



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending August 19, 2007

Issued weekly, April-November

Released August 20, 2007, 4 pm

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**Good week for Field Work:** Last week's reasonable weather allowed many pastures to recover from the previous weeks of hot weather. Many counties received some light showers towards the end of the week. For many fields the rain was just what it needed to relieve the drought stress. Farmers took advantage of the good weather to get some fall plowing started. So far 15 percent of the fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, fall plowing, spreading lime and manure, hauling water to fields and livestock, repairing equipment, making hay, chopping corn for silage, and harvesting oats, potatoes, tobacco, apples, and peaches.

#### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 19, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
27	27	42	4

**Crops:** Ninety-three percent of Pennsylvania's corn crop has entered the silk stage. This is 7 percentage points lower than the previous year and 1 point higher than the 5-year average. Fifty-four percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 20 points lower than this time last year and 6 points lower than the 5-year average. Twenty-five percent of the corn has now entered the dent stage. This is 14 percentage points lower than this time last year and 1 point higher than the 5-year average. Corn conditions show that 48 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Now that the oat crop is fully yellow, 98 percent of those oats are now ripe. Eighty-eight percent of the oat crop has been harvested. This is 5 percentage points lower than this time last year and 9 points higher than the 5-year average. Nine percent of the potato crop has been harvested. This year's potato harvest is behind the normal trends. Currently our potato harvest is 10 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Tobacco harvesting continued throughout several counties in the Keystone State. Fifteen percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 4 percentage points lower than the previous year and 3 points lower than the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 68 percent of the third cutting and 12 percent of the fourth cuttings of alfalfa have been completed. Eighty-two percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! The peach harvest is beginning to catch up with the harvest of last year, as 59 percent of the peaches have been harvested. This is only 5 points lower than the previous year and 5 points higher than the 5-year average. Twenty-seven percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 4 points lower than the previous year and 6 points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety-three percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

**Livestock:** The rain that was received around the state has really improved both crop and pasture condition. Producers are hoping that the rain showers will continue into the upcoming week. Twenty-one percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Overall pasture

conditions were reported as follows: very poor 27%, poor 23%, fair 29%, good 20%, and excellent 1%.

**U.S. as of August 12, 2007:** In the western one-third of the Nation, it remained cooler than normal and dry with temperatures in California averaging 6 degrees cooler than normal. Turning northeast toward the Corn Belt, heavy rainfall was prevalent, with some areas in the Corn Belt and areas east through the middle Mississippi and Ohio Valleys into the Mid-Atlantic States receiving two to four inches of rain. Areas of the southern Great Plains, Delta, and the Southeast received minimal moisture and warmer than average temperatures with the exception of most of Florida and the western Carolinas, where light to moderate rainfall was evident. Temperatures were 6 to 9 degrees warmer than normal from the Southeast to the central Corn Belt and Mid-Atlantic.

**Corn:** Sixty-six percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage and 24 percent was at or beyond the dent stage. Both stages were above last year's pace of 63 percent doughing or beyond, and 22 percent denting or beyond. Both stages were also above the 5-year average pace of 53 percent doughing and 18 percent denting. Under warmer than normal conditions, fields rapidly entered the dough stage in the Corn Belt, where progress advanced 25 points or more in most areas. Denting also gained momentum with 20 percent or more of the fields entering this stage during the week in Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Corn condition was rated 56 percent good and excellent.

**Soybeans:** Ninety-six percent of the acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage and 84 percent was setting pods. Acreage at or beyond the bloom stage equaled last year's pace, and slightly exceeded the 95-percent average for this date. Acreage setting pods equaled last year's pace, and advanced 7 points beyond the 5-year average. Most of the states were at or ahead of their normal pace, with Ohio as much as 21 points ahead of normal. Soybean condition was rated at 56 percent good and excellent.

**Winter Wheat:** Harvest advanced to 97 percent complete, matching last year's pace and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest was most active in Idaho and Washington, where producers reaped more than one-fourth of their acreage during the week. Only winter wheat in the 4 most northwestern states and Texas was not yet completely harvested. Due to excessive moisture this summer, Texas harvest is 3 points behind normal.

**Small Grains:** The barley harvest, at 60 percent complete, is ahead of last year's pace and normal by 8 and 25 points, respectively. Harvest gained momentum through all areas. Progress was ahead of the previous year's pace in all states. However, all states remain well ahead of the normal harvest pace, ranging from 10 to 36 points ahead of average. Barley condition was rated at 62 percent good and excellent.

