



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 7, 2008

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Excellent week for Field Work: Six days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included mowing weeds, making hay, fall plowing, spreading manure and lime, planting alfalfa, picking fruit, as well as harvesting corn for silage, sweet corn, tobacco, potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables. Farmers are also preparing for fall harvest. Fall plowing continues and shows to be 18 % completed.

Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 7, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
26	36	36	2

Crops: Saturday's rain did not seem to significantly improve Pennsylvania crop conditions. Corn condition was estimated as 63 percent good or excellent condition compared with 67% last week. Eleven percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor. The state's corn is 90% at the dough stage, 62% dented, 25% mature, and 6% harvested, compared with the average of 87%, 64%, 24% and 4% respectively. Soybean condition improved slightly, as 67% of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. This is compared with last week's 64 percent. Corn silage harvest continues and shows to be 43% completed. The potato harvest is estimated to be 37% complete. The tobacco harvest shows to be 76% harvested. The fourth cutting of alfalfa continued and is 54% complete. The second cutting of timothy clover is 96% completed, compared with the 5 year average of 83%. Hay quality is in better condition than the previous weeks. Seventy-three percent of the hay made was of good or excellent quality, with 4 percent rated as poor or very poor. The peach harvest is 92 percent completed, which is the same as the average. The apple condition declined again and is estimated at 62 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest shows to be 32% complete, compared with last year's 41% and the average of 36%.

Livestock: Pastures throughout the state need more rain. Pasture conditions declined again last week. Twenty-two percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is down 8 points from last week. Forty-eight percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 30 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 13% very poor, 35% poor, 30% fair, 20% good, and 2% excellent.

U.S. as of September 1, 2008: Tropical Depression Fay finally dissipated over the Mid-Atlantic region on August 28, ten days after reaching the Florida Keys. Following 1 to 2 feet of rain, parts of Florida and neighboring areas continued to deal with Fay's aftereffects, which included river flooding and standing water in fields and orange groves. Farther north, Fay's rains were mostly beneficial across the previously drought stricken Southeast, although showers and strong thunderstorms caused local flood and wind damage. The Atlantic Basin remained active after Fay's final landfall on August 23, with Gustav forming south of Haiti on August 25 and Hanna developing northeast of the northern Leeward Islands on August 28. Gustav became the basin's third hurricane on August 25 and battered southern and western Haiti with sustained winds as high as 90 M.P.H. on August 26-27. Gustav remained a category 3 hurricane until shortly before landfall. During the late-morning hours of September 1, Gustav made landfall just south of

Houma, LA, as a category two hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 110 M.P.H. Gustav cut through Louisiana's sugarcane region, which typically accounts for about half of the nation's sugarcane acreage and about 40 percent of production. A significant portion of sorghum and rice in the hurricane-affected area was already harvested at the time of Gustav's landfall. In the Delta and neighboring areas, cotton bolls that were opening were buffeted by gusty winds and soaked by heavy rain.

Meanwhile in the Corn Belt, scattered showers associated with a cold front provided local relief to corn and soybeans that had been stressed by short term dryness. Despite abundant subsoil moisture, some Midwestern crops have suffered during an August dry spell due to the combination of diminishing topsoil moisture and unusually shallow-rooted plants. Farther west, hot, mostly dry weather across the nation's mid-section promoted spring wheat harvesting on the northern Plains and summer crop maturation on the central and southern Plains. The Plains' weather also favored winter wheat planting preparations and initial planting efforts. Elsewhere, hot, dry weather in California and the Great Basin contrasted with occasional showers in the Desert Southwest and from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. At week's end, monsoon moisture was drawn northward in advance of a cold front, resulting in scattered showers from the Southwest and Intermountain West into the northern Rockies. Late-week rainfall also developed in the Rio Grande Valley, where local flooding occurred.

