



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending August 23, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released August 24, 2009, 4 pm

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had a total of 4 days suitable for field work. Yet again, there were strong and severe storms, with the weekend heating things up. Primary activities included: harvesting oats, fruits, vegetables, and making hay. Farmers continued preparing fields for the seeding of wheat and barley. Farmers also took time from their busy schedules to attend county fairs.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 23, 2009

| Very Short | Short   | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Percent    | Percent | Percent  | Percent |
| 1          | 14      | 64       | 21      |

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 96% silked, compared to 99% at this time last year, and the 98% five-year average. Forty-seven percent of corn has reached the dough stage, versus 69% last year, and the average of 73%. Thirteen percent of corn has reached the dent stage, versus 35% last year, and the average of 38%. The corn silage harvest has begun. Six percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, compared to both last year's and the average of 13%. Ninety-eight percent of the oats are reported ripe, behind last year's 100%, but the same as the average. Oats harvesting is 87% completed, behind last year's 95% and the average of 93%. Tobacco harvesting is 29% harvested. This is compared to last year's 37% and the average of 32%. Potatoes are 26% harvested, compared to last year's estimate and the average of 18%. Third cutting alfalfa is 70% completed, behind last year's 90%, and the five year average of 77%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 10% completed. This is behind last year's 18%, and the average of 13%. Eighty-three percent of the second cutting of timothy clover is completed, which surpasses last year's 81%, and the average of 75%. Seventy-eight percent of the peach crop has been harvested compared to 75% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 70%. Thirty-one percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 26%, and also ahead of the average of 29%.

**Crop Condition:** The state's corn conditions are 0% very poor, 4% poor, 14% fair, 53% good, and 29% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 59% good, and 24% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 2% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 43% good, and 14% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 3% very poor, 6% poor, 20% fair, 58% good and 13% excellent. The apple conditions improved at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 64% good, and 36% excellent.

**Nationwide as of August 17, 2009:** Hit-or-miss showers produced at least 2 inches of rain in parts of several regions, including the eastern Plains and western Corn Belt. Locally heavy rains also affected parts of the middle and southern Atlantic States. In contrast, little or no rain fell in the middle and lower Mississippi Valley and drought stricken southern Texas. Meanwhile, Midwestern warmth promoted rapid corn and soybean development, although short-term dryness caused some soil crusting in the central Corn Belt. On the Plains, widespread showers maintained generally favorable conditions for summer crops. However, rain caused some small grain harvest delays on the northern Plains, where the late-week return of cool weather maintained concerns about sluggish crop development. Farther west, a resurgent monsoon circulation interacting with a cold front generated widespread showers from the Four Corners States into the northern Rockies. Rain also fell in the Northwest, briefly slowing small grain harvesting. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 5 degrees F below normal at several locations in the northern Intermountain West, but warm, dry weather hampered wildfire containment efforts in parts of California. Elsewhere, showery weather in the Southeast set the stage for the arrival of the season's first tropical storm -- Claudette --which developed on August 16 just south of Florida's panhandle. Warm weather promoted rapid crop development across the remainder of the South, except in heat and drought-ravaged southern Texas. **Corn:** Silking advanced 7 points during the week, leaving progress, at 96 percent complete, 1 point behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Acreage in the dough stage, at 40 percent, was 6 points behind last year and 24 points behind the average. Meanwhile, 9 percent of the Nation's corn crop was at or beyond the dent stage, 3 points behind last year and 17 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 68 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago but 1 point better than last year. **Soybeans:** Acreage in the blooming stage advanced to 93 percent by week's end, on par with progress a year ago but 3 points behind the 5-year average. Pod set was evident in 72 percent of the soybean crop by August 16, one point behind last year and 13 points behind normal. Overall, 66 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 4 points better than a year ago. **Small Grains:** Sixty-two percent of this year's oat crop was harvested, 11 points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest remained active in many States across the growing region. Overall, 57 percent of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

