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**2008 Crop & Weather Summary:** The average monthly temperature for January was 32.9 degrees. January recorded an average precipitation of 1.09 inches. February temperatures were below normal as the monthly average was 31.9 degrees. It was a wet February with an average of 5.77 inches of rain, which is 2.89 inches above normal. March had near normal temperatures. The average monthly temperature was 41.6 degrees. Average rainfall for the month was at 4.68 inches, which was 1.10 inches above normal.

In April, wide ranges of temperatures and rainfall for different regions fell on Pennsylvania. The average temperature for the month was 54.3 degrees, which was 2.2 degrees above normal. The reported precipitation average for the state was 3.86 inches, which is 0.55 inches above normal. On average, 18 days were suitable for field work for the month. Producers were able to get 68 percent of the plowing finished by the month's end. Nineteen percent of the corn, 26% of the potatoes, and 81% of the oats were planted in April. Pennsylvania had a cooler than usual May, with an average temperature of 58.5 degrees, which is 3.5 degrees less than average. Pennsylvania accumulated an average of 5.41 inches, which is 0.81 inches above normal. Twelve days were suitable for fieldwork for the month. Seventy percent of corn, 58% of the potatoes, 38 percent of the soybean acreage had been planted by the end of the month. Spring plowing was 85% completed by the end of May. Producers were well into the first cutting of alfalfa hay and had a good start for timothy clover. June was much warmer than normal as the average temperature was 74.5 degrees, which is 3.8 degrees above normal. An average of 2.54 inches of rain fell across the state of Pennsylvania, which was 1.45 inches drier than normal. The warm and dry weather allowed for 24 days in the month that suitable for fieldwork. Transplanting tobacco finished in the month of June. Most producers finished planting their corn, and were nearly done with the soybeans at month's end, while others were well into the harvest for barley. As some farmers were completing the first cutting of alfalfa, others already had a good start on the second cutting.

July was slightly above average in temperature. The temperature in July averaged 76.9 degrees, which is 1.0 degree above average. There was 3.53 inches of precipitation, which is 0.32 above normal. This weather led to 19 days suitable for fieldwork. Crop conditions, except for pastures, continued to do very well throughout the month of July. The barley and wheat harvests were completed during the month. The average corn height came well was right inline with normal by the end of the month at 66 inches. The average August temperature was 72.9 degrees, which was 1.1 degrees below normal. August was a dry month, as the average precipitation was 1.09 inches. This led to a productive month with 26 days suitable for fieldwork. This is 2.15 inches less than average. Tobacco harvest was advancing faster than the previous year and the 5-year average. Potatoes were 24% harvested by the end of the month. Peach and apple harvests continued from July. Most producers were well on their way to completing their third cutting of alfalfa and second cutting of timothy clover by the end of August. September was slightly cooler than August, with an average temperature of 68 degrees, which is 1.8 degrees above normal. September also had more rain than August. The precipitation total for the month was 6.61 inches, which is 2.96 inches above the normal. There were 21 days suitable for fieldwork in September. Corn harvested for both

grain and silage were the main activities for the month. Operators were right in line for these tasks as compared to historic trends. The tobacco harvest was near completion by the end of the month, while producers also worked on harvest for potatoes, peaches, apples, and grapes. Producers neared the completion of the fourth cutting of alfalfa as well as the second cutting of timothy clover. Barley and wheat were also planted during the month.

October average temperatures were 53.1° F, which is 1.4° F less than normal. The precipitation total for the month was 1.91 inches, which is 1.15 inches below normal. There were 22 days suitable for fieldwork in October. Producers finished harvesting their corn for silage and continued harvesting corn for grain with 58 percent of the state's acreage harvested by month's end. The potato harvest was completed by the end of the month, and the soybean harvest was 61% complete by the beginning of the next month. November had an average temperature of 43.3 degrees, which was 1.0 degrees below normal. The precipitation total for the month was 2.93 inches, which is 0.60 inches below normal. Producers continued to harvest corn and soybeans. Farmers also were preparing equipment for the next growing season.

**Small Grains:** Production of winter wheat was 11,840,000 bushels, 32 percent above the previous year. There were 185,000 acres harvested in 2008, 30,000 more than in 2007. Yield was 64.0 bushels per acre in 2008, up 6 bushels per acre from 2007. There were 4,640,000 bushels of oats produced in 2008, up 4 percent from 2007. Harvested acreage was at 80,000 in 2008, which is the same as 2007. Yield was 58 bushels per acre for 2008, up 2 bushels from 2007. Barley production for 2008 was 4,125,000 bushels, up 35 percent from 2007. Harvested acreage was at 55,000, up 13,000 acres from 2007. Yield was 75 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from 2007.

**Hay:** Production of all hay in 2008 was 3,810,000 tons, down 9 percent from 2007. There were 1,750,000 total acres harvested in 2008, down 50,000 acres from 2007. Yield was 2.18 tons per acre, compared to 2.33 tons in 2007. Alfalfa hay production was 1,650,000 tons, down 8 percent from 2007's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 550,000, down 50,000 acres from 2007. Yield was 3.00 tons per acre, the same as in 2007. Other hay production was 2,160,000 tons, down 10 percent from 2007. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,200,000, the same as 2007. Yield was at 1.80 tons per acre, down 10 percent from the previous year.

**Row Crops:** Corn for grain production was at 117,040,000 bushels, down 7 percent from 2007. Harvested acres amounted to 880,000 acres, down 100,000 acres from 2007. Yield was 133 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from 2007. Corn for silage production was 8,325,000 tons, up 23 percent from 2007. Acres harvested totaled 450,000 acres, up 40,000 from 2007. Yield is 18.5 tons per acre, up 2.0 tons from 2007. Soybean production for 2008 was 17,200,000 bushels, down 2 percent from 2007. Harvested soybean acreage was at 430,000, the same as in 2007. Yield was 40 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from 2007. Potato production was at 2,518,000 cwt, up 14 percent from 2007. Acres harvested dropped 500 acres to 9,500 acres. Yield increased to 265 cwt per acre, up 45 cwt from 2007. Total production of tobacco was 17,632,000 pounds, up 3 percent from 2007. There were 7900 acres harvested in 2008, unchanged from 2007. The All tobacco yield was 2,232 lbs. per acre, up 55 pounds from 2007.