



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending July 15, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

Released July 16, 2012, 4 pm

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Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. The week consisted of mostly sunny days with a few showers over the weekend. Field activities for the week included harvesting and baling straw, spreading manure and machinery maintenance.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 15, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
51	40	9	0

Crop Progress: Corn silking continues and is 52% complete, ahead of last year's 25% and the 5-year average of 28%. Corn height is 67 inches, ahead of 59 inches last year and the average of 58 inches. Winter wheat harvest continues and is 95% complete, compared with 82% last year and the average of 77%. Oats are 99% headed, compared with 93% last year and the average of 96%. Oats are 85% yellow, ahead of 19% at this time last year and the average of 49%. Oats are 36% ripe, compared with 4% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 11%. Oats harvest continues and is 14% complete, compared with 1% last year and the average of 4%. Second cutting alfalfa continues and is 93% complete, ahead of last year's 84% and the average of 80%. Third cutting alfalfa continues and is 29% complete ahead of last year's 8% and the 5-year average of 12%. The second cutting of timothy/clover continues and is 64% complete, ahead of last year's 30% and the 5-year average of 23%. The peach harvest continues and is 35% complete compared with 8% last year and the 5-year average of 11%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 11% poor, 45% fair, 30% good, and 9% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 51% good, and 24% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 9% poor, 41% fair, 42% good, and 8% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 33% fair, 39% good and 27% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 16% very poor, 40% poor, 31% fair, 8% good and 5% excellent. Peach conditions are; 2% very poor, 3% poor, 27% fair, 38% good, and 30% excellent. Apple conditions are; 2% very poor, 1% poor, 14% fair, 47% good, and 36% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 8, 2012: Temperatures across much of the Corn Belt averaged at least 9°F above normal during the week, compounding the effects of unusually dry soils. Maximum temperatures for much of the region reached well into the triple digits during the week, setting numerous daily records. Rainfall was spotty across much of the country, with most of the precipitation resulting from afternoon thunderstorms. Conversely, monsoon showers provided some relief to dry soils in the central and southern Rocky Mountains. **Corn:** One-quarter of this year's corn crop began silking during the week, leaving progress—at 50 percent complete—39 percentage points ahead of last year and 31 points ahead of

