



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending August 22, 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:** Continued widespread rainfall dampened crop progress throughout the Keystone state last week with scattered areas experiencing sporadic hail that damaged some field crops. Only three days were suitable for field work. The rainfall has resulted in soil moisture being rated as 51 percent adequate and 49 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cuttings of hay, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, harvesting oats and tobacco, repairing fences and machinery, and picking fruit.

**Crops:** Corn, in spite of the weather, is reported to look very good in most areas. Eighty-four percent of this year's corn is rated as either good or excellent so far. Corn in dough stage was at 76 percent, well ahead of the 5-year average of 60 percent. Corn dented was 36 percent complete, also well ahead of the 5-year average of 22 percent. Some early reports are showing the first signs of corn maturing in certain areas. Oats were 92 percent ripe, which is on par from last year and not far behind the 5-year average. Eighty-one percent of oats have been harvested, which is right on track with the 5-year average. Soybean condition last week stood at 2 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 48 percent excellent. Potatoes were 20 percent harvested, which is up from 14 percent the same time a year ago. Hay making was hit hard by last week's rain and thunderstorms. Fifty percent of tobacco in the state had been harvested as of last week, with some farms reporting they had completely finished the tobacco harvest. Alfalfa second cutting was 90 percent complete, which is on pace with last year and the 5-year average. Alfalfa third and fourth cutting are running a little behind, however. Alfalfa crop condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. The second cutting of timothy clover was 55 percent complete, down from last year at 53 percent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 19 percent excellent.

The quality of hay made was 9 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Conditions remained favorable in areas of the state growing fruits. The peach harvest was 75 percent complete, well ahead of 60 percent last year and up slightly from the 5-year average of 70 percent. Apples were 33 percent harvested, up from 16 percent last year and 5-year average of 18 percent. Apple condition was rated 22 percent fair, 59 percent good and 19 percent excellent. The grape harvest kicked off last week with 11 percent of grapes being harvested. No grapes had been harvested the same time last year.

**Livestock:** During the last week, the pasture condition in Pennsylvania was rated 4 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 32 percent excellent.

**U.S. As of August 15, 2004:** Highlights - Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie brought heavy rainfall to the eastern Gulf Coast and southern and middle Atlantic Coast. Corn: Ninety-six percent of the crop was at the silk stage or beyond, compared with 97 percent last year and 98 percent for the 5-year average. The dough stage was 57 percent complete, 7 percentage points ahead of last year but 3 points behind normal. Denting advanced to 23 percent complete, 8 points ahead of last year but the same as the average. Soybeans: Blooming, at 95 percent complete, was 1 point ahead of last year but 1 point behind normal. Eighty-one percent of the acreage had set pods, 7 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. Sorghum: Heading advanced to 75 percent complete, compared with 67 percent last year and 78 percent for the 5-year average. Thirty-one percent of the acreage had turned color, the same as last year but 7 points behind normal. Small Grains: Producers had harvested 58 percent of their oat crop, 15 points behind last year and the average.