Corn: Dryness continued during the week in the Corn Belt as temperatures remained within 2 degrees Fahrenheit of normal, other than a 4-degree difference in some isolated areas. Corn at or beyond the dough stage reached 83 percent, 12 points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Most states were within 15 points of average, but were mainly behind. Development to the denting stage, at 45 percent, was 30 points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Colorado, Michigan, and Pennsylvania corn was denting ahead of the average pace, but all other states remained behind. In Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and North Dakota, corn acreage was developing to the dent stage 30 or more points behind the 5 year average. Six percent of the Nation's acreage reached maturity, 15 points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. While progress in the Ohio Valley was slightly ahead of normal, all remaining states were at or behind the average pace. Corn condition ratings declined 3 points to 61 percent good to excellent.

Soybeans: Most of the Nation's soybean growing area remained dry. Warmer than normal temperatures prevailed in the northern Great Plains, with southern South Dakota and southwest Minnesota getting up to 6 degrees above normal. In the central Corn Belt and Delta, temperatures were slightly cooler than average. Condition ratings declined 4 points to 57 percent good to excellent.

Oats: Harvest reached 96 complete, 3 points behind last year and the same as the 5-year average. Harvest was within 1 point of normal in all States except Minnesota, where progress was 3 points behind. Harvest was complete in several States, and was within 10 points of completion elsewhere.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 7, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 7, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	86	56	72	6	0.55	2	16.85	-2.51	67	2,530	346	4,018	
Franklin	89	50	70	5	0.01	1	20.23	-1.63	76	2,173	123	3,660	
Meadville	85	51	69	6	0.42	2	18.39	-3.35	71	2,171	292	3,657	
Mercer	87	48	69	5	0.03	1	20.71	0.01	79	2,134	105	3,628	
Springboro	86	48	67	1	0.56	2	24.58	5.47	74	1,988	-175	3,447	
Warren	90	54	70	7	0.00	0	21.34	-0.49	78	2,064	73	3,519	
North Central													
Bradford Region	83	44	64	5	0.80	1	19.55	-2.31	88	1,570	110	2,949	
Emporium	86	49	67	6	0.37	2	16.86	-4.99	79	2,105	465	3,584	
Kane	85	44	65	6	0.07	1	19.56	-2.64	74	1,553	120	2,932	
Laporte	83	50	67	3	0.78	2	22.21	2.09	79	1,855	-187	3,284	
Lock Haven	91	52	71	6	0.35	2	16.26	-3.61	68	2,375	215	3,890	
Port Allegany	87	48	66	6	0.67	1	15.76	-4.84	76	1,730	123	3,141	
Renovo	90	52	68	3	0.28	2	16.64	-3.23	65	2,308	148	3,814	
Ridgway	85	47	66	5	0.24	1	18.95	-2.90	75	1,724	84	3,149	
Stevenson Dam	89	49	69	8	0.09	2	15.22	-6.63	67	2,148	508	3,622	
Towanda	89	49	68	5	1.25	2	19.47	2.77	69	2,148	90	3,621	
