



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending August 10, 2003

**Poor Week for Field Work:** There were 2 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 1 percent short, 46 percent adequate and 53 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included making hay; baling straw; harvesting wheat and oats; spraying pesticides; harvesting fruit and vegetables; hauling manure; spreading fertilizer and lime; fixing fences and general maintenance; caring for livestock; and attending county fairs.

**Crops:** Farms across the state continued to receive rainfall last week, some places experienced excessive rainfall. Some farmers reported receiving four to five inches of rain in a few hours from heavy thunderstorms moving thru the state. The excessive rains have caused lodging in some oat fields. The percent of wheat harvested has reached 95 percent, where last year along with the five-year average the harvest was 100 percent complete. Sixty-nine percent of the corn crop has reached the silked stage, 13 percent behind last year and 15 percent behind the five-year average. Corn reaching the dough stage has reached 21 percent, 15 and 20 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Corn condition was rated as 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 41 percent good and 28 percent excellent. Barley harvested reached 98 percent complete, 1 percent behind both last year and the five-year average. Soybean condition was rated as 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 53 percent good and 21 percent excellent. Oats turning yellow has reached 88 percent, 8 percent behind last year and 9 percent behind the five-year average. Oats ripe increased to 64 percent, 21 percent behind last year and 19 percent behind the five-year average. Oats harvested reached 32 percent, 37 percent behind last year and 30 percent behind the five-year average. Oat condition was rated as 2 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 34 percent good and 8 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa hay reached 83 percent complete, 7 percent behind last year and 5 percent behind the five-year average. The third cutting of alfalfa hay reached 35 percent complete, 20 percent behind last year and 12 percent behind the five-year average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa hay reached 5 percent complete, 2 percent behind last year and even with the five-year average. Ninety-five percent of the first cutting of timothy clover was completed, 4 percent behind both last year and the five-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover reached 28 percent, 26 percent behind last year and 19 percent behind the five-year average. The quality of hay made was rated as 18 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 16 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Fall plowing increased slightly to 6 percent complete.

**Livestock:** Pasture lands across the state continue to hold up to the conditions we are having. Three percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 10 percent was poor, 23 percent was fair, 52 percent was good and 12 percent was excellent.

**Fruit and Vegetable:** Fruit tree conditions are still looking good for the year. Peach conditions were rated as 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 47 percent good and 43 percent excellent. The peach harvest was 28 percent complete, 29 percent behind last year, and 23 percent behind the 5-year average. Apple conditions were rated as 1 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 65 percent good and 16 percent excellent. The apple harvest was 10 percent complete, 1 percent ahead of last year and 4 percent behind the five-year average. Potatoes harvested were rated as 6 percent complete, 4 and 5 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively.