the 5-year average. Double digit progress was evident in 14 of the 18 major estimating states, as above-average temperatures continued to promote rapid crop development. Overall, 40 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 8 percentage points from last week and 29 points below the same time last year. In Iowa, condition ratings declined 16 points from last week, as temperatures statewide averaged more than 10°F above normal and rainfall totaled less than 0.10 inch. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 44 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 27 percentage points ahead of last year and 19 points ahead of the 5-year average. Blooming was rapid throughout much of the major soybean-producing region during the week, with progress of 10 percentage points or more evident in all of the 18 major estimating states except North Carolina. Overall, 40 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 5 percentage points from last week and 26 points below the same time last year. Record-setting heat and extreme dryness centered over the Midwest led to further crop deterioration during the week. Poor emergence was reported in many double cropped soybean stands in Indiana, as dry soils limited germination. **Winter Wheat:** By week's end, 75 percent of the winter wheat crop was harvested, 17 percentage points ahead of last year and 19 points ahead of the 5-year average. As harvest neared completion in many states, mostly sunny skies and warm weather provided producers ample time for fieldwork. This was evidenced by harvest progress of 22 percentage points or more in Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota during the week. **Small Grains:** By week's end, oat producers had harvested 24 percent of this year's crop, 14 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. With above-average temperatures and sunny skies providing nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork, harvest progress advanced 20 percentage points or more in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Overall, 63 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week but 3 points better than the same time last year. With warm weather promoting rapid crop development, 82 percent of the barley crop was at or beyond the heading stage by July 8. This was 57 percentage points ahead of last year and 30 points ahead of the 5-year average. Double-digit progress was evident in all five major estimating states except Minnesota, where heading development was complete by week's end. Overall, 57 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 4 percentage points from last week and 19 points below the same time last year. Eighty-eight percent of the spring wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end, 64 percentage points ahead of last year and 33 points ahead of the 5-year average. In North Dakota, 70 percent of the crop was reported in the milk stage, with 27 percent of the crop turned, both well ahead of normal. Overall, 66 percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 5 percentage points from last week and 7 points below the same time last year. Condition ratings in Montana declined 12 percentage points during the week, as heat and drought damage was reported for crops in the central and southeastern regions of the state.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 15, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 15, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	88	60	74	3	0.33	1	7.72	-4.76	32	1,500	405	2,392
Franklin_AG	90	53	72	3	0.00	0	9.20	-5.26	39	1,387	336	2,276
Meadville-Port	87	57	73	5	0.00	0	8.83	-5.00	33	1,451	498	2,355
Clarion	86	52	70	2	0.00	0	10.86	-4.26	36	1,221	138	2,092
Springboro	87	51	69	-3	0.01	1	10.51	-1.84	36	1,251	141	2,105
Warren	89	53	72	3	0.07	1	9.48	-5.01	39	1,293	274	2,166
North Central												
Bradford Region	86	50	69	4	0.03	1	9.99	-4.73	40	1,152	428	2,008
Oswayo	85	46	69	4	0.09	1	9.27	-4.99	35	1,029	206	1,856
Kane	88	53	70	6	0.13	1	12.88	-1.89	40	1,044	328	1,876
Laporte	83	55	70	0	0.02	1	14.67	0.80	44	1,114	66	1,977
Lock Haven	91	57	75	5	0.01	1	11.03	-2.41	45	1,481	355	2,439
Coudersport_1SW	86	48	68	3	0.04	1	11.52	-2.74	45	1,034	211	1,863
Renovo	89	56	73	3	0.00	0	12.94	-0.50	39	1,440	314	2,389
Ridgway	89	51	70	5	0.00	0	10.20	-4.66	41	1,200	381	2,074
Stevenson Dam	89	55	73	7	0.03	1	10.45	-4.41	35	1,375	556	2,306
Towanda	89	52	73	3	0.09	1	11.17	-0.31	41	1,306	245	2,197
Wellsboro	86	50	69	3	0.01	1	10.00	-1.59	39	1,067	305	1,926
Williamsport	91	57	76	4	0.14	2	10.83	-2.63	42	1,611	355	2,582
Northeast												
Hawley	89	50	71	4	0.00	0	9.62	-3.25	37	1,158	278	2,026
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	91	57	76	5	0.03	2	11.12	-1.43	42	1,507	317	2,436
Susquehanna	89	53	72	6	0.17	3	12.67	-1.08	39	1,238	397	2,116
West Central												
Butler	89	55	73	3	0.00	0	8.84	-4.86	35	1,433	338	2,360
New Castle	90	56	73	3	0.24	1	9.64	-3.00	33	1,522	418	2,460
Slippery Rock	91	54	74	6	0.00	0	10.13	-3.28	34	1,464	472	2,394
Central												
Altoona/Blair	88	58	74	3	0.00	0	9.62	-2.99	34	1,573	377	2,541
DuBois	86	54	71	3	0.00	0	10.32	-3.66	37	1,332	311	2,236
Lewistown	91	61	77	4	0.08	2	12.36	-1.13	46	1,571	255	2,563
Middletown	92	65	79	4	0.28	1	12.06	-1.11	38	1,798	301	2,811
Prince Gallitzi	87	52	71	3	0.10	1	10.20	-5.60	34	1,267	333	2,180
Selinsgrove	91	61	76	5	0.22	4	10.75	-2.78	45	1,508	287	2,461
State College	89	60	75	5	0.10	3	11.82	-0.62	46	1,501	323	2,459
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	91	61	78	4	0.10	1	13.37	-0.07	37	1,659	299	2,645
Lehighton	88	60	75	2	0.09	1	13.89	0.38	43	1,388	87	2,341
Matamoras	89	57	75	4	0.19	3	13.12	-1.13	50	1,392	220	2,348
Mt_Pocono	85	52	72	6	0.01	1	13.60	-1.30	48	1,194	436	2,094
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	63	76	5	0.71	1	8.44	-4.72	36	1,779	578	2,758
Indiana_PA	88	55	72	3	0.41	3	10.95	-4.26	51	1,485	327	2,418
Myersdale	85	51	69	-2	2.56	2	12.02	-2.73	41	1,083	-3	1,973
Chalk_Hill	86	50	71	-2	0.54	2	11.34	-3.15	41	1,198	-98	2,096
Pittsburgh Intl	89	61	75	4	0.25	3	8.83	-3.50	34	1,714	449	2,684
Connellsville	89	58	73	1	0.48	2	10.74	-3.75	37	1,575	279	2,555
Waynesburg	91	55	74	3	0.26	2	6.68	-6.65	32	1,480	317	2,436
South Central												
Biglerville	89	62	77	3	0.02	1	12.28	0.16	41	1,672	197	2,672
Everett	88	54	72	1	0.27	2	12.38	0.33	43	1,354	188	2,300
Hanover	89	60	75	1	1.39	3	11.76	-0.36	43	1,617	142	2,606
Harrisburg_AP	91	64	78	3	0.56	2	12.60	-0.57	39	1,841	337	2,856
South Mountain	85	59	71	0	0.91	3	13.91	1.30	41	1,324	135	2,261
York	87	60	76	2	0.33	3	11.27	-2.18	44	1,634	163	2,608
Southeast												
Green Lane	90	63	77	4	0.07	1	12.36	-0.73	38	1,621	333	2,621
Hamburg	90	63	77	5	0.07	1	13.49	-2.38	41	1,599	435	2,586
West_Chester	90	61	76	2	1.45	3	11.65	-3.11	26	1,593	135	2,571
Lancaster	91	64	77	4	0.45	1	10.08	-3.57	32	1,719	357	2,708
Neshaminy Falls	91	64	77	4	1.44	2	13.12	-1.97	41	1,685	326	2,703
New Holland	91	65	78	5	1.18	2	12.94	-0.71	33	1,743	381	2,765
Philadelphia	92	69	81	5	0.48	3	9.32	-3.89	27	1,984	400	3,023
Philadelphia NE	90	66	78	2	0.17	2	9.40	-3.81	33	1,813	229	2,833
Reading	91	66	79	6	0.09	1	10.57	-4.04	37	1,814	483	2,822
Sellersville	90	62	76	4	0.08	2	12.10	-0.99	34	1,516	228	2,475
Doylestown_AG	91	65	78	5	0.09	1	12.54	-2.55	37	1,685	326	2,688

