



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 24, 2008

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

Excellent week for Field Work: Six days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included mowing weeds, making hay, spreading manure and lime, planting alfalfa, picking fruit, as well as harvesting oats, corn for silage, sweet corn, tobacco, potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables. Fall plowing continues and shows to be 12% completed. Farmers also took some time away from their busy schedules to attend Ag Progress Days, and the Crawford County Fair.

U.S. as of August 17, 2008: During the first half of the week, heavy rain across the South caused local flash flooding, but aided pastures and immature summer crops. At least 4 inches of rain fell from the southeastern Plains into western Florida, easing or eradicating drought. Across the interior Southeast, however, much smaller amounts of rain provided little or no drought relief in the southern Appalachians and neighboring areas. Farther west, a disturbance dropping southward from the Canadian Prairies dumped rain during the mid- to late-week period across parts of the Plains. Two inches of rain soaked drought-affected areas from eastern Colorado into central Texas. This helped immature summer crops and boosting soil moisture in preparation for winter wheat planting. Meanwhile in the Midwest, scattered showers were mostly confined to areas west of the Mississippi River. Despite pockets of developing dryness in the eastern Corn Belt and the upper Midwest, growing conditions remained mostly favorable for corn and soybeans not affected by spring and early-summer flooding. Elsewhere, sporadic monsoon showers in the Southwest contrasted with hot, mostly dry weather in other areas west of the Rockies. In the Northwest, dry weather and record setting heat promoted small grain harvesting but maintained the threat of wildfire activity. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 5 degrees F above normal in parts of northern California and the Pacific Northwest, but were at least 5 degrees F below normal in many locations from the central and southern Plains into the Mid-Atlantic States.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 24, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
20	50	29	1

Crops: The corn condition declined this week. It was estimated as 65 percent good or excellent condition compared with 78% last week. Eight percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor. The state's corn is 73% at the dough stage, 39% dented, and 12% mature, compared with the average of 70%, 34%, and 7% respectively. Soybean condition declined last week as 69% of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. This is compared with last week's 84%. Corn silage harvest has begun, and shows to be 15% completed. The oat harvest is nearing completion and shows to be 96 percent harvested, compared with last year's 94% and the average of 90%. The potato harvest is estimated to be 18% complete. The tobacco harvest shows to be 40% harvested. Alfalfa third cutting progressed last week and is 91% completed. The fourth cutting continued and is now 19% complete. The second cutting of timothy clover is 82% completed, compared with the average of 71%. The quality of hay improved and is at 82 percent good or excellent, with 2 percent rated as poor or very poor. The peach harvest is 77 percent completed, which is 7 points better than last year and 8 points above average. The apple condition declined and is estimated at 71 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest shows to be 27% complete, compared with last year's 29% and the average of 27%.

Corn: Dry and cooler than average weather prevailed across the Corn Belt. Development of corn acreage to the silking stage reached 97 percent, lagging 3 points behind last year's pace and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Silking was complete or nearly complete in all States. Nearly half of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 28 points behind last year and 19 points behind the average pace. Progress was behind the 5-year average in all States except Colorado and Michigan. Fourteen percent of the National corn acreage reached the dent stage by week's end, 24 points behind the previous year and 16 points behind normal. Condition of the corn crop remained unchanged from last week's 67 percent good to excellent rating.

Livestock: Pasture conditions declined last week. Forty-three percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is down 3 points from last week. Nineteen percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 20 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 7% very poor, 12% poor, 38% fair, 37% good, and 6% excellent.

Soybeans: Condition of the soybeans declined 1 point from last week to 62 percent good to excellent.