Oat producers had reaped 86 percent of their crop by week's end, slightly behind last year but ahead of normal by 11 points. Harvest was complete in Ohio and Texas, and nearly complete in all states except North Dakota and Pennsylvania, where almost half of the crop was yet to be harvested.

### Weather Data For Week Ending August 19, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 19, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	81	56	70	-1	0.16	3	12.33	-4.23	43	2,048	226	3,288
Franklin	87	48	68	-2	0.03	1	15.40	-3.94	56	1,948	221	3,210
Meadville	82	50	68	2	0.03	2	11.36	-7.58	56	1,979	397	3,228
Mercer	86	48	68	-2	0.05	1	16.66	-1.56	54	1,905	197	3,159
Springboro	83	44	65	-5	0.05	2	14.79	-1.81	66	1,694	-122	2,917
Warren	87	47	67	-2	0.17	3	17.48	-1.63	56	1,748	67	2,985
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	82	40	63	-2	0.07	3	16.03	-3.22	63	1,376	139	2,559
Emporium	87	47	68	3	0.02	1	20.75	1.23	56	1,821	440	3,073
Kane	85	42	63	-1	0.07	3	19.89	0.46	56	1,379	161	2,565
Laporte	87	47	67	-3	0.10	2	13.88	-3.93	59	1,681	-47	2,892
Lock Haven	91	53	71	3	0.00	0	10.36	-7.18	42	2,190	364	3,454
Port Allegany	84	43	64	0	0.02	1	15.08	-3.11	54	1,516	152	2,715
Renovo	86	50	69	-2	0.09	3	15.30	-2.24	48	2,064	238	3,327
Ridgway	84	48	66	0	0.09	3	15.73	-3.79	61	1,570	189	2,794
Stevenson Dam	89	47	69	4	0.01	1	13.83	-5.69	47	1,898	517	3,147
Towanda	89	46	67	-2	0.09	1	11.54	-3.20	54	1,804	62	3,021
Wellsboro	83	46	66	1	0.12	3	16.47	1.59	58	1,546	235	2,740
Williamsport	90	54	72	2	0.91	1	12.27	-5.19	47	2,356	341	3,644
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	84	48	66	-2	0.08	1	18.43	1.68	51	1,695	207	2,923
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	51	69	-1	0.00	0	16.37	-0.04	48	2,099	182	3,366
Susquehanna	86	49	67	2	0.32	2	19.92	1.98	56	1,767	341	2,993
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	85	50	69	0	0.07	1	12.59	-5.70	52	1,939	151	3,199
New Castle	88	50	70	2	0.26	2	14.33	-2.30	51	2,111	319	3,382
Slippery Rock	84	49	68	2	0.14	2	16.63	-1.12	54	2,036	418	3,302
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	86	52	70	0	0.49	2	13.48	-2.61	51	2,076	159	3,338
DuBois	82	47	68	0	0.02	1	15.63	-2.66	60	1,853	186	3,102
Lewistown	88	57	72	1	0.27	2	16.10	-1.34	49	2,224	126	3,498
Middletown	88	61	75	2	0.12	1	15.48	-1.45	41	2,655	290	3,954
Prince Gallitzi	85	49	67	1	0.19	2	15.52	-5.15	46	1,743	208	2,978
Selinsgrove	91	54	72	2	0.01	1	11.57	-6.00	43	2,185	219	3,450
State College	86	55	71	2	0.15	2	13.26	-2.87	48	2,223	325	3,491
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	88	54	73	2	0.04	2	18.00	-0.21	54	2,328	159	3,608
Lehighton	86	54	70	-3	0.43	2	18.79	0.65	56	2,086	-11	3,354
Matamoras	85	51	68	-3	0.33	2	20.57	1.95	51	1,860	-40	3,112
Mt_Pocono	81	49	66	2	0.14	1	18.71	-0.84	61	1,715	404	2,935
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	54	71	2	1.26	2	16.30	-0.91	53	2,389	466	3,677
Derry	84	49	68	-2	1.37	3	24.76	6.93	49	1,977	166	3,237
Myersdale	83	47	65	-5	0.61	2	14.77	-4.80	55	1,530	-239	2,745
Mount Pleasant	83	49	68	0	0.98	1	19.40	-0.72	54	1,938	327	3,209
Pittsburgh Intl	83	53	71	0	0.46	2	15.05	-1.16	47	2,311	300	3,594
Connellsville	87	54	70	-2	0.84	3	18.59	-0.58	61	2,204	158	3,487
Waynesburg	86	52	69	-1	0.56	3	15.20	-2.60	54	2,055	193	3,331
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	88	57	73	0	0.44	2	13.01	-2.65	41	2,456	144	3,748
Everett	84	51	68	-3	0.55	3	14.88	-0.81	53	1,763	-132	3,015
Hanover	89	55	73	-1	0.60	3	12.91	-2.75	42	2,399	87	3,682
Harrisburg_AP	89	58	75	1	0.15	1	12.73	-4.20	36	2,574	202	3,876
South Mountain	84	51	68	-3	0.49	2	15.37	-0.72	45	1,931	21	3,185
York	87	53	73	-1	0.31	1	15.70	-1.58	41	2,327	26	3,617
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	88	57	74	3	0.00	0	19.56	1.77	51	2,390	322	3,671
Hamburg	90	57	74	5	0.06	1	17.98	-2.80	47	2,445	550	3,732
West_Chester	89	53	73	-2	0.35	1	20.68	1.24	42	2,337	47	3,614
Lancaster	86	57	73	0	0.23	2	17.44	-0.77	40	2,405	225	3,694
Neshaminy Falls	89	55	72	0	0.58	2	24.71	3.92	50	2,235	75	3,502
New Holland	89	57	74	2	0.20	3	18.75	0.54	46	2,485	305	3,767
Philadelphia	89	64	78	3	0.16	2	20.08	2.33	42	2,822	332	4,134
Philadelphia NE	92	62	78	3	0.47	2	19.32	1.57	51	2,782	292	4,094
Reading	90	57	75	3	0.04	1	16.56	-2.71	50	2,523	380	3,815
Valley Forge Na	90	52	73	-2	0.12	2	19.91	1.41	55	2,382	-45	3,671
Willow Grove	88	59	75	3	0.38	2	19.41	-1.38	55	2,497	337	3,784

