



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending September 7, 2003

Fair week for Field Work: There were 2 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 2 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 34 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included cutting and baling hay; harvesting and canning fruit and vegetables; harvesting tobacco; caring for livestock; storing seeds; repairing machinery; and attending fairs.

Crops: With summer ending, farmers have started fall plowing. The percent of fall plowing completed advanced to 14 percent, 4 percent behind 2002 and 8 percent behind the five-year average. Farmers have also started fall planting. The percent of winter wheat planted advanced to 7 percent complete, 3 percent behind last year but 2 percent ahead of the five-year average. Corn crop development progressed slightly, with 70 percent reaching the dough stage, 39 percent reaching the dent stage and 5 percent reaching the mature stage. The condition of the corn crop was rated as 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 46 percent good and 27 percent excellent. The soybean crop condition declined slightly, with 1 percent rated very poor, 5 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 57 percent good and 18 percent excellent. The percent of corn harvested for silage advanced to 9 percent complete, 43 percent behind last year and 18 percent behind the five-year average. The second cutting of alfalfa advanced to 94 percent complete, while the third and fourth cutting advanced to 65 and 20 percent complete, respectively. The second cutting was on pace with 2002 and the five-year average, while the third cutting was about 15 percent behind both. The fourth cutting was delayed further than the third, at about 20 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover advanced to 73 percent complete, only about 6 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average. Not surprisingly, the quality of hay declined over the past week. Quality of hay was rated as 16 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 15 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Forty-five percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested, 26 percent behind 2002 but only 16 percent behind the five-year average.

Livestock: The condition of pasture land across Pennsylvania improved as compared to last week. One percent of pasture land was rated as very poor, 4 percent was rated poor, 21 percent was rated fair, 52 percent was rated good and 22 was rated excellent

Fruit & Vegetable: Despite the lack of suitable field days, farmers were able to continue harvesting fruits and vegetables. The percent of peaches harvested advanced to 93 percent complete, up 13 percent from last week and on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. Thirty-two percent of the apple crop was harvested, up slightly from last week and also on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. The apple condition was relatively unchanged, with 2 percent rated as poor, 8 percent fair, 81 percent good and 9 percent excellent. The grape harvest advanced to 34 percent complete, 25 percent ahead of last year and 27 percent ahead of the five-year average. The percent of potato acreage harvested advanced to 31 percent, slightly behind last year and the five-year average.

