



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending August 3, 2003

Fair week for Field Work: There were 4 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 3 percent short, 60 percent adequate and 37 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included harvesting fruit; making hay; baling straw; harvesting wheat and oats; spraying pesticides; hauling manure; spreading fertilizer and lime; fixing fences and general maintenance; caring for livestock; and preparing for county fairs.

Crops: While some farmers welcomed the rain, others complained about the excess moisture having a negative effect on the crops. In some areas of Pennsylvania, harsh wind and rain flattened crops including oats, wheat and barley. The percent of wheat reaching the ripe stage advanced to 99 percent, on pace with last year and the five-year average. The percent of wheat harvested advanced to 85 percent complete, 13 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average. Fifty-four percent of the corn crop has reached the silked stage, 16 percent behind 2002 and 20 percent behind the five-year average. The corn condition was rated as 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 35 percent good and 33 percent excellent. Soybean condition was rated as 2 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 44 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Oat condition was rated as 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 39 percent good and 7 percent excellent. The percent of oats reaching the yellow stage advanced to 78 percent, 8 percent behind last year and 13 percent behind the five-year average. Forty-nine percent of the oat crop reached the ripe stage, 21 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average. Seventeen percent of the oat crop has been harvested. Corn has reached a height of 66 inches, up 10 inches from last week but 5 inches behind 2002. The second cutting of alfalfa hay advanced to 78 percent complete, 8 percent behind last year and 5 percent behind the five-year average. The third cutting of alfalfa hay advanced to 23 percent complete, 15 and 13 percent behind the 2002 and five-year average, respectively. Ninety-two percent of the first cutting of timothy clover hay has been completed, slightly behind the 2002 and five-year average pace. Twenty-two percent of the second cutting of timothy clover hay has been completed, 16 percent behind last year and 14 percent behind the five-year average. The quality of hay made was rated as 10 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 32 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Some farmers have already started fall plowing; fall plowing advanced to 5 percent complete.

Livestock: Pasture land across the state continued to flourish with the returning rain. Three percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 9 percent was poor, 20 percent was fair, 48 percent was good and 20 percent was excellent.

Fruit & Vegetables: Fruit tree conditions declined slightly as compared to last week, but overall conditions are still good. Peach condition was rated as 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 9 percent

fair, 48 percent good and 41 percent excellent. The peach harvest was 24 percent complete, 15 percent behind both the 2002 and 5-year averages. Apple condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 59 percent good and 18 percent excellent. The apple harvest was 9 percent complete, on pace with last year and the 5-year average.

