



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending August 24, 2003

**Excellent week for Field Work:** There were 6 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 7 percent short, 84 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included making hay; baling straw; harvesting oats; harvesting fruit and vegetables; hauling manure; spreading fertilizer and lime; fixing fences and general maintenance; caring for livestock; attending county fairs and Ag Progress Days.

**Crops:** Last week brought beautiful weather with a lot of days for farmers to get field work done. The week proved to be a great week for making hay and harvesting oats and barley. Soybean conditions were rated as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 54 percent good and 24 percent excellent. Corn reaching the silking stage is at 87 percent, 4 percent behind last year and 7 percent behind the five-year average. Forty-nine percent of the corn has reached the dough stage, 21 percent behind last year and 18 percent behind the five-year average. Corn reaching the dent stage is at 7 percent, 26 percent behind last year and 19 percent behind the five-year average. Corn conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. Oats ripe reached 95 percent, 3 percent behind last year and 1 percent behind the five-year average. Oats harvested reached 76 percent, 14 percent behind last year and 11 percent behind the five-year average. Tobacco harvested reached 11 percent, 24 percent behind last year and 15 percent behind the five-year average. The quality of hay made was rated 3 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 39 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Ninety-one percent of the second cutting of alfalfa hay was completed, 2 and 3 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively. Fifty-one percent of the third cutting of alfalfa hay was completed, 27 percent behind last year and 14 percent behind the five-year average. Nine percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa hay was completed, 27 percent behind last year and 12 percent behind the five-year average. There was also 57 percent of the second cutting of timothy clover completed, 18 percent behind last year and 10 percent behind the five-year average. Fall plowing was rated 7 percent complete.

**Livestock:** Pasture lands across the state continue to look good. Two percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 7 percent was poor, 24 percent was fair, 50 percent was good, and 17 percent was excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetables:** Fruit tree conditions are still looking good for the year. The peach harvest was 61 percent complete, 18 percent behind last year and 17 percent behind the 5-year average. Apple conditions were rated as 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 73 percent good and 10 percent excellent. The apple harvest was 18 percent complete, 4 percent ahead of last year and 3 percent behind the five-year average. Potatoes harvested were rated as 15 percent complete, 12 percent behind last year and 5 percent behind the five year average.

**U.S. As of August 17, 2003:** Highlights: Hot, dry weather continued in the Pacific Northwest, California, and the Rocky Mountains, aiding small grain harvest activities but stressing immature summer crops and irrigation reserves. Locally heavy rainfall in parts of the Southwest was not enough to alleviate widespread drought effects. The Great Plains also remained hot and dry, stressing crops and taxing irrigation systems. Most of the Corn Belt was dry and had above-normal temperatures, aiding the harvest of small grains, but stressing other crops. Moderate to heavy rainfall continued throughout the Southeast, with cooler-than-normal temperatures prevailing throughout the region. In the Ohio Valley, light rain and above-normal temperatures improved crop conditions without hindering small grain harvest activities. Heavy rainfall throughout the Atlantic Coast States slowed crop progress, but improved conditions slightly. Corn: Fifty-seven percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, 7 percentage points behind last year's 64 percent and 10 points behind the 5-year average of 67 percent. Eighteen percent of the crop had reached the dent stage, 8 points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. Development lagged behind normal throughout the Corn Belt, despite above-normal temperatures. Acreage at or beyond the dough and dent stages was over 1 week behind normal in Indiana and nearly 1 week behind normal in Ohio. In Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, development was 4 to 6 days behind the normal pace. In the central and southern Great Plains, continued hot weather stressed the crop but allowed development to advance slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Soybeans: Ninety-five percent of the crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 2 percentage points behind last year and the 5-year average of 97 percent. Seventy-nine percent of the acreage was setting pods, 4 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Above-normal temperatures promoted biological development throughout the Corn Belt, but progress remained behind normal, especially in Indiana and Ohio. Barley was 60 percent harvested, 30 percentage points ahead of last year and 18 points ahead of the 5-year average. Farmers in all States except Idaho harvested 29 percent or more of their crop. Harvest progress in all States was ahead of the 5-year average, with farmers in North Dakota and Washington 1 week ahead of their normal pace. The oat crop advanced to 78 percent harvested, 2 percentage points ahead of last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Farmers made good progress in most States, with Wisconsin farmers harvesting over one-third of their crop. Harvest was complete in Iowa and nearing completion in Nebraska and South Dakota. Despite good progress in Ohio and Pennsylvania, both States remained 1 week or more behind their normal pace.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 24, 2003