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 another hot and dry week. Temperatures started most mornings high 60's and daytime into the 90's. Some special areas got a little moisture Monday and Wednesday but very limited areas. Early Saturday morning we received 0.5" in the York Springs' area and again Sunday evening we received 0.2" and some other areas received more. Corn is burning up in the county. With the heat the past two weeks, not many acres of corn look very good. Some corn is starting to turn brown and has no ears. A lot of corn is getting ready to shoot tassel, but with no moisture it is not happening. If we do not get rain this weekend the producers will be chopping silage (all stalks) by end of July. Soybeans do not look as bad as corn, however those double-cropped after wheat and barley are not getting started too well without moisture. Hay continues to be made, mostly now second cutting or mulch hay. Peaches, apricots, plums and etc. continue to be harvested. Apples continue to be doing ok, however they need some moisture too. Fruit growers are irrigating some of their acreages. Vegetables are doing ok and some are being irrigated. Overall the producers are still busy in the fields, but they are really relying on some moisture soon. There will be a lot of farmers in trouble with not having feed for their livestock and/or none to sell, so it will put them in a bad financial situation.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Fruit continues to size well and is still 10 days to 2 weeks ahead of normal. Passing showers gave some of the growing area about 0.5" of rain, but with the hot conditions most growers are now actively irrigating.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Most of the county had rain over the weekend - the first in two weeks. Some areas had over 2 inches, but it came in thunderstorms and the ground was very hard. Some corn was beyond help and yields have already been reduced. Soybeans were planted later this year, for the most part, and should rebound with the rain. Most reported good wheat yields with high quality.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Crops are in bad need of rain. There was less than .1 inch for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