U.S. as of July 27, 2003: Highlights: Hot, dry weather in the Pacific Northwest stressed dryland crops but hastened winter wheat maturation. Widely scattered showers provided limited drought relief. Record-breaking heat and dry conditions covered the northern Great Plains and promoted development of grains, soybeans, and wheat but stressed crops and increased irrigation demands. Hot, drier-than-normal conditions across the southern Great Plains stressed pastures and summer crops. Soil moisture was mostly adequate in the upper Mississippi Valley and the Corn Belt, where mild, sunny weather favored corn and soybean development. Locally heavy showers maintained generally favorable moisture levels in the Delta. Wet conditions continued for a second week in the Southeast, as heavy showers were reported from Florida to the Tennessee Valley. Heavy rainfall caused some local flooding in Pennsylvania and New York. Corn: Seventy percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 3 percentage points behind last year's 73 percent and 8 points behind the 5-year average of 78 percent. Ten percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, behind last year and the average pace of 14 and 16 percent, respectively. Silking rapidly advanced in the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains. However, even with the progress made, corn silking remained behind the 5-year average in most States. Doughing in the Corn Belt was mostly confined to the Ohio and Missouri River Valleys. Soybeans: Sixty-nine percent of the crop was blooming and 21 percent was setting pods, compared with 73 percent blooming and 31 percent setting pods on this date last year. On average, 76 percent of the acreage would be blooming and 34 percent setting pods on this date. Seasonal temperatures and adequate moisture in most areas of the Corn Belt promoted vegetative growth and blooming. Pod setting remained behind the average in all areas except the interior Delta but gained momentum with the northwest Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the northern Great Plains advancing 15 points or more. Winter Wheat: Harvest advanced to 88 percent complete, compared with last year and the 5-year average of 87 percent complete. Hot, dry weather promoted maturation and drydown of the crop across the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions. Small grains: The barley crop was 99 percent headed, compared with 95 percent last year and the 5-year average of 96 percent. All five major-producing States are at or ahead of both last year's progress and the 5-year average. The oat harvest advanced to 20 percent complete, behind last year and the 5-year average of 32 and 28 percent complete, respectively. Harvest was just beginning in North Dakota, and wet conditions limited progress in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 3, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - August 3, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	81	54	71	-1	1.15	3	14.67	+0.12	55	1447	-43	2518
Franklin_AG	81	52	69	-2	1.86	5	21.99	+4.76	81	1318	-99	2435
Meadville	81	52	69	+0	1.14	5	18.74	+2.20	65	1337	+42	2442
Mercer	84	43	66	-4	1.66	5	23.58	+7.28	58	1113	-292	2205
Springboro	83	49	68	-4	0.67	4	19.32	+4.72	64	1246	-246	2312
Warren	84	54	70	-1	2.43	4	24.86	+7.94	63	1284	-95	2370
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	78	43	65	-1	1.63	5	20.16	+2.99	69	1012	+6	2053
