year average. The most significant progress was evident in Indiana and Ohio, where producers utilized nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 41 and 65 percent of their crop, respectively. In Kansas, the largest winter wheat-producing State, the harvest pace was slightly ahead of both last year and the average.

Small Grains: Three-quarters of this year's oat crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end, 19 percentage points behind last year and 17 percentage points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in North Dakota, where despite improved weather conditions in recent weeks, heading had yet to begin and was 74 percentage points behind normal. In Wisconsin, above-average temperatures promoted a surge in crop growth, while producers harvested portions of their oat crop for silage. With activity limited to Iowa and Texas, 9 percent of the Nation's oat crop was harvested by July 10, two percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Overall, 60 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from ratings last week but 20 percentage points below the same time last year. By week's end, emergence of this year's barley crop was complete, with 25 percent of the crop at or beyond the heading stage, 38 percentage points behind last year and 42 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Heading had yet to begin in North Dakota and was 75 percentage points behind normal. Overall, 76 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 9 percentage points below the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 17, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 17, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	90	58	76	5	0.01	1	17.78	5.09	55	1,347	231	2,273
Franklin_AG	92	54	74	4	0.08	3	17.09	2.36	58	1,383	312	2,318
Meadville-Port	87	56	74	7	0.08	2	18.39	4.31	62	1,406	434	2,337
Mercer	89	55	73	4	0.18	1	17.51	3.34	69	1,362	297	2,319
Springboro	88	50	72	1	0.08	2	17.79	5.23	61	1,172	41	2,072
Warren	90	52	71	2	0.03	1	17.83	3.10	58	1,235	196	2,157
North Central												
Bradford Region	84	46	68	4	0.03	1	19.74	4.78	65	1,039	300	1,903
Oswayo	88	37	67	2	0.00	0	17.24	2.76	56	1,054	215	1,938
Kane	89	48	70	6	0.04	1	21.85	6.83	54	1,026	295	1,903
Laporte	86	53	71	0	0.05	2	27.58	13.49	60	1,127	59	2,019
Lock Haven	95	55	75	5	0.04	1	15.37	1.71	49	1,521	374	2,487
Port Allegany	89	50	70	5	0.00	0	18.55	4.07	55	1,134	295	2,024
Renovo	94	53	73	3	0.07	1	18.52	4.86	58	1,476	329	2,436
Ridgway	89	44	69	3	0.14	2	16.35	1.23	57	1,141	305	2,057
Stevenson Dam	93	53	73	7	0.14	1	19.06	3.94	53	1,377	541	2,318
Towanda	89	53	72	2	0.00	0	22.90	11.23	50	1,310	229	2,245
Wellsboro	89	50	71	5	0.05	1	17.74	5.97	59	1,094	316	1,972
Williamsport	94	56	75	3	0.09	1	21.31	7.62	48	1,627	349	2,617
Northeast												
Hawley	88	52	70	3	0.00	0	24.39	11.31	52	1,154	256	2,076
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	91	56	74	3	0.02	1	18.01	5.25	55	1,482	270	2,453
Susquehanna	88	53	71	5	0.00	0	19.67	5.69	53	1,225	366	2,150
West Central												
Butler	90	53	73	3	0.13	2	14.68	0.74	57	1,432	316	2,407
New Castle	97	55	76	7	0.13	2	17.48	4.61	58	1,538	413	2,515
Slippery Rock	93	53	74	6	0.01	1	15.72	2.07	53	1,411	400	2,379
Central												
Altoona/Blair	94	53	74	4	0.03	1	14.19	1.36	47	1,617	400	2,602
DuBois	88	52	72	3	0.06	3	17.50	3.29	56	1,310	270	2,245
Lewistown	94	56	76	4	0.00	0	18.75	5.04	44	1,642	302	2,642
Middletown	93	63	78	3	0.00	0	20.82	7.43	44	1,822	298	2,855
Prince Gallitzi	90	49	72	4	0.00	0	13.86	-2.24	51	1,319	367	2,247
Selinsgrove	92	57	74	3	0.02	1	20.06	6.31	55	1,527	284	2,507
State College	91	58	75	4	0.00	0	15.39	2.73	45	1,540	341	2,506
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	92	59	76	3	0.00	0	16.47	2.79	46	1,692	308	2,703
Lehighton	90	56	74	0	0.05	1	18.19	4.44	51	1,449	124	2,439
Matamoras	89	54	71	-2	0.03	1	22.75	8.24	52	1,257	63	2,209
MT_Pocono	86	55	71	6	0.03	1	24.07	8.91	53	1,220	446	2,146
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	93	61	77	6	0.15	1	12.05	-1.34	60	1,719	495	2,731
Indiana_PA	88	54	73	3	0.18	1	17.64	2.15	68	1,492	313	2,468
Myersdale	86	50	67	-3	0.06	1	18.26	3.21	59	1,117	11	2,048
Chalk_Hill	86	49	67	-6	1.62	1	28.02	13.26	64	1,163	-156	2,107
Pittsburgh Intl	90	61	76	4	0.16	1	12.87	0.31	53	1,677	389	2,685
Connellsville	92	55	73	2	0.20	1	17.50	2.74	69	1,601	282	2,606
Waynesburg	90	56	72	2	0.56	1	23.67	10.08	57	1,506	322	2,510
South Central												
Biglerville	94	57	76	1	0.06	1	17.81	5.48	42	1,725	224	2,743
Everett	92	52	71	0	0.17	1	19.16	6.89	48	1,411	224	2,397
Hanover	92	58	75	-1	0.00	0	13.96	1.63	43	1,723	222	2,735
Harrisburg_AP	93	61	77	2	0.00	0	18.88	5.49	40	1,825	294	2,856
South Mountain	88	56	72	2	0.00	0	15.85	3.02	48	1,390	180	2,364
York	93	55	75	0	0.87	1	15.33	1.66	44	1,738	241	2,767
Southeast												
Green Lane	92	60	76	4	0.03	1	15.00	1.66	47	1,702	390	2,720
Hamburg	93	60	77	5	0.00	0	15.81	-0.32	50	1,677	491	2,683
West_Chester	92	58	76	2	0.00	0	11.37	-3.66	35	1,726	242	2,747
Lancaster	90	59	76	3	0.02	1	17.07	3.16	46	1,772	385	2,794
Neshaminy Falls	93	59	77	4	0.00	0	14.89	-0.51	35	1,801	417	2,822
New Holland	92	60	76	3	0.19	1	16.30	2.39	45	1,754	367	2,767
Philadelphia	94	67	81	5	0.00	0	11.26	-2.21	35	2,098	486	3,146
Philadelphia NE	94	62	79	3	0.00	0	13.46	-0.01	37	1,924	312	2,965
Reading	94	61	78	5	0.00	0	14.90	0.03	47	1,873	518	2,909
Sellersville	90	57	75	3	0.00	0	16.37	3.03	46	1,578	266	2,576
Doylestown_AG	92	61	77	3	0.00	0	14.87	-0.53	43	1,793	409	2,823