I am hearing that many farmers are getting about 40% of hay crop for 2nd cutting. The counties could surely use rain. It is very dry and row crops are starting to show stress.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

No rain during the week had farmers out in the fields baling second cutting hay and finishing fertilizing and spreading manure. The lack of rain has really put a stress on pastures. Quite a few producers are starting to supplement hay to make up for the poor pasture conditions.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Much needed rainfall was in the forecast for the weekend. Poor yields were received on second cutting of hay due to lack of rainfall.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Spotty showers gave some relief to the hot dry weather, but still much of the area did not receive any rain until Sunday. Generally about 2 inches of rain this week (late on Sunday) will help in the county. Corn and pastures are suffering the most, while hay has shown no re-growth since last cutting. Milk production is off as well.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Well, all the crops are still hanging on. We received a little rain this past week. Everything still needs a drink of water. We only got 0.25" of rain this past week. I should be cutting oats this week. I have about 25 acres ready. The corn that is in tassel, when it is in the ear making stage, needs rain right now. The soybeans are surviving but need water too. There are some chances of rain this week. Hope everyone has a safe farming week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart

Continued hot and dry weather is taking a toll on crop yields. Corn has really started to show stress this week and beans are not growing very much. Hay quality was great but yields are low, even alfalfa is starting to show signs of water stress. Thankfully the intense heat has subsided but rain is desperately needed in the next few days to save overall crop yields.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Most areas of Lancaster County received an inch of rain over the weekend - what a blessing!!

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

Some areas had 0.8 of an inch of rain this past week but the very humid 90 degree weather dried it up quickly. A few areas of corn are brown and it appears that no amount of rain can help it. The soybean crop is hanging in there yet. Third cutting of alfalfa yielded about 1/2 of the previous cuttings. Small grain harvest is pretty much completed and the straw is baled.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Still no rainfall for the week. Farmers are reporting second cutting of hay only yielding 10-15 small square bales per acre. Some area peach orchards are reporting zero peaches. Apples are between a 10-30% harvestable crop. Sweet corn ears keep getting smaller with each new patch due to lack of rain.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The condition of the corn and soybeans continues to deteriorate each day as we go without rain and have above normal temperatures. Oats harvest is winding down, with the yields being above normal. The third cutting of alfalfa will be non-existent if we don't get rain. The activities for the week were harvesting and baling straw.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Extremely light, spotty rain showers did very little to change the abnormally dry conditions now covering the entire county. Some significant corn, soybean, and hay production could be saved with substantial moisture in the next week or so.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 15, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	52	25	28
Corn average height, inches	67	59	58
Wheat, harvested	95	82	77
Oats, heading or headed	99	93	96
Oats, turning yellow	85	19	49
Oats, ripe	36	4	11
Oats, harvested	14	1	4
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	93	84	80
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	29	8	12
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	64	30	23
Peaches, harvested	35	8	11

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 15, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	11	45	30	9
Oats	0	5	20	51	24
Soybeans	0	9	41	42	8
Quality of hay made	0	1	33	39	27
Pasture	16	40	31	8	5
Peaches	2	3	27	38	30
Apples	2	1	14	47	36

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 Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
 Harrisburg PA 17112

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