U.S. as of August 31, 2003: Highlights: Warmer-than-normal temperatures continued across most of the nation, though some areas were markedly cooler than the high temperatures of the previous weeks. Tropical Storm Grace brought some much-needed rain to the southern and central Great Plains and southern Corn Belt, but caused localized flooding in some areas. Though the northern Great Plains and western Corn Belt missed the heavy rain, cooler temperatures late in the week brought some relief from the heat. Scattered showers across the Delta and the Southeast brought moderate to heavy rainfall to parts of the regions. The Pacific Coast and northern Rocky Mountain States remained dry, with above-normal temperatures, though not as high as in recent weeks. Scattered showers in the southern Rocky Mountains caused isolated flash flooding. Moderate to heavy rainfall covered most of the Ohio Valley. In New England, the only area of the Nation with below-normal temperatures, there was little precipitation to report. Corn: Ninety percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, 1 percentage point behind last year's 91 percent and 2 points behind the 5-year average of 92 percent. Fifty-seven percent of the crop had reached the dent stage, 3 points behind last year at this time and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Thirteen percent of the crop was mature, compared with 15 percent last year and 17 percent for the 5-year average. Warm, dry weather promoted development in the western Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, but the persistent lack of precipitation further deteriorated crop condition. Most States remained well behind average in denting, with Indiana and Pennsylvania over 1 week behind normal. Most areas were well behind normal in maturation. Soybeans: Ninety-six percent of the acreage was setting pods, 1 percentage point behind last year but even with the 5-year average. Seven percent of the crop was dropping leaves, the same as last year but 1 point behind the 5-year average. Though most States neared completion in setting pods. The Ohio Valley region was 1 week or more behind average in dropping leaves. In the western Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, persistent warm, dry weather pushed development ahead of the normal pace, but caused crop condition to decline. Small grains: Barley was 92 percent harvested, 25 percentage points ahead of last year and 15 points ahead of the 5-year average. Dry and warmer-than-normal weather continued to aid harvest activities, and all States except Idaho were over 1 week ahead of the normal pace. The oat crop advanced to 97 percent harvested, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Most States are at or slightly ahead of normal pace.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 7, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - September 7, 03					GDD BASE 40F
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	76	54	65	-3	1.64	3	17.63	-1.68	69	2170	+2	3591
Franklin_AG	76	47	63	-3	2.01	5	28.92	+7.09	104	1976	-60	3443
Meadville	73	49	62	-3	1.69	4	26.04	+4.33	88	1986	+120	3441
Mercer	74	37	59	-7	1.86	4	32.09	+11.41	77	1689	-326	3131
Springboro	75	47	61	-6	1.99	3	23.80	+4.73	78	1852	-296	3268
Warren	78	48	63	-2	1.57	5	30.37	+8.57	82	1955	-23	3391
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	74	39	59	-2	2.10	5	27.29	+5.46	92	1534	+83	2925
Emporium	80	49	63	+1	2.79	5	30.43	+8.60	87	2012	+383	3482
Kane	72	38	56	-5	1.98	5	25.74	+3.57	75	1121	-303	2422
Laporte	72	46	59	-6	4.52	5	29.45	+9.36	83	1761	-268	3152
Lock_Haven	77	52	64	-3	3.23	5	24.28	+4.44	77	2313	+167	3804
Port_Alegany	75	47	61	-1	2.63	6	29.41	+8.84	79	1679	+82	3071
Renovo	79	51	64	-2	2.73	5	24.23	+4.39	86	2188	+42	3674
Ridgway	78	44	61	-2	3.52	5	24.83	+3.00	75	1682	+53	3114
Stevenson_Dam	78	51	63	+1	2.35	5	26.05	+4.22	91	2005	+376	3473
Towanda	76	49	62	-3	4.38	5	28.00	+11.32	95	1994	-51	3429
Wellsboro	74	44	59	-3	3.32	5	25.31	+8.57	78	1689	+148	3081
Williamsport_AP	77	51	65	-3	3.72	5	27.13	+7.58	77	2387	+22	3878
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	74	46	60	-4	3.71	3	23.70	+4.67	68	1790	+34	3224
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	47	64	-3	3.81	4	27.26	+8.78	72	2267	+21	3731
Susquehanna	78	49	63	+2	6.23	6	29.25	+8.90	71	2200	+527	3642
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	77	47	65	-2	1.50	5	26.17	+5.41	85	2125	+17	3624
New_Castle	78	51	66	-1	2.50	4	31.63	+12.84	76	2277	+169	3783
Slippery_Rock	78	46	65	+2	2.82	5	32.98	+12.80	84	2172	+271	3670
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	77	46	64	-3	0.98	5	22.06	+4.12	94	2192	-56	3663
DuBois	74	43	62	-2	2.50	6	28.83	+8.00	98	1894	-60	3343
Lewistown	78	51	66	-3	1.53	5	24.12	+4.74	74	2474	+11	3975
Middletown	76	54	68	-3	1.86	5	27.89	+8.80	85	2697	-78	4203
Prince_Galitz	78	45	64	+1	1.48	6	24.94	+1.81	90	2003	+193	3446
Selinsgrove	76	50	64	-3	1.13	5	23.86	+3.94	80	2320	+11	3805
State_College_P	74	50	63	-4	2.04	5	28.70	+10.56	83	2285	+61	3769
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	77	49	66	-3	1.74	5	25.19	+4.32	76	2552	+10	4040
Lehighton	75	50	64	-5	1.46	5	28.86	+8.15	89	2214	-244	3681
Matamoras	74	48	61	-6	3.61	4	24.65	+3.67	77	1936	-290	3367
Tobyhanna	79	52	66	+6	4.25	5	32.73	+10.50	83	2390	+850	3858
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	50	68	+2	1.54	7	21.78	+2.56	91	2558	+301	4090
Derry	80	50	67	+2	1.70	5	30.94	+10.92	80	2266	+134	3751
Meyersdale	78	46	64	-3	1.78	5	25.03	+3.25	87	1723	-373	3148
Mount_Pleasant	79	47	66	+2	1.11	5	27.66	+4.87	88	2221	+316	3725
Pittsburgh_Intl	79	48	67	-1	0.53	4	21.91	+3.78	80	2506	+146	4033
Rector	81	41	66	+2	1.05	6	26.34	+3.55	81	2252	+347	3749
Waynesburg	80	50	67	+1	1.47	4	33.45	+13.54	89	2334	+144	3853
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	78	51	67	-3	2.30	5	28.72	+10.87	94	2534	-176	4038
Everett	79	49	66	-1	1.93	4	24.57	+7.07	86	2265	+30	3754
Hanover	82	49	67	-3	3.99	4	29.14	+11.29	73	2554	-156	4056
Shippensburg	81	49	67	-3	1.94	5	25.15	+7.69	73	2677	-15	4188
South_Mountain	77	46	64	-3	3.22	4	30.30	+12.36	78	2052	-189	3500
York_AP	83	48	69	-1	3.27	5	23.30	+3.91	82	2577	-120	4079
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	80	51	67	-2	2.48	5	29.67	+9.41	77	2710	+282	4214
Hamburg	77	52	65	-2	1.57	5	26.41	+3.03	80	2484	+256	3972
Hopewell	76	50	67	-5	2.10	5	26.43	+5.35	78	2437	-411	3909
Lancaster_AP	78	51	68	-1	2.50	5	21.65	+1.18	76	2568	+2	4065
Neshaminy_Falls	80	56	68	-1	1.33	5	22.13	-1.43	72	2742	+205	4235
New_Holland	78	52	67	-3	3.53	5	26.66	+6.19	80	2550	-16	4041
Philadelphia	80	57	71	-1	1.03	5	20.81	+0.78	69	3109	+177	4634
Philadelphia_NE	77	54	68	-5	1.74	5	20.38	+0.35	76	2847	-85	4354
Reading_AP	78	51	67	-2	1.62	5	21.85	+0.04	76	2644	+120	4136
Valley_Forge_Na	82	50	67	-5	1.51	5	27.00	+5.92	78	2506	-342	3987
Willow_Grove	75	54	66	-3	1.32	5	19.42	-4.14	68	2642	+105	4134