| STATION              | LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY |    |     |               |       |      | April 1, 03 - August 24, 03 |       |              |       | GDD<br>BASE<br>40F<br>TOT |      |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----|-----|---------------|-------|------|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------------------------|------|
|                      | TEMPERATURE               |    |     | PRECIPITATION |       |      | PRECIPITATION               |       | GDD BASE 50F |       |                           |      |
|                      | HI                        | LO | AVG | DFN           | TOTAL | DAYS | TOTAL                       | DFN   | DAYS         | TOTAL | DFN                       | TOT  |
| <b>NORTHWEST</b>     |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Erie                 | 88                        | 53 | 71  | +2            | 0.01  | 1    | 15.67                       | -1.59 | 64           | 1915  | -5                        | 3196 |
| Franklin_AG          | 87                        | 48 | 69  | +1            | 0.12  | 1    | 24.73                       | +4.74 | 94           | 1755  | -61                       | 3082 |
| Meadville            | 85                        | 49 | 69  | +3            | 0.02  | 2    | 22.57                       | +2.88 | 79           | 1767  | +103                      | 3082 |
| Mercer               | 86                        | 41 | 67  | -2            | 0.00  | 0    | 27.92                       | +9.09 | 69           | 1517  | -279                      | 2819 |
| Springboro           | 87                        | 45 | 67  | -2            | 0.00  | 0    | 20.51                       | +3.26 | 72           | 1654  | -256                      | 2930 |
| Warren               | 89                        | 45 | 68  | +1            | 0.38  | 1    | 27.85                       | +8.04 | 73           | 1739  | -28                       | 3035 |
| <b>NORTH CENTRAL</b> |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Bradford_Region      | 83                        | 38 | 64  | +1            | 0.45  | 3    | 24.08                       | +4.18 | 83           | 1373  | +72                       | 2624 |
| Emporium             | 87                        | 45 | 69  | +5            | 0.02  | 1    | 26.51                       | +6.39 | 79           | 1801  | +347                      | 3131 |
| Kane                 | 83                        | 35 | 60  | -3            | 0.28  | 1    | 22.90                       | +2.77 | 66           | 999   | -281                      | 2162 |
| Laporte              | 84                        | 47 | 67  | -1            | 0.00  | 0    | 24.32                       | +5.93 | 75           | 1591  | -225                      | 2842 |
| Lock_Haven           | 91                        | 48 | 71  | +3            | 0.00  | 0    | 20.19                       | +2.05 | 68           | 2071  | +153                      | 3422 |
| Port_Allegany        | 85                        | 42 | 66  | +2            | 0.04  | 1    | 25.48                       | +6.69 | 71           | 1501  | +68                       | 2753 |
| Renovo               | 89                        | 48 | 70  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 20.62                       | +2.48 | 78           | 1952  | +34                       | 3298 |
| Ridgway              | 85                        | 41 | 66  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 20.33                       | +0.21 | 67           | 1494  | +40                       | 2786 |
| Stevenson_Dam        | 88                        | 46 | 69  | +5            | 0.01  | 1    | 22.90                       | +2.78 | 82           | 1790  | +336                      | 3118 |
| Towanda              | 89                        | 48 | 69  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 23.24                       | +8.00 | 88           | 1786  | -45                       | 3081 |
| Wellsboro            | 84                        | 46 | 65  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 21.54                       | +6.21 | 70           | 1517  | +137                      | 2769 |
| Williamsport_AP      | 89                        | 51 | 72  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 23.10                       | +5.09 | 69           | 2133  | +18                       | 3484 |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>     |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Hawley               | 85                        | 43 | 67  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 19.71                       | +2.36 | 63           | 1617  | +50                       | 2911 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc      | 87                        | 48 | 70  | +2            | 0.09  | 1    | 23.24                       | +6.30 | 66           | 2033  | +21                       | 3357 |
| Susquehanna          | 89                        | 47 | 71  | +7            | 0.00  | 0    | 22.13                       | +3.57 | 64           | 1983  | +484                      | 3285 |
| <b>WEST CENTRAL</b>  |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Butler               | 87                        | 48 | 69  | +2            | 0.04  | 1    | 21.17                       | +2.23 | 75           | 1885  | +6                        | 3244 |
| New_Castle           | 91                        | 50 | 71  | +4            | 0.00  | 0    | 26.31                       | +9.13 | 67           | 2018  | +136                      | 3384 |
| Slippery_Rock        | 88                        | 49 | 70  | +4            | 0.00  | 0    | 26.04                       | +7.64 | 74           | 1923  | +224                      | 3281 |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>       |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Altoona/Blair_C      | 85                        | 47 | 70  | +1            | 0.00  | 0    | 19.42                       | +2.88 | 84           | 1939  | -73                       | 3270 |
| Du_Bois              | 84                        | 46 | 68  | +2            | 0.05  | 4    | 23.33                       | +4.34 | 87           | 1681  | -70                       | 2990 |
| Lewistown            | 90                        | 51 | 73  | +3            | 0.00  | 0    | 20.63                       | +2.69 | 64           | 2204  | +2                        | 3565 |