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.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney, (FSA)** - Adams county received some rainfall last week. Overall, the county got an inch of rain from Thursday and Sunday's showers. Recent rains will help hay regrowth, pasture regrowth, soybeans, apples and peaches. Last week, the temperatures varied from, day temperatures of 80 degrees to nights as low as 60 degrees. Barley harvest will begin next week. The pastures were dying, but with the recent rain received they are starting to get green again. Apples and peaches continue to look good, and the harvest is going well. There have been some reports about the size of the harvested apples and peaches this year.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - More reasonable weather this week allowed the pastures to slowly begin recovering from the previously dry weather. It also slowed down the urgency of corn silage harvesting. Soybeans are beginning to recover and alfalfa fields are showing green again. The amount of rain is still very insignificant, but the cooler weather has been a blessing for crops and animals. Peaches and apples are still looking good except for complaints of size, the quality has been excellent.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - This was a good week for field work, conditions remain dry.

**FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts** - Southwest corner of state has had ample moisture for the past two weeks.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor** - We are dangerously dry. Corn fields look like pineapple fields, 2 to 3 feet tall. We've only received 1.6 inches of rain in the month of August. A neighbor's well is dry and he is hauling water for his beef cattle from our barn well.

Blueberries have all dried up, were not worth picking. Mice are starting to move into farm buildings, not any water in the fields. We found a garden snake in our garage; it was probably looking for water. We dug our potatoes, and the ground was like powder. We had only half of our normal potato yield.

Hopefully we will be blessed with rain today.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The weather caused further drying of the crops; however, the light rains from the previous week were a help to the soybeans, but the corn is too far gone for any improvement.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Clair Zerby** - Soybeans are setting pods, and looking much better than a few weeks ago. Hay is very short; most of the hay fields are being grazed. Principle farm activities include, spreading lime & manure, making hay from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cuttings, finishing oat harvest, and baling straw.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - Recent rains have really helped corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and grass. There should be enough moisture in the soil to finish both the corn and soybean crops. Later alfalfa cuttings look very good and should make up at least some of the early season reduced yields.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 19, 2007**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	15	15	10
Corn, silk	93	100	92
Corn, dough	54	74	60
Corn, dent	25	39	24
Corn silage, harvested	13	17	8
Oats, ripe	98	99	94
Oats, harvested	88	93	79
Tobacco, harvested	15	19	18
Potatoes, harvested	9	22	19
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	68	82	65
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	12	8	11
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	82	82	65
Peaches, harvested	59	64	64
Apples, harvested	27	31	21

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 19, 2007**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	20	13	19	34	14
Soybeans	15	19	26	21	19
Quality of hay made	0	9	23	41	27
Pasture	27	23	29	20	1
Apples	0	0	7	50	43

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