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.*

"Great weekend for getting things done. Fields of hays were being cut and equipment is being prepared for harvest. Hopefully the good weather will continue for working.

-- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

Very rainy early in the week has kept fields saturated.

-- Lew Steckler, Erie County

The rains keep coming and the ground gets more saturated. Thank goodness it wasn't snow. Hay is growing good but not weather to harvest.

-- David Stratton, Potter/McKean Counties

Wet week - 2.5 inches in my gauge. Very little field work possible. Water tables should be in good condition.

-- Dick Decker, Centre County

We had about 3 inches of rain this week, still too wet to do anything.

-- Marina Kemper, Huntington County

The rain last week has totally soaked fields. Warm sunny weather over the weekend will push corn fields corn maturity rapidly. Most early planted corn beginning to dent.

-- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

If it wasn't for "wet" luck we wouldn't have any luck at all. Juniata County fair was a little damp.

-- Dave Stetler, Juniata County

Still wet most of this week with cooler temperatures. It was drier toward the weekend which allowed for some hay to be harvested. Still no chance for dry hay. Most corn and soybeans are looking great, but continue to need sun, heat, and

time. Still too wet for barley planting in most soils.

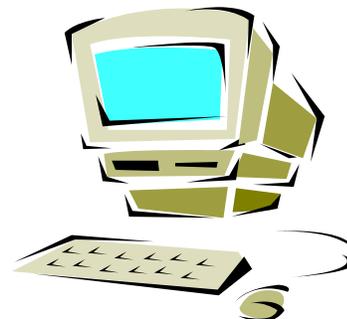
-- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

Week consisted of many showers and storms. Rain averaged two inches with some areas exceeding 5 inches. Poor week for any field work. Need some drying weather to put finishing touches on the corn crop. Hay making was not a factor for the past week. Needless to say no fall plowing or small grains have been planted as yet. Peaches were over with this being one of the best years in the past several for quality and yield. Apples appear to be doing well as the season gets under way.

-- Thomas A. Kerr, Franklin County

Again more rain has soaked the ground. Great for plant diseases and foot rot. Some farmers are commenting the corn silage is drier than it looks. Again safety is most important during the harvest season.

-- Axel Linde, Lancaster County





PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 7, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
		<i>Percent</i>	
Fall plowing	14	18	22
Corn, dough	70	89	84
Corn, dent	39	68	56
Corn, mature	5	28	16
Corn silage, harvested	9	52	27
Winter Wheat, Planted	7	10	5
Tobacco, harvested	45	71	61
Potatoes, harvested	31	41	35
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	94	96	98
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	65	81	78
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	20	48	39
Timothy clover, 2 nd cutting	73	79	80
Peaches, harvested	93	96	94
Apples, harvested	32	37	30
Grapes, harvested	34	9	7

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 7, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			<i>Percent</i>		
Corn	2	7	18	46	27
Soybeans	1	5	19	57	18
Quality of hay made	16	20	43	15	6
Pasture conditions	1	4	21	52	22
Apples	0	2	8	81	9

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