Oats: Oat harvest reached 74 percent complete, 14 points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Progress was significantly behind the normal pace in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 24, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 24, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	LowS	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	89	51	73	4	0.13	1	16.21	-1.09	62	2,233	294	3,581	
Franklin	86	47	68	0	0.07	1	19.86	-0.15	72	1,919	86	3,266	
Meadville	84	49	69	4	0.00	0	17.38	-2.35	64	1,926	246	3,272	
Mercer	86	50	69	3	0.00	0	19.36	0.52	75	1,886	73	3,240	
Springboro	84	42	68	-2	0.02	1	23.49	6.20	68	1,776	-152	3,095	
Warren	87	47	68	2	0.00	0	21.15	1.31	76	1,812	28	3,127	
North Central													
Bradford Region	81	38	63	0	0.01	1	18.21	-1.71	82	1,392	79	2,631	
Emporium	87	46	66	3	0.00	0	14.89	-5.24	74	1,876	408	3,215	
Kane	82	38	62	-1	0.00	0	18.55	-1.60	70	1,373	81	2,612	
Laporte	79	44	63	-5	0.00	0	20.94	2.53	74	1,654	-179	2,943	
Lock Haven	88	47	68	-2	0.00	0	15.12	-3.04	62	2,115	179	3,490	
Port Allegany	84	41	64	0	0.00	0	14.25	-4.56	71	1,532	86	2,803	
Renovo	88	47	68	-2	0.00	0	15.45	-2.71	59	2,073	137	3,439	
Ridgway	84	40	63	-2	0.00	0	17.61	-2.52	71	1,519	51	2,804	
Stevenson Dam	87	46	67	3	0.00	0	14.10	-6.03	62	1,898	430	3,232	
Towanda	85	46	66	-3	0.14	2	17.82	2.57	64	1,923	75	3,256	
Wellsboro	83	39	63	-1	0.00	0	15.51	0.15	72	1,527	134	2,797	
Williamsport	87	48	69	-2	0.00	0	17.09	-0.93	63	2,303	169	3,702	
Northeast													
Hawley	82	43	65	-2	0.01	1	16.43	-0.94	58	1,749	167	3,051	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	47	68	-2	0.00	0	15.70	-1.26	64	2,139	109	3,491	
Susquehanna	83	45	65	1	0.12	2	18.75	0.17	73	1,824	311	3,150	
West Central													
Butler	87	50	68	-1	0.00	0	14.62	-4.34	81	1,848	-49	3,214	
New Castle	89	48	70	2	0.00	0	15.63	-1.56	72	2,155	256	3,541	
Slippery Rock	87	51	68	2	0.00	0	17.96	-0.46	65	1,874	159	3,261	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	84	47	68	-2	0.00	0	15.27	-1.25	70	2,064	34	3,426	
DuBois	83	45	67	1	0.00	0	17.70	-1.32	77	1,791	24	3,106	
Lewistown	88	48	69	-2	0.00	0	17.36	-0.59	59	2,228	7	3,598	
Middletown	90	52	73	-2	0.00	0	15.97	-1.52	52	2,634	131	4,048	
Prince Gallitzi	85	43	64	-2	0.00	0	17.16	-4.09	64	1,708	78	3,031	
Selinsgrove	88	48	67	-4	0.00	0	16.26	-1.93	57	2,170	87	3,539	
State College	86	50	70	2	0.00	0	16.09	-0.54	58	2,186	176	3,559	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	87	48	69	-3	0.00	0	17.37	-1.57	52	2,310	13	3,690	
Lehighton	84	49	67	-4	0.00	0	15.70	-3.12	63	2,112	-109	3,477	
Matamoras	85	48	67	-2	0.06	1	16.23	-2.99	66	1,927	-85	3,251	
Mt_Pocono	80	45	63	-1	0.00	0	16.15	-4.11	69	1,637	244	2,922	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	88	54	72	4	0.00	0	16.52	-1.19	63	2,302	267	3,706	
Derry	88	48	68	-2	0.00	0	21.88	3.50	73	1,997	76	3,373	
Myersdale	80	45	63	-6	0.00	0	22.59	2.49	67	1,492	-388	2,791	
Mount Pleasant	87	48	68	2	0.00	0	20.51	-0.33	68	1,967	256	3,356	
Pittsburgh Intl	87	55	72	3	0.00	0	16.84	0.14	63	2,261	133	3,663	
Connellsville	88	52	71	2	0.00	0	23.47	3.72	70	2,211	46	3,614	
Waynesburg	88	52	70	2	0.00	0	21.69	3.33	59	1,993	20	3,383	
South Central													
Biglerville	87	52	71	-2	0.00	0	19.61	3.40	54	2,399	-46	3,792	
Everett	86	48	67	-4	0.00	0	20.15	4.02	60	1,896	-115	3,248	
Hanover	88	50	70	-3	0.00	0	17.25	1.04	57	2,374	-71	3,762	
Harrisburg_AP	89	52	72	-2	0.00	0	13.68	-3.81	42	2,569	59	3,986	
South Mountain	82	50	66	-4	0.00	0	24.31	7.79	70	1,888	-135	3,228	
York	87	47	69	-4	0.00	0	20.97	3.14	61	2,410	-23	3,819	
Southeast													
Green Lane	88	52	70	0	0.00	0	20.84	2.38	59	2,428	238	3,828	
Hamburg	88	50	70	1	0.00	0	14.76	-6.69	57	2,442	432	3,842	
West_Chester	88	49	70	-4	0.00	0	16.08	-3.96	47	2,353	-69	3,740	
Lancaster	88	50	70	-3	0.00	0	15.79	-3.01	53	2,349	39	3,742	
Neshaminy Falls	88	52	70	-2	0.00	0	16.73	-4.77	49	2,433	146	3,835	
New Holland	89	51	71	-1	0.00	0	18.16	-0.64	53	2,489	179	3,889	
Philadelphia	89	59	75	-1	0.00	0	15.19	-3.16	46	2,900	263	4,335	
Philadelphia NE	93	58	75	1	0.00	0	13.14	-5.21	51	2,997	360	4,435	
Reading	88	52	71	-1	0.00	0	13.87	-6.06	57	2,545	272	3,947	
Valley Forge Na	88	48	69	-5	0.00	0	20.06	0.90	52	2,322	-246	3,730	
Willow Grove	88	52	72	1	0.00	0	15.49	-6.01	56	2,591	304	4,005	