Wellsboro	84	47	66	5	0.19	2	16.94	0.16	77	1,715	164	3,125	
Williamsport	92	50	73	7	1.06	2	18.27	-1.29	68	2,588	207	4,127	
Northeast													
Hawley	89	46	68	6	2.72	3	19.53	0.48	64	1,972	205	3,414	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	90	50	73	8	1.07	1	16.82	-1.69	67	2,422	161	3,914	
Susquehanna	88	49	69	8	0.74	2	20.18	-0.18	78	2,059	376	3,525	
West Central													
Butler	89	48	69	4	0.00	0	15.36	-5.42	84	2,102	-21	3,608	
New Castle	94	50	71	6	0.06	1	16.50	-2.31	75	2,436	313	3,962	
Slippery Rock	90	50	69	6	0.00	0	19.26	-0.93	68	2,124	210	3,651	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	86	50	69	4	0.06	2	16.79	-1.15	75	2,324	61	3,826	
DuBois	85	51	69	6	0.01	1	19.71	-1.14	83	2,034	67	3,489	
Lewistown	90	53	70	3	1.08	2	19.21	-0.19	65	2,497	18	4,007	
Middletown	93	59	76	6	2.61	2	19.38	0.27	57	2,970	177	4,524	
Prince Gallitzi	87	45	66	4	0.51	2	19.64	-3.49	69	1,920	98	3,383	
Selinsgrove	92	49	70	5	1.21	2	17.60	-2.35	62	2,429	105	3,938	
State College	89	55	71	6	0.12	2	16.88	-1.27	63	2,466	227	3,979	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	92	52	74	6	2.10	2	19.60	-1.30	55	2,615	56	4,135	
Lehighton	89	51	71	4	1.70	2	17.67	-3.08	67	2,376	-98	3,881	
Matamoras	90	49	71	6	2.70	2	19.02	-1.97	69	2,184	-56	3,648	
Mt_Pocono	85	46	68	9	1.27	2	17.57	-4.69	73	1,867	318	3,292	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	54	73	7	0.00	0	17.44	-1.79	65	2,607	336	4,151	
Derry	87	51	69	4	0.28	2	22.82	2.79	78	2,252	105	3,768	
Myersdale	86	44	64	-3	0.19	1	23.96	2.18	71	1,688	-423	3,127	
Mount Pleasant	88	47	67	4	0.00	0	21.19	-1.61	70	2,214	296	3,743	
Pittsburgh Intl	88	50	71	5	0.00	0	17.92	-0.21	66	2,555	180	4,097	
Connellsville	92	52	72	5	0.05	2	23.84	2.42	75	2,509	91	4,052	
Waynesburg	89	49	69	4	0.00	0	22.53	2.63	62	2,259	54	3,789	
South Central													
Biglerville	92	57	73	4	2.29	2	23.48	5.62	59	2,698	-30	4,231	
Everett	86	49	67	1	0.22	2	21.93	4.43	65	2,138	-112	3,630	
Hanover	90	53	72	3	4.26	2	23.01	5.15	64	2,665	-63	4,193	
Harrisburg_AP	93	55	75	6	1.48	2	15.91	-3.20	46	2,898	98	4,455	
South Mountain	85	50	68	3	1.70	1	27.15	9.21	74	2,128	-128	3,608	
York	90	50	71	3	3.64	2	26.41	7.01	65	2,696	-18	4,245	
Southeast													
Green Lane	92	55	74	7	2.92	2	24.11	3.83	64	2,737	292	4,277	
Hamburg	93	54	74	9	2.24	2	17.41	-6.00	60	2,753	510	4,293	
West_Chester	94	50	72	3	3.38	2	19.80	-2.13	50	2,645	-61	4,172	
Lancaster	91	55	73	5	2.33	1	18.95	-1.53	57	2,652	69	4,185	
Neshaminy Falls	92	54	73	6	2.26	1	19.43	-4.15	50	2,740	187	4,282	
New Holland	91	56	74	6	2.18	2	21.53	1.05	57	2,805	222	4,345	
Philadelphia	93	63	77	7	2.27	2	17.48	-2.55	49	3,262	310	4,837	
Philadelphia NE	95	61	78	7	2.03	2	15.53	-4.50	54	3,369	417	4,947	
Reading	94	53	74	6	2.59	2	16.87	-4.96	61	2,865	324	4,407	
Valley Forge Na	92	55	74	5	2.60	2	23.09	1.98	56	2,631	-236	4,179	
Willow Grove	92	59	76	8	2.50	1	18.41	-5.17	59	2,924	371	4,478	

