



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 15, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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***This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)***

**Poor Week for Field Work:** Three days were suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 51 percent adequate and 48 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included hay making, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting wheat and oats, picking fruit, repairing fences and machinery, and baling straw.

**Crops:** Corn silking was 90 percent complete, which was ahead of last year at 75 percent and the 5-year average of 84 percent. Corn in dough stage was at 67 percent, up from the 5-year average of 45 percent. Corn dented was 29 percent complete, up from 5 percent in 2003 and the 5-year average of 11 percent. The average height of corn was 87 inches statewide, while last year's corn was at 66 inches. Corn condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 56 percent excellent. Ninety-nine percent of winter wheat has been harvested, which is on track with the 5-year average. Oats were 90 percent ripe, compared with 78 percent last year and 87 percent for the five year average. Sixty-seven percent of oats have been harvested, compared to the 5-year average of 66 percent. Oat condition was 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 50 percent good and 5 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 52 percent excellent. Potatoes were 17 percent harvested, up from 10 percent the same time last year. Alfalfa second cutting was 87 percent complete, up from 84 percent last year. Alfalfa third cutting was 44 percent complete, up from 35 percent last year. Alfalfa crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. The second cutting of timothy clover was 53 percent complete, compared to last year at 38 percent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. The quality of hay made was 3 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 48 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Peach harvesting was 58 percent complete, compared to 52

percent last year and the 5-year average of 55 percent. Apples were 22 percent harvested, up from 10 percent last year and 5-year average of 14 percent. Apple condition was rated 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 53 percent good and 13 percent excellent.

**Livestock:** During the last week, the pasture condition in Pennsylvania was rated 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Animals were being rotated on different pastures throughout the state.

**U.S. As of August 8, 2004:** Highlights: Midwestern summer crops experienced another week without heat stress, with temperatures averaging as much as 7 degrees F below normal and highs remaining mostly below 90 degrees F. Along the middle and northern Atlantic Coast, temperatures were mostly below normal, with moderate precipitation. Corn: Silking advanced to 93 percent complete, 1 percentage point ahead of last year but 2 points behind normal. Forty-two percent of the crop was at the dough stage or beyond, compared with 30 percent last year and 40 percent for the 5-year average. Denting, at 14 percent complete, was 6 points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal. Soybeans: Ninety-two percent of the acreage had reached the bloom stage, 5 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of the average. Pod setting advanced to 69 percent complete, compared with 56 percent last year and 65 percent for the normal pace. Winter Wheat: Producers had harvested 92 percent of their acreage, 3 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. Harvest was complete or nearly complete in all areas, except the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, and northern Great Plains. Sorghum: Heading advanced to 65 percent complete, compared with 56 percent last year and 67 percent for the average. Twenty-five percent of the crop had turned color, the same as last year but 5 points behind normal. Small Grains: Forty-five percent of the oat crop had been harvested, 9 points behind last year and 12 points behind the normal pace.