**U.S. As of August 3, 2003:** Highlights: Hot, dry weather persisted in the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, and northern Great Plains. The Southwest and southern Rocky Mountains received much-needed relief from the heat with monsoonal rainfall. The southern Great Plains experienced scattered showers, but not enough to offset soaring temperatures and the resultant crop stress. The upper Mississippi Valley had little rainfall but retained adequate soil moisture from earlier rains. Moderate rainfall and mild temperatures in the Corn Belt aided crop development without stressing crops appreciably. Moderate to heavy rainfall continued in the Northeast. Corn: Eighty-six percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, 3 percentage points behind last year's 89 percent and 5 points behind the 5-year average of 91 percent. Nineteen percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, behind last year and the average pace of 28 and 29 percent, respectively. Silking continued to advance rapidly in the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains but remained well behind the 5-year average. South Dakota showed the largest gain, with 42 percent of its corn entering the silking stage, followed by Michigan with 30 percent. Soybeans: Eighty-two percent of the crop was blooming and 40 percent was setting pods, compared with 86 percent blooming and 50 percent setting pods on this date last year. On average, 87 percent of the acreage would be blooming and 53 percent setting pods on this date. Favorable temperatures and moisture levels in the Corn Belt continued to aid crop development. In the Great Plains, crop condition declined due to hot, dry weather. Winter Wheat: Harvest advanced to 93 percent complete, compared with last year's 91 percent and the 5-year average of 90 percent complete. In the Corn Belt, harvest neared completion. Michigan farmers, who had little rain to contend with, harvested another 41 percent of their crop, bringing the total for the last 2 weeks to 81 percent. Barley was 13 percent harvested, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Minnesota has made the most progress, with 19 percent harvested, but Washington and North Dakota are close behind, at 18 and 16 percent, respectively. The oat harvest advanced to 40 percent complete, behind last year and the 5-year average of 46 and 47 percent complete, respectively. In Ohio and Pennsylvania, where wet conditions have hampered progress, harvest was 3 weeks behind normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 10, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - August 10, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	83	64	72	+1	0.90	4	15.57	+0.18	59	1603	-35	2744
Franklin_AG	81	60	70	+1	1.87	7	23.86	+5.69	88	1460	-97	2647
Meadville	81	60	70	+2	3.45	6	22.19	+4.60	71	1478	+54	2653
Mercer	81	52	67	-3	3.63	6	27.21	+10.07	64	1236	-305	2398
Springboro	81	59	69	-2	1.01	6	20.33	+4.89	70	1383	-255	2519
Warren	87	62	72	+4	2.26	6	27.12	+9.27	69	1441	-74	2597
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	79	54	67	+3	1.37	7	21.53	+3.45	76	1136	+25	2247
Emporium	83	61	72	+6	4.10	6	26.14	+7.72	75	1497	+256	2687
Kane	78	51	65	+0	0.65	5	21.50	+3.33	62	805	-290	1828
Laporte	81	60	71	+1	2.41	6	22.34	+5.52	71	1314	-245	2425
Lock_Haven	86	64	74	+4	0.66	3	19.34	+2.87	65	1736	+87	2947
Port_Allegany	83	59	70	+5	3.24	7	24.14	+6.97	66	1233	+3	2345
Renovo	83	62	73	+3	1.84	6	19.91	+3.44	75	1635	-14	2841
Ridgway	82	59	70	+4	0.42	5	19.86	+1.44	65	1227	-14	2379
Stevenson_Dam	84	61	73	+7	1.60	5	22.84	+4.42	79	1479	+238	2667
Towanda	83	62	73	+4	2.39	7	22.39	+8.46	85	1474	-96	2629
Wellsboro	83	58	70	+5	2.48	6	21.19	+7.12	68	1258	+83	2370
Williamsport_AP	85	64	75	+3	1.01	5	21.19	+4.70	66	1794	-29	3005
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	84	61	73	+6	1.86	6	18.92	+3.20	61	1332	-4	2486
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	64	74	+4	0.85	5	18.35	+2.86	62	1719	-15	2903
Susquehanna	88	63	76	+10	1.43	6	21.71	+4.85	61	1651	+368	2813
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	84	58	71	+0	0.41	3	20.38	+3.31	70	1581	-32	2800
New_Castle	86	60	72	+2	2.56	5	25.58	+9.91	66	1689	+68	2915
Slippery_Rock	84	60	71	+4	1.99	7	25.28	+8.66	71	1618	+157	2836
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	81	60	71	+0	1.73	7	18.06	+2.78	79	1633	-102	2824
Du_Bois	80	58	69	+0	1.13	7	23.24	+6.12	81	1400	-106	2569
Lewistown	87	64	75	+3	1.53	2	19.14	+2.60	61	1852	-49	3073
Middletown	85	66	76	+1	1.37	4	21.76	+5.76	70	2025	-120	3251
Prince_Gallitzi	83	57	70	+4	1.29	7	19.17	-0.42	72	1477	+93	2640
Selinsgrove	85	64	74	+3	3.25	6	20.67	+4.18	68	1723	-57	2928
State_College_P	81	63	72	+2	0.98	4	21.81	+6.58	70	1724	+7	2928
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	88	65	77	+4	3.56	5	21.99	+5.04	66	1917	-49	3125
Lehighton	84	64	74	+1	4.47	7	25.61	+8.64	76	1663	-233	2850
Matamoras	85	63	74	+3	2.72	6	19.52	+1.95	68	1440	-277	2591
Tobyhanna	86	64	76	+10	4.53	6	27.68	+9.30	72	1761	+588	2949
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	62	72	+2	1.06	5	17.76	+1.49	77	1922	+179	3174
Derry	85	60	71	+2	2.46	5	25.10	+8.29	69	1689	+54	2894
Meyersdale	80	57	68	-3	1.41	6	20.84	+2.29	75	1236	-357	2381
Mount_Pleasant	81	61	71	+3	0.97	6	23.70	+4.91	76	1666	+215	2890
Pittsburgh_Intl	82	60	71	-2	0.46	4	19.39	+4.09	69	1884	+60	3131
Rector	83	59	71	+4	1.57	5	23.51	+4.72	67	1684	+233	2901
Waynesburg	82	61	71	+2	2.27	6	27.80	+11.08	77	1749	+64	2988
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	85	63	75	+1	1.47	6	23.14	+8.43	81	1898	-202	3122
Everett	84	61	73	+2	1.35	6	19.90	+5.05	76	1675	-35	2884
Hanover	85	64	75	+1	1.00	3	21.03	+6.32	60	1914	-186	3136
Shippensburg	88	64	77	+3	0.53	3	19.80	+4.99	61	2021	-64	3252
South_Mountain	81	59	71	+1	0.28	4	24.39	+9.11	66	1522	-206	2690
York_AP	87	62	76	+2	0.98	6	16.99	+0.70	69	1931	-160	3153
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	90	62	77	+5	3.19	5	24.70	+8.08	63	2044	+171	3268
Hamburg	86	64	75	+5	1.56	6	23.48	+3.87	67	1857	+146	3065
Hopewell	87	64	75	-1	2.45	4	22.73	+5.40	65	1811	-392	3003
Lancaster_AP	86	63	75	+2	1.04	5	16.73	-0.40	62	1917	-55	3134
Neshaminy_Falls	90	67	78	+6	1.64	4	18.22	-1.22	64	2032	+75	3245
New_Holland	86	64	75	+2	1.99	6	21.19	+4.06	68	1896	-76	3107
Philadelphia	89	67	78	+2	2.02	4	18.74	+2.07	59	2353	+95	3598
Philadelphia_NE	88	66	78	+2	1.15	5	17.65	+0.98	66	2129	-129	3356
Reading_AP	88	64	76	+3	2.03	7	18.88	+0.77	67	1988	+51	3200
Valley_Forge_Na	88	64	76	+0	5.03	6	23.91	+6.58	66	1850	-353	3051
Willow_Grove	86	65	76	+3	1.81	6	16.80	-2.64	58	1975	+18	3187