Emporium	83	54	69	+3	4.17	4	22.04	+4.53	69	1344	+219	2464
Kane	77	41	62	-4	1.83	2	20.85	+3.62	57	702	-290	1655
Laporte	80	52	67	-4	2.49	4	19.93	+3.88	65	1167	-252	2208
Lock_Haven	86	55	72	+1	3.49	4	18.68	+2.98	62	1566	+62	2707
Port_Allegany	81	51	67	+2	2.99	3	20.90	+4.50	59	1092	-26	2134
Renovo	85	53	70	-2	2.83	4	18.07	+2.37	69	1472	-32	2608
Ridgway	81	50	67	-1	3.35	3	19.44	+1.93	60	1088	-37	2170
Stevenson_Dam	83	54	69	+2	4.11	4	21.24	+3.73	74	1319	+194	2437
Towanda	84	53	69	-2	1.68	4	20.00	+6.70	78	1311	-119	2396
Wellsboro	79	48	66	-1	2.26	5	18.71	+5.27	62	1118	+55	2160
Williamsport_AP	86	55	72	-2	4.23	3	20.18	+4.46	61	1620	-49	2761
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	85	52	69	+0	1.50	3	17.06	+2.11	55	1167	-43	2251
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	53	71	-1	1.12	3	17.50	+2.78	57	1548	-38	2662
Susquehanna	87	54	71	+4	0.67	3	20.28	+4.26	55	1467	+303	2559
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	84	52	70	+0	0.99	3	19.97	+3.82	67	1437	-36	2586
New_Castle	85	53	71	+0	2.61	4	23.02	+8.12	61	1536	+55	2692
Slippery_Rock	84	52	71	+2	1.95	3	23.29	+7.51	64	1470	+136	2618
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	86	53	71	-1	2.12	4	16.33	+1.71	72	1482	-106	2603
Du_Bois	80	51	68	-2	4.07	4	22.11	+5.90	74	1265	-108	2364
Lewistown	89	56	73	-1	1.63	4	17.61	+1.83	59	1674	-66	2825
Middletown	88	61	75	-2	0.45	3	20.39	+5.12	66	1841	-125	2997
Prince_Gallitzi	85	52	69	+2	1.70	5	17.88	-0.80	65	1333	+74	2426
Selinsgrove	90	57	72	-1	1.16	3	17.42	+1.71	62	1554	-73	2689
State_College_P	85	58	71	-1	3.78	4	20.83	+6.30	66	1567	-3	2701
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	89	59	76	+2	0.57	3	18.43	+2.43	61	1728	-72	2866
Lehighnton	85	57	71	-3	0.67	4	21.14	+5.08	69	1493	-240	2610
Matamoras	85	53	69	-3	1.12	3	16.80	+0.07	62	1274	-294	2355
Tobyhanna	89	58	73	+7	1.38	4	23.15	+5.68	66	1578	+517	2696
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	57	73	+2	0.57	3	16.70	+1.20	72	1766	+170	2948
Derry	85	58	71	+0	2.69	4	22.64	+6.68	64	1539	+47	2674
Meyersdale	85	54	68	-4	0.48	3	19.43	+1.76	69	1106	-347	2181
Mount_Pleasant	85	56	71	+3	1.37	3	22.73	+4.92	70	1519	+198	2673
Pittsburgh_Intl	84	57	73	+0	1.03	3	18.93	+4.40	65	1735	+65	2912
Rector	92	55	73	+5	1.32	4	21.94	+4.13	62	1534	+213	2681
Waynesburg	86	57	72	+2	1.27	5	25.53	+9.67	71	1597	+56	2766
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	88	58	74	-2	1.24	5	21.67	+7.66	75	1721	-208	2875
Everett	88	54	72	+0	0.81	4	18.55	+4.40	70	1513	-48	2652
Hanover	88	58	74	-2	0.35	3	20.03	+6.02	57	1736	-193	2888
Shippensburg	92	58	75	+0	0.91	2	19.27	+5.09	58	1833	-84	2994
South_Mountain	83	55	70	-2	1.38	2	24.11	+9.49	62	1372	-209	2470
York_AP	88	56	74	-2	0.67	2	16.01	+0.47	63	1750	-172	2902
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	92	61	76	+4	0.50	3	21.51	+5.80	58	1853	+139	3007
Hamburg	88	59	74	+3	0.70	4	21.92	+3.29	61	1677	+117	2815
Hopewell	88	60	74	-3	0.78	4	20.28	+3.88	61	1634	-387	2756
Lancaster_AP	88	60	75	+0	0.29	3	15.69	-0.58	57	1740	-64	2887
Neshaminy_Falls	90	60	76	+3	0.55	5	16.58	-1.77	60	1831	+39	2974
New_Holland	88	60	75	+0	0.31	3	19.20	+2.93	62	1719	-85	2860
Philadelphia	93	66	79	+2	0.45	5	16.72	+0.94	55	2155	+84	3330
Philadelphia_NE	90	60	77	+0	0.45	6	16.50	+0.72	61	1935	-136	3092
Reading_AP	89	60	76	+3	0.11	4	16.85	-0.35	60	1802	+33	2944
Valley_Forge_Na	92	58	75	-2	0.84	5	18.88	+2.48	60	1667	-354	2798
Willow_Grove	88	60	76	+3	0.70	3	14.99	-3.36	52	1794	+2	2936

