



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 10, 2008

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair week for Field Work: For the most part, the weather throughout the state was cooler and wetter than previous weeks. Four days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included spreading manure and lime, preparing for fall seedings, picking fruit, cutting and baling hay and straw, mowing weeds, as well as harvesting oats, sweet corn, and other vegetables.

was estimated as follows: 5% very poor, 9% poor, 31% fair, 47% good, and 8% excellent.

U.S. as of August 3, 2008: A broad ridge of high pressure brought the hottest weather of the year to parts of the nation's mid-section and boosted temperatures above 100 degrees F as far north as Montana. A few readings of 110 degrees F or higher were noted from northern Texas into southwestern Nebraska. The extreme heat increased stress on pastures and immature summer crops, especially in areas with soil moisture shortages. However, significant rain also dotted the Plains which aided immature summer crops, but slowed early-season spring wheat harvesting. Meanwhile, hot, mostly dry weather prevailed in the West, favoring fieldwork and rapid crop development. Western showers were confined to the Pacific Northwest and the Four Corners States. Farther east, hot weather also began to expand into the Midwest, where corn and soybeans have generally experienced a summer without drought and heat stress. However, late-week temperatures climbed to 95 degrees F or higher only in the southwestern fringe of the Corn Belt. In addition, heavy showers (locally in excess of 4 inches) preceded the hot weather across the middle Mississippi and lower Ohio Valleys, maintaining pockets of excessive wetness and tempering the effects of late-week heat. Elsewhere, heavy rain soaked New England, while scattered showers provided local drought relief for pastures and immature summer crops in the Southeast.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 10, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7	23	45	25

Crops: The corn condition improved last week with 82 percent of the crop rated in good or excellent condition. Four percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor. The state's corn is 87% tasseled, with 25% at the dough stage. Eighty-one percent of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. Oat condition declined with 79 percent of the oats in good or excellent condition compared to the previous week's 86 percent. Ninety-two percent of the oats are now ripe, compared to last year's 89 percent, and the average of 83 percent. The oat harvest continued, with 68 percent harvested. The potato harvest is estimated to be 13% complete. The tobacco harvest has begun, and shows to be 15% harvested. The second cutting of alfalfa is nearing completion at 95 percent complete, which is 5 points behind last year, and 2 points above the average. Alfalfa third cutting continued and is 55% completed, which is 2 points behind last year, and 4 points above average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa has begun and is now 6% complete. The second cutting of timothy clover is 62% completed, compared with the average of 55%. The quality of hay declined and is at 63 percent good or excellent, with 5 percent rated as poor or very poor. Peaches are in good condition, as 97 percent are rated as good or excellent. The peach harvest is 50 percent completed, which is the same as last year and the average. The apple condition is again 83 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest shows to be 15% complete, compared with last year's 21% and the average of 19%.

Corn: Acreage at or beyond silking reached 83 percent, 12 points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Development was delayed in all states except Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Corn acreage was 17 percent at or beyond the dough stage, 20 points behind last year and 15 points behind the normal pace. Condition of the corn crop was rated 66 percent good to excellent, unchanged from a week ago.

Soybeans: Condition of soybeans nationwide was rated 63 percent good to excellent, increasing 1 point from last week.

Winter Wheat: Eighty-six percent of the winter wheat crop was harvested, 7 points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was almost complete in nearly all states.

Livestock: Pasture conditions improved last week. Fifty-five percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is up 7 points from last week. Fourteen percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 21. Overall, the state's pasture condition