| Middletown           | 89                        | 59 | 75  | +2            | 0.13  | 1    | 24.73                       | +7.25 | 76           | 2394  | -87                       | 3760 |
| Prince_Gallitzi      | 85                        | 48 | 69  | +3            | 0.01  | 1    | 19.72                       | -1.55 | 78           | 1771  | +156                      | 3074 |
| Selinsgrove          | 90                        | 51 | 72  | +3            | 0.28  | 1    | 22.29                       | +4.12 | 72           | 2065  | +1                        | 3410 |
| State_College_P      | 87                        | 53 | 71  | +3            | 0.00  | 0    | 22.97                       | +6.34 | 73           | 2047  | +55                       | 3391 |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b>  |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Allentown-Bethl      | 89                        | 52 | 73  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 23.30                       | +4.39 | 68           | 2277  | +1                        | 3625 |
| Lehighton            | 87                        | 52 | 71  | +0            | 0.01  | 1    | 26.81                       | +8.02 | 80           | 1997  | -204                      | 3324 |
| Matamoras            | 87                        | 45 | 69  | +1            | 0.19  | 1    | 20.90                       | +1.68 | 71           | 1749  | -245                      | 3040 |
| Tobyhanna            | 91                        | 54 | 74  | +10           | 0.02  | 1    | 28.20                       | +7.96 | 76           | 2124  | +744                      | 3452 |
| <b>SOUTHWEST</b>     |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Pittsburgh/Alle      | 88                        | 54 | 73  | +5            | 0.00  | 0    | 18.25                       | +0.54 | 80           | 2265  | +247                      | 3657 |
| Derry                | 87                        | 50 | 70  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 26.02                       | +7.64 | 71           | 1999  | +96                       | 3344 |
| Meyersdale           | 85                        | 43 | 67  | -2            | 0.00  | 0    | 21.73                       | +1.61 | 78           | 1502  | -360                      | 2787 |
| Mount_Pleasant       | 86                        | 47 | 69  | +3            | 0.05  | 1    | 24.18                       | +3.35 | 79           | 1964  | +269                      | 3328 |
| Pittsburgh_Intl      | 88                        | 52 | 72  | +3            | 0.00  | 0    | 19.47                       | +2.76 | 72           | 2222  | +112                      | 3609 |
| Rector               | 89                        | 45 | 70  | +4            | 0.00  | 0    | 23.92                       | +3.09 | 70           | 1994  | +299                      | 3351 |
| Waynesburg           | 87                        | 51 | 71  | +2            | 0.21  | 1    | 28.34                       | +9.97 | 81           | 2067  | +112                      | 3446 |
| <b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b> |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Biglerville          | 90                        | 52 | 73  | +1            | 0.17  | 1    | 25.12                       | +8.91 | 85           | 2249  | -175                      | 3613 |
| Everett              | 90                        | 45 | 71  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 22.36                       | +6.22 | 80           | 2009  | +17                       | 3358 |
| Hanover              | 91                        | 50 | 73  | +1            | 0.04  | 1    | 24.55                       | +8.34 | 65           | 2266  | -158                      | 3628 |
| Shippensburg         | 91                        | 52 | 74  | +2            | 0.00  | 0    | 21.76                       | +5.72 | 64           | 2381  | -26                       | 3752 |
| South_Mountain       | 85                        | 48 | 69  | -1            | 0.53  | 1    | 26.20                       | +9.66 | 70           | 1815  | -190                      | 3123 |
| York_AP              | 90                        | 49 | 72  | +0            | 0.01  | 1    | 19.23                       | +1.40 | 73           | 2274  | -138                      | 3636 |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>     |                           |    |     |               |       |      |                             |       |              |       |                           |      |
| Green_Lane           | 95                        | 52 | 76  | +6            | 0.02  | 2    | 26.73                       | +8.29 | 69           | 2428  | +258                      | 3792 |
| Hamburg              | 90                        | 51 | 73  | +5            | 0.37  | 1    | 24.50                       | +3.07 | 71           | 2219  | +228                      | 3567 |
| Hopewell             | 90                        | 53 | 73  | -2            | 0.24  | 2    | 23.68                       | +4.53 | 70           | 2164  | -382                      | 3496 |
| Lancaster_AP         | 88                        | 53 | 73  | +2            | 0.04  | 2    | 18.40                       | -0.39 | 67           | 2272  | -18                       | 3629 |
| Neshaminy_Falls      | 94                        | 52 | 78  | +7            | 0.00  | 0    | 18.32                       | -3.17 | 65           | 2441  | +174                      | 3794 |
| New_Holland          | 91                        | 53 | 74  | +3            | 0.02  | 1    | 22.09                       | +3.30 | 71           | 2264  | -26                       | 3615 |
| Philadelphia         | 93                        | 60 | 78  | +4            | 0.00  | 0    | 19.27                       | +0.92 | 62           | 2761  | +147                      | 4146 |
| Philadelphia_NE      | 95                        | 57 | 77  | +3            | 0.01  | 1    | 17.73                       | -0.62 | 69           | 2530  | -84                       | 3897 |
| Reading_AP           | 89                        | 54 | 74  | +3            | 0.04  | 1    | 19.93                       | +0.01 | 70           | 2358  | +106                      | 3710 |
| Valley_Forge_Na      | 92                        | 50 | 74  | +0            | 0.00  | 0    | 24.58                       | +5.43 | 69           | 2227  | -319                      | 3568 |
| Willow_Grove         | 90                        | 56 | 75  | +4            | 0.02  | 1    | 17.01                       | -4.48 | 60           | 2350  | +83                       | 3702 |