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

Some areas received 0.7" of rainfall Monday evening where others received 0.2" or no rainfall. Rainfall has been sporadic around the county again this year causing for concern of being so dry so early in the growing season. Corn and soybeans that are planted continue to grow. The rainfall the end of last week was really beneficial and has helped the crops a lot but we need some more rainfall to continue the growth. Double-cropped soybeans are still being planted this week after wheat is harvested. Hay continues to be made. Fruit crops continue to mature and are sizing up nicely. Some early peaches, plums, apricots and apples are being picked. Sweet corn is just starting to be picked and other vegetables are also being harvested. Overall, the producers are still busy with fieldwork and are hoping some beneficial rainfall soon comes to help all producers.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

The apple crop has mediocre fresh market potential. Over thinning, hail, and apple scab disease are the main problems. These issues are substantial in some orchards.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, David Stolz

The northern half of Cambria County is very dry. In Somerset only small pockets are dry; most of Somerset soil moisture is fair.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

No rain for the week, this was good for grain harvesting but not good for growing crops. Very dry top soil at this time.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

The counties are very dry. Rain is needed. Corn leaves are curling, second crop hay very short, fields are looking brown, oats crop very short, wheat coming off with lower yields than last year.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

No rain and high temperatures this week, I saw producers working on second cutting hay and spreading fertilizer on hay fields. Crops are in various stages around the county from corn knee high to tassel.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

Soils becoming dry. Hot temperatures during day reveal many fields showing droughty conditions. Quite a lot of variability across fields due to soil compaction and wet conditions at planting. Potato leafhopper numbers at very high levels in alfalfa and soybeans. Soybeans are also experiencing high levels of grasshoppers. Corn maturity varies widely from beginning grain fill to V 6 stage.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy L Lewis

Producers are reporting corn planted later is growing and anticipate a good yield. Sweet cherries are being reported as a disaster.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Dry and warm but still enough moisture to keep corn growing, receiving only very spotty light showers. Corn is in tassel and silk this week. Third cutting of alfalfa will be short. Pastures are now showing signs of drought and hot weather. Starting early apple harvest and freestone peaches. Some quality problems with early hail, but not much stink bug problems yet.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

NEED RAIN! The crops are drying up! Great weather for making hay, if you have any grass that grew after the first cutting. Monday and Tuesday are the only days this week that look like any chance for rain. Then it's back into the hot 90's the rest of the week. Everyone have a safe work week and keep cool and out of the hot sun.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Drought is starting to take its toll on field crops and forages. I am seeing spider mites in some soybean fields. Hope for widespread showers this week.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

A great week to cut and bale alfalfa and finish small grain harvest. Double-crop soybeans were still being planted. Corn is showing signs of stress from the dry weather.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

We received no rain this week. Again some of the rains went north and south of central Mercer County. All crops are under extreme stress and most crops like corn, soybeans, and all vegetables by 2 o'clock show signs of stress by curling up of the leaves. Pastures are brown with no re-growth. Local sweet corn harvesting has started this week. Many farmers top-dressed hay fields with fertilizer the past few weeks and have had no rain for fertilization activation. Wheat harvesting is almost complete.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The heat has set in and the crops on the droughty soils are suffering extensively. Wheat harvest is near completion as well as the second cutting of hay. Spraying for leafhoppers is taking place. The main activities for the week were spraying, harvesting and baling hay and straw.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

What a difference a week makes. Last week the county farmers were dodging mud holes. This week they are fighting the dust. Lots of dry hay made and corn side dressed with nitrogen.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

Conditions are very dry here - hot, hot, hot. Corn showing signs of stress.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Received about 0.5 inches of much-needed rain on Monday improving the condition of the corn and soybeans. Balance of week was dry allowing for wheat and hay harvest to continue.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 17, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	31	49	37
Corn average height, inches	62	68	64
Wheat, harvested	87	88	79
Oats, heading or headed	94	99	98
Oats, turning yellow	22	85	63
Oats, ripe	6	38	17
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	88	94	78
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	9	27	14
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	99	99	95
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	37	38	24
Peaches, harvested	10	21	15
Apples, harvested	5	4	3

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 17, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	7	31	46	12
Oats	0	16	34	45	5
Soybeans	1	7	24	56	12
Timothy clover stand	1	4	23	66	6
Quality of hay made	1	8	26	31	34
Pasture	28	15	33	22	2
Peaches	0	0	5	52	43
Apples	6	11	17	51	15

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