Oats: Oat harvest was 34 percent complete, 28 points behind last year and 18 points behind the 5-year average. All states except for Texas were behind the normal pace. Oat condition was rated 57 percent good to excellent, unchanged from the previous week.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 10, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 10, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	56	72	1	1.35	5	15.07	-0.35	59	1,949	290	3,157
Franklin	82	50	68	-3	1.22	4	19.13	0.94	68	1,695	119	2,902
Meadville	81	51	68	-1	1.22	4	16.84	-0.79	60	1,695	253	2,901
Mercer	82	49	68	-3	2.32	6	18.69	1.55	72	1,652	92	2,866
Springboro	81	47	66	-5	1.38	5	22.62	7.15	66	1,559	-99	2,738
Warren	81	53	67	-3	2.38	5	20.49	2.61	73	1,588	54	2,763
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	49	63	-3	1.83	6	17.61	-0.49	77	1,240	114	2,339
Emporium	87	54	68	3	1.40	4	14.57	-3.87	70	1,656	399	2,855
Kane	78	48	62	-3	1.50	5	17.34	-0.85	67	1,218	109	2,317
Laporte	79	54	65	-5	0.93	2	20.15	3.32	70	1,478	-100	2,627
Lock Haven	86	53	69	-2	1.26	3	15.12	-1.36	62	1,869	200	3,104
Port Allegany	79	50	64	-2	1.36	4	13.88	-3.30	68	1,351	106	2,482
Renovo	86	54	69	-3	1.12	4	14.93	-1.55	56	1,832	163	3,058
Ridgway	81	47	64	-3	2.54	5	16.97	-1.47	67	1,344	87	2,489
Stevenson Dam	85	54	68	3	1.12	4	13.60	-4.84	61	1,665	408	2,859
Towanda	84	54	68	-3	1.25	3	17.55	3.62	58	1,702	112	2,895
Wellsboro	80	50	65	-2	0.83	5	15.35	1.26	69	1,355	164	2,485
Williamsport	88	54	70	-2	0.37	3	16.07	-0.43	60	2,039	194	3,298
Northeast												
Hawley	81	52	67	-2	2.10	4	14.70	-1.03	53	1,547	193	2,709
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	55	69	-3	0.97	4	14.90	-0.61	60	1,894	139	3,106
Susquehanna	82	54	68	1	1.15	5	18.06	1.19	67	1,614	314	2,800
West Central												
Butler	82	48	68	-4	0.81	6	14.35	-2.75	79	1,621	-12	2,847
New Castle	87	51	71	2	1.04	5	15.19	-0.49	70	1,896	255	3,142
Slippery Rock	83	50	68	-1	1.74	4	17.38	0.75	63	1,652	173	2,899
Central												
Altoona/Blair	82	51	68	-4	0.98	3	15.20	-0.06	65	1,833	77	3,055
DuBois	79	49	66	-4	1.61	5	17.14	0.00	73	1,584	59	2,759
Lewistown	89	55	71	-3	0.45	3	17.20	0.65	57	1,962	39	3,192
Middletown	91	60	75	-1	0.05	2	15.78	-0.22	50	2,323	154	3,597
Prince Gallitzi	82	48	66	-2	1.36	4	17.04	-2.53	62	1,518	117	2,701
Selinsgrove	87	54	70	-3	0.55	3	14.90	-1.61	53	1,924	123	3,153
State College	84	54	69	-2	0.69	2	16.03	0.80	56	1,923	185	3,156
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	87	53	71	-3	0.30	2	16.70	-0.28	47	2,051	62	3,291
Lehighton	85	53	70	-4	0.14	4	13.90	-3.10	59	1,870	-49	3,095
Matamoras	84	53	70	-2	0.94	4	15.42	-2.15	59	1,682	-56	2,866
Mt_Pocono	78	50	65	-1	0.50	4	14.91	-3.48	63	1,458	269	2,603
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	56	71	1	0.56	4	16.09	-0.19	60	2,026	263	3,290
Derry	82	51	67	-4	0.20	2	21.38	4.56	69	1,769	114	3,005
Myersdale	80	45	63	-8	0.38	1	22.57	4.03	66	1,321	-292	2,480
Mount Pleasant	83	48	67	-2	0.23	3	20.34	1.54	66	1,741	272	2,990
Pittsburgh Intl	84	53	70	-2	1.11	4	15.72	0.42	61	1,992	148	3,254
Connellsville	87	51	70	-2	0.12	2	23.44	5.35	69	1,941	64	3,204
Waynesburg	85	50	68	-3	0.05	2	21.69	4.97	59	1,748	43	2,998
South Central												
Biglerville	88	57	72	-3	0.64	2	19.37	4.67	52	2,119	-4	3,372
Everett	83	50	67	-5	0.14	1	20.06	5.21	58	1,673	-58	2,885
Hanover	90	53	72	-3	0.44	1	16.71	2.01	56	2,102	-21	3,350
Harrisburg_AP	91	57	74	-3	0.17	2	13.25	-2.75	39	2,274	98	3,551
South Mountain	84	52	68	-4	0.41	3	21.86	6.60	66	1,674	-75	2,874
York	87	53	71	-4	0.26	3	20.62	4.33	57	2,156	42	3,425
Southeast												
Green Lane	88	57	73	0	0.15	3	19.71	3.07	54	2,148	253	3,408
Hamburg	89	55	73	3	0.25	2	12.28	-7.35	53	2,166	434	3,426
West_Chester	88	53	71	-4	0.03	2	14.02	-4.34	45	2,083	-19	3,330
Lancaster	87	56	72	-3	0.09	2	15.56	-1.58	50	2,075	80	3,328
Neshaminy Falls	86	55	71	-3	0.51	3	16.32	-3.14	46	2,152	173	3,414
New Holland	89	57	73	-2	0.07	2	16.92	-0.22	49	2,199	204	3,459
Philadelphia	90	64	77	0	0.07	1	12.88	-3.79	44	2,568	285	3,863
Philadelphia NE	91	60	77	0	0.18	1	12.75	-3.92	49	2,656	373	3,954
Reading	88	56	73	-2	0.36	3	12.59	-5.53	54	2,261	300	3,523
Valley Forge Na	88	55	72	-4	0.17	2	18.44	1.10	48	2,059	-168	3,327
Willow Grove	87	60	74	0	0.06	2	15.11	-4.35	54	2,293	314	3,567