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.

"More rain again this weekend saturated fields and again halted hay making. Corn and beans are looking good, however, wet spots are evident in the fields."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Another wet week!! Very difficult to harvest anything - all fields saturated."

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

"Humid, rain, lots of rain Some spots had 5" just Saturday night."

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"One more week chalked up to violent T-storms. Very little if any hay was made this week. Pastures are being clipped, equipment being repaired, and lots of other miscellaneous jobs being performed. County fairs and animal shows are being attended."

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"Rain gauge had 1 inch for the week but it fell a little each day. Wet enough to make field work difficult."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"Rained 4.75 inches this week so far. We hope that we can soon get second cutting of hay in, just has to quit raining."

- The Kemper's Mountain Meadows Farms, Huntington County

"Corns growing, hay molding, unharvested grain get greener very day."

- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

"One and a half inches of rain on Saturday. It did not fail to rain every day last week. The corn and soybeans look beautiful. The ground is saturated. Impossible to get the straw baled."

- Viola Pfleeger, Northumberland County

"Heavy storms have brought at least 2.5 inches of rain to all parts of Perry County in the last week, and some areas received as much as 7 inches of rain (over 4 inches in one storm in 3 hours on Saturday evening). Farmers were working on 3rd cutting alfalfa and first cutting of Sudex, but all fieldwork has stopped due to excessive rainfall."

- Dave Swartz, Perry County

"Rain every day. Some areas had heavy downpours from slow-moving thunderstorms. Almost no progress with any field work. Most corn and soybeans are looking very good. Locally good dry baled hay is in short supply."

- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Weather was poor for hay harvest this week. Some areas received over 2 inches in showers while others only few tenths. Still looking like a good season for corn and soybeans. Most of the corn is in tassel, and it looks like an excellent year for pollination. Hope that weather cooperates and allows for a late fall. Peaches and apples are going to be an excellent crop as well. Expect record production in some orchards for apples this year."

- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

"Crop conditions are either just great, or pure bust. Not really any thing near average. Total extremes. Even some places in same fields."

- Russ McLucas, Fulton County

"The continued humid, wet weather is hurting hay production and quality."

- Samuel High, Chester County

"Busy week for tobacco farmers topping and spraying for insects and Blue Mold. Other activities included clipping pastures and cutting hay. Most days were interrupted with thunder storms making it hard to dry hay. Most crops look better than a month ago but growth is still behind normal."

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"Farmers are getting their machinery ready for a safe corn silage harvest. Lots of cloudy warm days. Again tough to make quality dry hay. Some farmers are spot spraying the perennial weeds before they become a bigger nuisance next year."

- Axel Linde, Lancaster County

"Enough rain already. Seven inches has fallen this month, putting a halt to any field work. Four inches on Tuesday in a couple of hours caused major flooding. Oats still need to be harvested, some wheat straw is still on the ground, some beans need to be sprayed, and there is hay to cut. The ground is completely saturated. On the plus side the warm humid days and nights keeps things growing."

- Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 10, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Fall plowing	6	4	7
Corn, silk	69	82	84
Corn, dough	21	36	41
Barley, harvested	98	99	99
Winter wheat, harvested	95	100	100
Oats, yellow	88	96	97
Oats, ripe	64	85	83
Oats, harvested	32	69	62
Potatoes, harvested	6	10	11
Alfalfa, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	83	90	88
Alfalfa, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	35	55	47
Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	5	7	5
Timothy clover, 1 <sup>st</sup> cut	95	99	99
Timothy clover, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	28	54	47
Peaches, harvested	28	57	51
Apples, harvested	10	9	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 10, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	3	6	22	41	28
Oats	2	12	44	34	8
Soybeans	1	4	21	53	21
Quality of hay made	18	20	40	16	6
Pasture conditions	3	10	23	52	12
Peaches	1	1	8	47	43
Apples	0	1	18	65	16

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