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

“Week started out with good weather but rain came in early on Thursday to dampen field work plans. Farmers are very depressed with this years crops. Milk price has added additional stress to an already stressful summer.”

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

“Wheat harvest is progressing nicely. Many acres of second and third cuttings of hay were made. Still plenty of moisture for crops with no reports of irrigation being used.”

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

“The weather has just been terrible the past 2 weeks. The soils appear to be saturated with rain. Wheat and oats needs to be harvested, unable to get on fields. The wind and rain has most wheat, oats, and barley flattened, many trees uprooted, and creeks overflowing. Corn crop in some areas is silking and in other areas throughout Clarion/Venango/Forest/Warren crop is turning yellow and about two feet in height.”

- Thomas Tanner, Forrest County

“Lots of hay and no weather to make it. Where corn is good it could be very good.”

- Burell Whitworth, Clinton County

“Another wet week in long line of bad weeks. Ground is saturated again with over 3 inches of rain in some places.”

- David Stratton, Potter County

“Vegetable and fruit harvest off to a slow start. Produce quality good to excellent. Supply is unsteady.”

- John Esslinger, Lackawanna County

“Lots of second crop hay harvested early in the week with some areas of the county having 5 days of sun. We are now stuck in the hot humid T-storm weather pattern. These T-storms are helping the pastures to remain green and continue to grow.”

- William Keeney, Susquehanna County

“Lots of wheat and oats being lost in the field due to wet soggy fields. The corn is getting by, but the soybeans are turning yellow and stunted more now than a week ago.”

- Andrew Kimmel, Armstrong County

“Wheat harvesting continues. The potatoes look good.”

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

“Early part of the week was good for field work. Showers prevented field work the remainder of the week. 3" in my rain gauge for the week.”

- Dick Decker, Centre County

“Nitrogen deficiencies showing up in many corn fields due to excessive moisture. Small grain harvest nearing completion. Field work preparation for summer seeding of forage crops is beginning.”

- Paul H. Craig, Dauphin County

“Getting more rain this week. We are glad that we didn't try to plant any corn this year, just got too late. Some of the farms around us planted but here it is Aug. 2, and their corn is only 3 or 4 inches high. Our frost date here is early to mid September so it will never make it!”

- Marina Kemper, Huntington County

“I guess if there is any hope of getting better hay making weather, we better start putting a little more in the collection plate.”

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

“Some fair harvest conditions early in the week. Wet conditions still causing problems with small grain and hay harvest. Good yields and average test weights being reported on wheat and barley. Some corn is still small enough for nitrogen topdressing. August and September will need to be very good growing months.”

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

“Areas of the county that have not seen rain since the middle of June received significant rainfall this week. Corn continues to do well and pollination seems assured, now the next fear is for an early frost. Alfalfa has made excellent growth for third and fourth cuttings. Wheat harvest was disappointing in the yield and test weight. Oats looks to be similar in yield potential.”

- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

“Corn and beans are growing very well with the heat and humidity, however it makes baling straw and second cutting difficult. The last of the wheat and some oats were harvested this week, but late in the week there were T-storms around the area. Most beans have been sprayed, corn that was planted in May is in silk, and the later corn is growing rapidly. Local sweet corn is now kicking in, but tomatoes are still in short supply. It is nice to see things green and lush.”

- Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery County

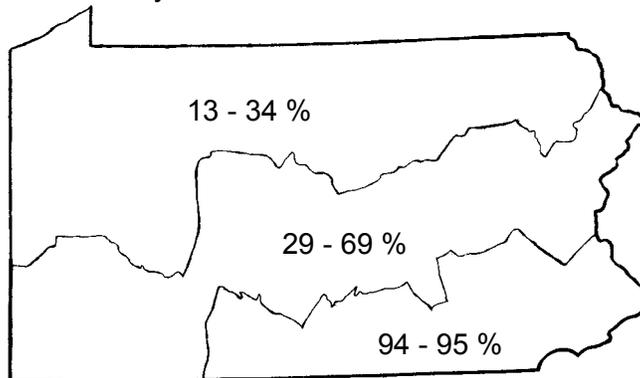
PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 3, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Fall plowing	5	2	4
Corn, silk	54	70	74
Barley, harvested	94	97	98
Winter wheat, ripe	99	99	100
Winter wheat, harvested	85	98	98
Oats, yellow	78	86	91
Oats, ripe	49	70	70
Oats, harvested	17	48	46
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	78	86	83
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	23	38	36
Timothy clover, 1 st cut	92	98	98
Timothy clover, 2 nd cut	22	38	36
Peaches, harvested	24	39	39
Apples, harvested	9	7	11

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 3, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	3	8	21	35	33
Oats	3	13	38	39	7
Soybeans	2	11	26	44	17
Quality of hay made	10	14	31	32	13
Pasture conditions	3	9	20	48	20
Peaches	1	1	9	48	41
Apples	0	1	22	59	18

Pennsylvania: Percent of Corn Silked



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