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.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County started out last week with morning temperatures in the 60's and day time temperatures into the 70's with little humidity. On Wednesday, a few drops of rain fell, but not in measurable amounts. On Thursday, Gettysburg and south of Gettysburg had strong thunderstorms with heavy rainfall, strong winds, and some hail. Hunterstown through Heidlersburg area had a heavy downpour for 10 minutes, but the rest of the county remained dry. On Sunday afternoon, York Springs around 3:20-3:25 had marble sized hail, with heavy winds and rainfall that measured 3/4 of an inch. Temperatures dropped for a little while to 60 degrees. The Cashtown area had similar conditions with hail being an inch in size. Biglerville area received small amounts of rainfall during the storm. South of Gettysburg only had 0.2 inches of rain on Sunday afternoon. Other places did not have enough rain to measure. The rains are very sporadic this year. Corn and soybeans continue to grow as a result of the moisture that is available. Most corn is in the tassel stage and making grain. Sporadic growth within the same field is very common this year. Early soybeans are getting height, and late soybeans are finally emerging with the recent rainfall. Hay continues to be made. Some plowing is happening for future seedings. Peaches and some early apples continue to be harvested. Sporadic hail will affect the quality of apples and peaches again this year. Some yellow delicious are reported to have Russet, and some growers have scab on their apples. Sweet corn and other vegetables are being harvested. Overall the crops are looking pretty good, but more rainfall would be really beneficial. Producers are still busy doing field work due to the strange planting season this spring.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - There has been scattered reports of hail. Individual orchards are reporting light to moderate damage.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - A few showers, with cooler temperatures this weekend helped the pastures remain. Oat harvest is finished. Peaches are in mid season, and are good quality. Apples are sizing well with the showers we are getting.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Joseph Shevchik (FSA) - Activities during the week included harvesting oats, baling straw, and making hay. Ground moisture is adequate. Corn crop is looking good.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Some good rain showers during the week helped the top soil moisture. There was 1.1 inches in my gauge.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Last week was another week of off and on rain showers. Some storms were heavy, and brought significant rains to our area. This summer, the weather has been a major factor in trying to harvest crops in a timely manner. Pastures have utilized the abundance of water that we have received.

FOREST COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - Many storms passed through Clarion, Forest, Venango, and Warren Counties this pass week. Hail damaged about 60 acres of corn in Warren County and the high winds put many acres of hay, corn and oats flat on the ground. Many streams overflowed their banks and caused some field damage.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Overall crop conditions are good. Some areas have received scattered showers, while others received very little rain. Tobacco harvest is under way. Some areas in the county received slight hail damage.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Last week was another week of scattered rain. Snap bean harvest will start this week. Dry hay harvest continues to be a challenge.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The hit and miss showers during the week missed a major section of our area. The corn and soybeans are suffering in lighter soils. The making of third cutting hay is progressing with reports on the yields as favorable. Main activities for the week were haymaking, spreading manure and lime, and preparing for fall seedings.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr, (FSA) - Last week was a dry week, but crops are still doing well. Soil moisture is at the lowest level of this growing season.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Westmoreland County had a dry weather week with isolated showers. It was mostly rain-free and low humidity weather that was good for hay making. Top soil moisture has rapidly dried out.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 10, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	87	90	86
Corn, dough	25	32	38
Oats, ripe	92	89	83
Oats, harvested	68	58	56
Tobacco, harvested	15	6	6
Potatoes, harvested	13	5	9
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	95	100	93
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	55	57	51
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	6	0	2
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	62	62	55
Peaches, harvested	50	50	50
Apples, harvested	15	21	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 10, 2008

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	14	64	18
Oats	2	2	17	61	18
Soybeans	0	0	19	68	13
Quality of hay made	0	5	32	52	11
Pasture	5	9	31	47	8
Peaches	0	0	3	62	35
Apples	0	0	17	54	29

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