### Weather Data For Week Ending August 22, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 22, 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	81	48	65	-5	0.62	3	18.38	1.36	71	1,952	51	3,216
Franklin	81	46	65	-3	2.12	3	28.82	9.07	83	1,895	96	3,179
Meadville	80	45	64	-3	1.39	5	23.55	4.12	80	1,783	135	3,037
Mercer	81	33	61	-7	2.64	3	22.48	3.90	67	1,542	-237	2,783
Springboro	80	43	63	-7	0.79	4	23.11	6.08	84	1,750	-142	2,993
Warren	80	45	64	-4	1.44	4	31.36	11.80	89	1,759	9	3,027
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	74	36	62	-2	1.19	1	21.57	1.91	88	1,456	167	2,689
Emporium	80	49	67	3	2.36	4	27.20	7.31	80	1,896	456	3,178
Kane	74	32	57	-7	1.74	4	25.45	5.58	74	921	-347	2,090
Laporte	78	45	64	-4	0.90	3	31.55	13.38	86	1,641	-158	2,889
Lock Haven	84	51	69	1	1.13	3	30.42	12.50	65	2,127	227	3,474
Port Allegany	77	45	64	-1	1.93	4	23.15	4.58	76	1,583	163	2,817
Renovo	83	52	68	-2	1.09	5	25.15	7.23	71	2,072	172	3,389
Ridgway	77	44	64	-2	2.23	4	27.59	7.70	66	1,580	140	2,819
Stevenson Dam	82	52	67	3	1.30	4	25.62	5.73	75	1,964	524	3,264
Towanda	84	50	68	1	0.91	5	22.86	7.81	77	1,987	173	3,278
Wellsboro	79	45	65	1	2.38	4	27.51	12.34	74	1,578	211	2,821
Williamsport	84	51	69	-2	1.08	3	24.40	6.60	81	2,252	157	3,609
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	84	45	66	-1	0.98	1	23.30	6.17	60	1,712	160	2,962
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	47	68	-2	1.08	4	20.79	4.05	67	2,090	97	3,416
Susquehanna	86	48	69	4	0.95	3	24.17	5.85	71	2,026	541	3,329
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	81	45	66	-4	4.58	5	26.11	7.41	87	1,903	42	3,187
New Castle	83	47	67	-2	3.02	3	25.35	8.38	67	2,092	228	3,387
Slippery Rock	80	43	65	-2	3.58	3	26.05	7.89	84	1,977	294	3,282
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	84	50	68	-2	1.69	5	21.53	5.19	76	2,052	59	3,353
DuBois	76	42	64	-4	3.00	6	28.10	9.36	94	1,766	31	3,038
Lewistown	88	53	70	-2	0.96	4	21.32	3.57	65	2,262	81	3,609
Middletown	89	56	73	-1	3.49	5	28.16	10.89	64	2,607	150	3,991
Prince Gallitzi	82	46	65	-2	1.91	5	26.09	5.08	70	1,813	214	3,084
Selinsgrove	87	50	70	-1	0.42	3	24.94	6.99	72	2,195	150	3,530
State College	81	51	68	-2	2.27	6	23.69	7.26	66	2,112	138	3,428
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	88	48	72	0	1.33	2	22.20	3.54	61	2,376	121	3,742
Lehighton	85	49	70	-2	2.08	4	27.61	9.05	77	2,110	-71	3,448
Matamoras	86	47	68	-2	2.71	4	21.75	2.77	62	1,858	-118	3,150
Tobyhanna	84	51	68	5	2.40	5	27.84	7.86	87	1,808	441	3,079
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	52	69	-2	2.03	3	20.13	2.62	70	2,278	280	3,612
Derry	83	52	68	-1	2.04	5	30.42	12.26	79	2,026	141	3,338
Myersdale	82	47	65	-5	1.40	5	22.80	2.92	65	1,659	-185	2,919
Mount Pleasant	83	50	67	0	2.90	3	27.09	6.53	61	2,048	369	3,351
Pittsburgh Intl	82	49	68	-2	4.15	3	25.78	9.28	70	2,314	224	3,646
Rector	86	51	68	1	3.08	4	30.35	9.79	84	2,061	382	3,376
Waynesburg	84	52	68	-2	2.95	4	25.11	6.97	71	2,113	176	3,422
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	89	55	71	-2	1.45	3	27.78	11.79	69	2,369	-32	3,723
Everett	89	48	67	-4	0.92	3	20.68	4.73	61	1,820	-153	3,086
Hanover	89	53	72	-2	2.05	4	26.19	10.20	62	2,475	74	3,833
Shippensburg	90	54	72	-2	2.23	5	28.35	12.50	65	2,509	125	3,864
South Mountain	84	50	68	-2	2.12	3	24.69	8.35	55	2,018	32	3,315
York	91	52	72	-1	1.10	3	22.31	4.70	57	2,460	71	3,825
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	94	53	75	5	0.50	2	26.58	8.38	63	2,641	491	4,030
Hamburg	89	51	72	3	2.25	3	26.87	5.68	70	2,376	404	3,741
Hopewell	89	54	72	-3	1.37	6	28.57	9.67	85	2,426	-96	3,793
Lancaster	89	54	72	-1	1.06	4	27.69	9.13	68	2,462	195	3,837
Neshaminy Falls	92	54	75	4	0.38	3	25.69	4.47	59	2,602	357	3,983
New Holland	90	53	72	0	0.95	4	27.88	9.32	71	2,463	196	3,824
Philadelphia	91	58	76	2	0.48	3	25.89	7.78	60	2,849	260	4,245
Philadelphia NE	91	56	76	1	0.56	5	27.38	9.27	63	2,770	181	4,163
Reading	89	52	73	1	1.27	4	26.89	7.22	62	2,499	268	3,878
Valley Forge Na	94	50	74	0	0.73	2	26.66	7.76	57	2,509	-13	3,878
Willow Grove	90	53	74	3	0.65	4	22.40	1.18	65	2,590	345	3,978