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.

Copyright 2003: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

# INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

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

“Finally a good work week. Fields dried up and farmers were busy mowing and baling second and third cutting hay. Crops in the area range from very poor to possible record yields for corn and beans. It was also an excellent week for the Crawford County Fair.”

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

“Good week for all types of field work. With very little rain many farmers were catching up on oat harvest, hay making, or attending county fairs.”

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

“Most salvageable oats harvested, remaining are mostly damaged by July windstorm. Hay harvest and quality still behind due to very late first harvest - delayed by wet weather. At least the corn is coming along nicely.”

- Harry Blanchet, Forest County

“Lots of dry hay made this past week. Area farmers cutting hay even with the threat of showers being forecasted. The days are running short for hay harvesting.”

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

“Last week was an exceptional week for field work. Potato harvesting is ready to begin. Equipment is being checked and prepared for the harvest season.”

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

“Had a good week to get more hay made. Fields are still wet in spots but are slowly drying out.”

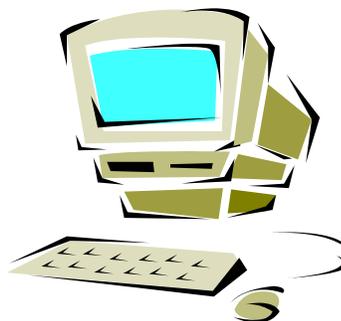
- M. K. Huntington County

“Another good week for corn growth and maturation. Looks like a very good year for corn providing frost holds off. Soybeans still growing well. A few showers helps to keep the soil moisture adequate. Silage harvest is still a few days off.”

- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

“Tobacco production moved into it's final field stage with a few producers starting to cut. Other major activities for the week was cutting hay. Several weeks of continued dry weather would be advantageous.”

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 24, 2003

| Crop                                    | Current Week   | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|---|----------------|-----------|----------------|
|   | <i>Percent</i> |           |                |
| Fall plowing                            | 7              | 10        | 13             |
| Corn, silk                              | 87             | 91        | 94             |
| Corn, dough                             | 49             | 70        | 67             |
| Corn, dent                              | 7              | 33        | 26             |
| Oats, ripe                              | 95             | 98        | 96             |
| Oats, harvested                         | 76             | 90        | 87             |
| Tobacco, harvested                      | 11             | 35        | 26             |
| Potatoes, harvested                     | 15             | 27        | 20             |
| Alfalfa, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting        | 91             | 93        | 94             |
| Alfalfa, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting        | 51             | 78        | 65             |
| Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting        | 9              | 36        | 21             |
| Timothy clover, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting | 57             | 75        | 67             |
| Peaches, harvested                      | 61             | 79        | 78             |
| Apples, harvested                       | 18             | 14        | 21             |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 24, 2003

| Crop                | Very Poor      | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-----------|
|                     | <i>Percent</i> |      |      |      |           |
| Corn                | 2              | 7    | 20   | 45   | 26        |
| Soybeans            | 1              | 3    | 18   | 54   | 24        |
| Quality of hay made | 3              | 9    | 32   | 39   | 17        |
| Pasture conditions  | 2              | 7    | 24   | 50   | 17        |
| Apples              | 0              | 2    | 15   | 73   | 10        |

**RESORTED**  
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 USDA  
 PERMIT NO. G-38

**PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL**  
**STATISTICS SERVICE**  
 2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19  
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405  
 )))))))))))  
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300