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 a nice week of weather. Temperatures started out in the 80's and sunny, with humidity built up by end of the week. Saturday, the county received anywhere from 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 inches of rainfall. Most of the day was a nice steady rain with some windy conditions. Sunday was nice with temperatures in the 80's and sunny. Corn is maturing and staying green now that it has rained some over the past two weeks. Corn silage harvest has been delayed a little in our county. Corn is still at different maturity levels within fields. This will make harvest time difficult. Soybeans continue to mature with some of the later beans getting height. Hay continues to be made with regrowth occurring because of the rainfall. Pastures continue to be short, but some regrowth may occur with the recent rainfall. Some fall grains have been seeded. Other land preparations are also taking place. Peach harvest is close to completion. Good yields are being reported. Apples continue to be harvested. Producers started to pick for processing plants last week. There are some quality issues with apples that have scab due to earlier wet weather and hail damage. Sweet corn continues to be harvested where irrigated. Pumpkins are still growing. Overall the crops in the county are looking okay for now. We will know how crops turn out at harvest time. Crop insurance adjusters are processing claims on corn and apples in the county.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most fruit areas in Pennsylvania received 1.5 to 1.75 inches during the tropical storm. Soil moisture is now adequate.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Four inches of rain over the weekend will help some of the soybeans, but came too late for corn. Corn yields will be down significantly this year compared to last year due to lack of rain from early August until this weekend. Bean yields will also be lower, but it's a little too early to tell by how much. Corn silage is progressing, and combines are getting tuned up. Some early planted, short season corn may be harvested in the next couple of weeks.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It has been a dry week. The crops are showing stress from the lack of moisture.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for fall field work. We got 3/8 of an inch rainfall for the week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Last week was the best week of the summer for making hay in northwest Pennsylvania. There were days good for drying with low humidity that had producers mowing and baling all week. Pastures started to decline rapidly with the hot weather. However, rain on the weekend was a welcome relief to grazers.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of 3rd and 4th cutting hay were harvested last week. The overall yields for the four county area was well above normal. The quality of first cutting hay was very poor. The oats and wheat crops are harvested and yields were above normal. The counties of Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Warren could see some record breaking yields if the corn and soybeans get some more moisture, and there is no early frost.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - There was nice rain this week due to Tropical Storm Hanna. Most areas got 1.5 to 2 inches of soaking rain. The rain was too late for the corn, but will aid in filling the soybeans and some later cuttings of alfalfa.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - We received 1 1/2 inches of much needed rain on Saturday.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Harvesting silage was the main farming activity last week. Farmers were also busy planting alfalfa, making hay, seeding cover crops and harvesting tobacco.

MONTOUR COUNTY, Dave Reedy (FSA) - Pastures are in poor shape for this time of year due to lack of rain. Likewise, other forages such as alfalfa or annual forages will also be suffering from the dry spell. Some of the late planted soybeans are probably hurting right now, but scouting reports are varied. Most corn has already produced corn before the dry spell. Silage making is well under way.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - We need rain! It is very dry here. We had little to no rain. Corn chopping will start in a week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The hot and very dry conditions for the week have caused the quality and overall condition of corn and soybeans to deteriorate very rapidly. Much of the corn has dried and ears have dropped. The soybean flowers in the upper part of the plant have dried up. The pastures have also dried. As of Saturday before noon, tropical storm Hanna has brought no relief to the very dry conditions. Haymaking, silo filling, spreading lime and praying for rain were the main activities of the week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - After the driest August on record in some sections of the county, the first week of September is not any better. Yield losses continue to mount for corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. Rain at this point may be too late to help.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Continued hot and dry conditions were good for haymaking but not much else. Silage harvest progressing. Rain on Saturday should spell RELIEF for pastures, hay fields and late corn and soybeans. Earlier varieties of full season soybeans are yellowing.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 7, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	18	25	22
Corn, dough	90	92	87
Corn, dent	62	67	64
Corn, mature	25	32	24
Corn, harvested	6	4	4
Corn silage, harvested	43	38	32
Tobacco, harvested	76	68	65
Potatoes, harvested	37	15	32
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	54	33	29
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	96	84	83
Peaches, harvested	92	93	92
Apples, harvested	32	41	36

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 7, 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	10	26	44	19
Soybeans	0	5	28	54	13
Quality of hay made	0	4	23	48	25
Pasture	13	35	30	20	2
Apples	0	7	31	43	19

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