**Weather Data For Week Ending August 15, 2004**

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 15, 2004					GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	80	54	66	-6	0.35	3	17.76	1.69	68	1,843	81	3,037
Franklin	81	50	64	-5	0.33	5	26.70	7.86	80	1,785	114	2,999
Meadville	78	50	64	-5	0.66	4	22.16	3.78	75	1,681	150	2,865
Mercer	80	40	61	-9	0.25	3	19.84	2.10	64	1,464	-190	2,635
Springboro	81	48	63	-8	0.47	4	22.32	6.20	80	1,655	-103	2,828
Warren	78	51	63	-6	0.53	5	29.92	11.34	85	1,660	33	2,858
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	75	43	60	-5	0.44	2	20.38	1.63	87	1,372	176	2,535
Emporium	82	51	65	-2	1.28	4	24.84	5.79	76	1,775	439	2,987
Kane	73	38	55	-10	0.98	4	23.71	4.82	70	868	-311	1,969
Laporte	77	53	65	-5	3.59	5	30.65	13.27	83	1,540	-133	2,718
Lock Haven	83	55	68	-3	1.46	2	29.29	12.21	62	1,993	224	3,270
Port Allegany	80	48	63	-4	0.54	3	21.22	3.49	72	1,485	165	2,649
Renovo	82	53	67	-4	1.12	2	24.06	6.98	66	1,947	178	3,194
Ridgway	78	46	62	-5	0.33	2	25.36	6.31	62	1,481	145	2,650
Stevenson Dam	80	53	66	-1	0.61	3	24.32	5.27	71	1,840	504	3,070
Towanda	83	54	68	-2	2.31	3	21.95	7.57	72	1,857	171	3,078
Wellsboro	76	50	63	-3	1.74	2	25.13	10.59	70	1,474	207	2,647
Williamsport	83	54	69	-3	1.60	3	23.32	6.27	78	2,115	163	3,402
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	80	48	67	1	4.74	3	22.32	6.03	59	1,598	159	2,778
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	54	69	-2	2.54	3	19.71	3.69	63	1,960	103	3,216
Susquehanna	84	55	70	4	1.32	5	23.22	5.75	68	1,893	513	3,126
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	80	48	63	-7	0.47	5	21.53	3.74	82	1,791	60	3,005
New Castle	84	53	67	-4	0.35	4	22.33	6.12	64	1,970	234	3,195
Slippery Rock	81	51	64	-4	0.20	3	22.47	5.22	81	1,869	302	3,104
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	81	49	65	-6	1.06	1	19.84	4.13	71	1,926	69	3,157
DuBois	77	48	63	-6	0.37	4	25.10	7.31	88	1,665	50	2,867
Lewistown	85	51	69	-4	1.02	1	20.36	3.31	61	2,120	87	3,397
Middletown	84	59	71	-5	1.94	4	24.67	8.17	59	2,446	154	3,760
Prince Gallitzi	79	44	64	-4	1.07	3	24.18	4.01	65	1,703	217	2,904
Selinsgrove	85	54	69	-3	2.15	4	24.52	7.41	69	2,057	151	3,322
State College	81	54	67	-4	1.09	2	21.42	5.69	60	1,987	148	3,233
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	85	55	72	-1	1.50	3	20.87	3.19	59	2,224	121	3,520
Lehighton	81	56	70	-4	3.09	5	25.79	8.14	74	1,970	-61	3,238
Matamoras	83	48	68	-3	2.50	3	19.04	0.89	58	1,730	-110	2,952
Tobyhanna	83	54	69	4	2.47	5	25.44	6.40	82	1,678	412	2,879
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	52	65	-6	0.40	4	18.10	1.29	67	2,146	283	3,410
Derry	81	48	65	-6	0.78	2	28.38	10.99	74	1,898	144	3,140
Myersdale	78	45	60	-10	1.41	2	21.40	2.29	60	1,556	-156	2,746
Mount Pleasant	79	49	64	-5	1.29	4	24.19	4.65	58	1,925	366	3,158
Pittsburgh Intl	80	50	65	-7	0.89	4	21.63	5.83	67	2,185	236	3,447
Rector	81	42	64	-5	0.69	4	27.27	7.73	80	1,933	374	3,178
Waynesburg	80	50	64	-6	1.97	4	22.16	4.84	67	1,987	182	3,226
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	85	55	69	-5	1.55	3	26.33	11.11	66	2,217	-25	3,501
Everett	84	47	63	-8	0.56	1	19.76	4.44	58	1,702	-133	2,898
Hanover	85	52	71	-4	1.55	3	24.14	8.92	58	2,319	77	3,607
Shippensburg	88	54	70	-5	1.46	3	26.12	10.90	60	2,355	129	3,640
South Mountain	81	51	66	-5	1.72	1	22.57	6.86	52	1,889	39	3,116
York	86	54	71	-3	1.28	2	21.21	4.37	54	2,304	73	3,599
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	88	55	74	3	1.36	3	26.08	8.79	61	2,467	462	3,786
Hamburg	84	56	72	2	4.01	2	24.62	4.34	67	2,224	389	3,519
Hopewell	85	56	72	-4	2.25	5	27.20	9.21	79	2,267	-85	3,564
Lancaster	84	57	72	-2	2.08	3	26.63	8.89	64	2,308	197	3,613
Neshaminy Falls	88	54	74	1	1.04	2	25.31	5.10	56	2,429	336	3,740
New Holland	85	55	72	-2	1.97	4	26.93	9.19	67	2,304	193	3,595
Philadelphia	86	64	76	-1	0.41	2	25.41	8.14	57	2,665	252	3,991
Philadelphia NE	86	63	76	-1	1.35	2	26.82	9.55	58	2,588	175	3,911
Reading	86	58	72	-2	2.40	3	25.62	6.86	58	2,338	262	3,647
Valley Forge Na	90	48	74	-2	1.40	3	25.93	7.94	55	2,339	-13	3,638
Willow Grove	84	63	74	2	0.70	4	21.75	1.54	61	2,420	327	3,738