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.**

**ARMSTRONG COUNTY, Andrew Kimmel** - - Storms late in the week produced hail that was very hard on crops in portions of the county. Total rain was about 3- '2" for the week. The cool nights are slowing maturity of corn and beans.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - - This week was better, but the weather has not allowed for making hay. Good quality dry hay will be hard to find. Most of the oats have been harvested.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - - Another week of mostly rainy days. There was 2- '4" in my gauge for the week. We could use a week with little rainfall to catch up on field work.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - - Oats are being harvested. Yields are fair to good.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - - Rains continue to make hay harvest a challenge. Cool nights and cloudy days have slowed the maturation of soybeans. This weather does help the fruit crops though. Every day seems to be making a better apple crop. Quality and quantity are the best in many years. Corn silage harvest has started; however, rains have slowed the progress. Expect many to start this coming week.

**INDIANA COUNTY, Kevin Fry (EXT)** - - Early part of the week gave farmers a chance to make some hay. This made it difficult for some to attend Ag Progress Days. And then the rains came; 2"-3" or more from Thursday through Saturday with localized flooding and reports of hail damage to corn and beans.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - - Rain has slowed vegetable harvest. Quality is good, though.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel J Linde** - - Wonderful week for field work. Harvested 20 acres of corn silage yesterday morning. Averaged 25 tons per acre @ 65% moisture. Pastures are looking healthy as long as weeds are managed. Tobacco harvest is in full swing. Some neighbors are done while others are sweating a lot!

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger** - - We have had 3.1" of rain this past week. The ground is very soggy. Will mow second cutting of hay as ground dries out.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)** - - Good week for 2<sup>nd</sup> hay cutting. Snap bean and small grain harvests are in full swing. Received 2" of rain on Friday.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - - Some fair harvesting conditions until heavy storms moved through on Thursday. The last of the oats is being removed from fields as something other than grain. Most corn and soybeans continue to do very well. Maturity is slow with almost no corn dented yet. There are some isolated fields showing the adverse affects of the summer's excess moisture. Yields in these spots will be substantially reduced.

**YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA)** - - All weather conditions continue for optimum crop production. Peach harvest is progressing well. Corn silage harvest should begin shortly. Producers are breathing a sigh of relief since "Charley" passed with no impact. Near record anticipated grain yields have growers looking with an anxious eye to major weather events between now and harvest. Some are exploring options for increasing storage of this year's crop.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 22, 2004**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	9	7	10
Corn, dough	76	44	60
Corn, dent	36	7	22
Corn silage, harvested	8	2	10
Oats, ripe	92	92	94
Oats, harvested	81	69	81
Tobacco, harvested	50	8	14
Potatoes, harvested	20	14	20
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	90	89	91
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	52	46	60
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	8	8	17
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	55	53	61
Peaches, harvested	75	60	70
Apples, harvested	33	16	18
Grapes, harvested	11	0	3

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 22, 2004**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	3	12	31	53
Soybeans	0	2	9	41	48
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	2	5	21	50	22
Timothy clover stand	1	11	25	44	19
Quality of hay made	9	11	39	30	11
Pasture	4	6	21	37	32
Apples	0	0	22	59	19

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