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 had another week of dry weather. Morning temperatures were in the 50's, with daytime temperatures mostly in the 80's. The sun was out all week. The whole county is pretty dry; with crops showing drought stress. Crop insurance adjusters are going out on claims for earlier hailstorm damaged fruit. They are also looking at crops affected by dry weather conditions. Hay continues to be made, but it is not growing back because of the lack of rain. Pastures are also drying up with no benefit for livestock. Peaches and apples with good yields continue to be harvested. Some irrigated sweet corn is also being harvested. Soil is being prepared for fall seedings of wheat, barley, rye, etc. Our county's crops are hanging in there, but the lack of moisture is apparent on all crops throughout. Bring on the rainfall!

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - There was no significant rainfall this past week. Daytime temperatures have been favorable for a normal, progressive peach harvest. Nighttime temperatures have been on the cool side resulting in excellent apple coloring. Gala apple harvest will commence in earnest this week with no cracking noted to date.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Last week was another dry week. Corn silage harvest is underway. Quality and tonnage is very good due to the early season rains. Early planted soybeans are looking like they will yield well, but they do need rain to fill out the pods. The peach harvest is beginning to wind down. Peach quality has been very good this year.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Rain has been very spotty during the last month. Some parts of the county have not had any rain in over 3 weeks. Corn and soybean yields will be hurt by the lack of rainfall. Sweet corn is being irrigated by those with the capacity to do so. Corn silage will start very soon.

CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA) - Corn silage harvesting has begun. Corn is beginning to dry down. Yield may not be as good as 2007 because the ears have not filled out to the top. Tobacco harvest has begun.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week was dry. We need rain to make things green again. It was a good week for hay making, etc.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Corn and soybean are wilting during the day. We need rain. It is still a critical period for crops.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - It was a beautiful week in northwest Pennsylvania for farm activities. Lots of oats were combined and quality hay was made. Producers were still able to go to the Crawford County Fair for a wonderful week of events.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - One word sums up last week, "dry"! Field conditions are as dry as they have been all season. Many corn and soybean fields are showing extreme drought conditions. Corn silage harvest has begun as a result of dry soil conditions. Whole plant moisture levels in the 66 to 69% moisture levels were reported. Growers are encouraged to check standing corn moisture levels to anticipate harvest schedules. There were reports of armyworms in high levels in sorghum sudangrass fields.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many farmers have finished harvesting oats. Several acres of 3rd and 4th crop hay were made last week. The hay quality was excellent compared to the first and second cuttings. Hay yields are well above last year's yields. Many farmers are reporting have harvested 5 to 7 tons of hay per acre. Soybeans and corn appear to be much better than they were last year at this time. On the second week of August, Warren, Forest, Venango and Clarion Counties did have hail and wind damage to vegetable, fruit, soybeans, and corn crops.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Activities last week included making hay, harvesting tobacco, potatoes and tomatoes, fall plowing and planting alfalfa. Corn is maturing fast and some silage harvesting has begun.

MONTOUR COUNTY, David Reedy (FSA) - For the third week of August, most of our two county region is dry to very dry. Southern Columbia and western Montour counties are the driest. The corn appears to be very stressed. This week's forecast for rain should help.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Last week was a very good week for field work. It was one of the few weeks this year with very little rain. Harvesting oats, 2nd cutting hay and snap beans were activities performed last week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The corn and soybeans are stressed again. The upper flowers on the late soybeans are affected by the hot and dry conditions. The third cutting of hay is in full motion with some farmers starting on the fourth cutting. A significant amount of very good hay was made this past week because of the dry conditions. Haymaking, spreading manure, mowing pastures, and attending Ag Progress Days were the main activities of the week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - The continued hot and dry conditions are adversely affecting corn, soybean, hay, and sweet corn yields. With no rain this week, some nice hay was harvested. The pastures are browning.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Very dry and sunny conditions continued throughout the week. Corn is showing signs of moisture stress. Pastures are drying up. We could use some rain.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 24, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dough	73	68	70
Corn, dent	39	41	34
Corn, mature	12	6	7
Corn silage, harvested	15	14	12
Oats, harvested	96	94	90
Tobacco, harvested	40	26	30
Potatoes, harvested	18	10	18
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	91	74	70
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	19	21	11
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	82	82	71
Peaches, harvested	77	70	69
Apples, harvested	27	29	27

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 24, 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	7	27	50	15
Soybeans	1	3	27	54	15
Quality of hay made	0	2	16	54	28
Pasture	7	12	38	37	6
Apples	0	6	23	45	26

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