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.*

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** – The week has been wet once again. It has been impossible to harvest dry hay. Most of the hay harvested is going into the silo. Potato harvesting is just beginning to gear up. A few loads were shipped out this week. Spraying the potatoes for blight has increased due to the wet conditions.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** – Rained most days for a total of 1-1/2 inch in my gauge. Little field work completed.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** – Nuisance rains are still making it hard to make dry hay. Round baling and wrapping has been the method of choice this season for making hay. Corn and beans are looking good considering the weather. Farmers and their families are busy getting animals ready for local fairs and trying to take a short break from the field.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** – Farmers were making hay over the weekend. The wheat is harvested and appears to be low in test weight. Reports of 52 to 58 pounds per bushel. Oats are being harvested and there are reports of 60 bushels per acre. Also low test weights. Corn needs sunlight and a late fall to fully mature.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** – Like most of the summer, this has been another challenging week for hay making. Thank goodness the hurricane passed us by. We did receive slightly more than one inch of rain. Late in the week, the first corn for silage was taken off; however, most report that it will be two weeks until their corn is mature enough. Looks like record tonnage at this time. Soybeans are still very green and growing.

**INDIANA COUNTY, Kevin Fry (EXT)** – Very cool weather for August slowed corn development last week. I anticipate lots of hay being made early this week; weather looks to cooperate for once.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** – Rain is slowing tomato harvest and reducing consumer support of local farmers' markets. Sweet corn continues to be excellent.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** – Hay making was in full swing early in the week but rainfall on Thursday halted this activity. Standing crops minimized erosion but concern over late blight in tomatoes and potatoes remains high because of the constant wet conditions.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** – We had in the 2-inch range of rainfall this past week. The corn and soybeans are developing nicely, except in the poorly drained areas where the crop is close to being a failure. However, in the well-drained areas, it looks very good. The third cutting of hay is looking good, with little or no insect and weed problems. The main activities for the week were haymaking, combining oats, spreading lime, mowing CRP and CREP acres, and making building and equipment repairs.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS)** – Scattered showers but not much total rain. Cool, cloudy week but still able to proceed with field work.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** – Another typical week for this season with cool, wet conditions. Growers are expressing concern that the lack of heat may adversely affect corn and soybean maturities. Hay growth continues to be excellent but harvesting any kind of quality forage is very difficult.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 15, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	7	7	8
Corn, silk	90	75	84
Corn, dough	67	27	45
Corn, dent	29	5	11
Corn average height, inches	87	66	0
Wheat, harvested	99	95	99
Oats, ripe	90	78	87
Oats, harvested	67	46	66
Tobacco, harvested	20	0	5
Potatoes, harvested	17	10	15
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	87	84	89
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	44	35	50
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	53	38	53
Peaches, harvested	58	52	55
Apples, harvested	22	10	14

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 15, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	3	10	29	56
Oats	2	8	35	50	5
Soybeans	1	3	11	33	52
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	2	4	16	51	27
Timothy clover stand	1	4	21	56	18
Quality of hay made	3	13	48	29	7
Pasture	3	6	23	45	23
Apples	0	8	26	53	13

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