## Weather Data For Week Ending August 23, 2009

| Station              | Last Week Weather Summary |     |         |     |               |      | April 1 - August 23, 2009 |        |      |              |      |          |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|---------------------------|--------|------|--------------|------|----------|
|                      | Temperature               |     |         |     | Precipitation |      | Precipitation             |        |      | GDD Base 50F |      | Base 40F |
|                      | High                      | Low | Average | DFN | Total         | Days | Total                     | DFN    | Days | Total        | DFN  | Total    |
| <b>Northwest</b>     |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Erie                 | 91                        | 65  | 77      | 8   | 0.83          | 3    | 17.95                     | 0.83   | 67   | 1,942        | 41   | 3,253    |
| Franklin             | 90                        | 59  | 75      | 8   | 1.80          | 3    | 23.08                     | 3.22   | 69   | 1,854        | 55   | 3,159    |
| Meadville            | 86                        | 57  | 74      | 8   | 1.37          | 4    | 18.97                     | -0.57  | 70   | 1,809        | 161  | 3,106    |
| Mercer               | 89                        | 59  | 74      | 7   | 1.51          | 5    | 20.79                     | 2.09   | 72   | 1,842        | 63   | 3,149    |
| Springboro           | 88                        | 57  | 74      | 5   | 2.31          | 3    | 19.49                     | 2.37   | 71   | 1,639        | -253 | 2,909    |
| Warren               | 90                        | 60  | 75      | 8   | 1.96          | 3    | 23.35                     | 3.68   | 64   | 1,697        | -53  | 2,983    |
| <b>North Central</b> |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Bradford Region      | 84                        | 53  | 70      | 7   | 3.33          | 3    | 22.91                     | 3.14   | 73   | 1,318        | 29   | 2,547    |
| Oswayo               | 88                        | 56  | 72      | 8   | 1.39          | 4    | 21.85                     | 3.18   | 76   | 1,365        | -55  | 2,599    |
| Kane                 | 86                        | 55  | 71      | 8   | 2.50          | 4    | 26.71                     | 6.72   | 70   | 1,298        | 30   | 2,521    |
| Laporte              | 84                        | 63  | 72      | 4   | 1.02          | 3    | 25.42                     | 7.15   | 79   | 1,515        | -284 | 2,789    |
| Lock Haven           | 91                        | 64  | 76      | 8   | 0.72          | 3    | 22.19                     | 4.17   | 66   | 2,028        | 128  | 3,365    |
| Port Allegany        | 88                        | 48  | 72      | 9   | 1.49          | 3    | 20.64                     | 1.97   | 67   | 1,457        | 37   | 2,709    |
| Renovo               | 91                        | 61  | 75      | 7   | 0.64          | 4    | 18.06                     | 0.04   | 72   | 1,912        | 12   | 3,240    |
| Ridgway              | 87                        | 56  | 72      | 8   | 0.98          | 4    | 20.80                     | 0.80   | 68   | 1,481        | 41   | 2,725    |
| Stevenson Dam        | 91                        | 61  | 75      | 11  | 0.95          | 4    | 17.45                     | -2.55  | 66   | 1,826        | 386  | 3,130    |
| Towanda              | 92                        | 64  | 76      | 8   | 0.56          | 4    | 20.49                     | 5.35   | 67   | 1,834        | 20   | 3,147    |
| Wellsboro            | 86                        | 58  | 71      | 8   | 1.23          | 4    | 21.67                     | 6.43   | 69   | 1,399        | 32   | 2,650    |
| Williamsport         | 90                        | 66  | 77      | 8   | 0.70          | 4    | 19.00                     | 1.10   | 67   | 2,274        | 179  | 3,658    |
| <b>Northeast</b>     |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Hawley               | 89                        | 61  | 74      | 9   | 3.47          | 4    | 25.98                     | 8.75   | 65   | 1,653        | 101  | 2,947    |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc      | 89                        | 63  | 76      | 7   | 1.38          | 3    | 20.28                     | 3.45   | 65   | 2,081        | 88   | 3,440    |
| Susquehanna          | 89                        | 64  | 75      | 10  | 1.80          | 7    | 23.81                     | 5.38   | 75   | 1,722        | 237  | 3,017    |
| <b>West Central</b>  |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Butler               | 89                        | 59  | 74      | 6   | 1.36          | 4    | 20.44                     | 1.63   | 73   | 1,807        | -54  | 3,118    |
| New Castle           | 93                        | 59  | 77      | 9   | 0.68          | 2    | 17.92                     | 0.85   | 66   | 2,066        | 202  | 3,395    |
| Slippery Rock        | 92                        | 59  | 75      | 9   | 1.01          | 3    | 21.01                     | 2.74   | 69   | 1,886        | 203  | 3,196    |
| <b>Central</b>       |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Altoona/Blair        | 90                        | 59  | 74      | 5   | 0.33          | 2    | 14.76                     | -1.69  | 72   | 1,959        | -34  | 3,289    |
| DuBois               | 85                        | 58  | 73      | 6   | 0.41          | 5    | 22.68                     | 3.83   | 78   | 1,756        | 21   | 3,048    |
| Lewistown            | 92                        | 65  | 77      | 6   | 0.57          | 3    | 21.40                     | 3.56   | 69   | 2,124        | -58  | 3,477    |
| Middletown           | 90                        | 69  | 79      | 6   | 1.66          | 5    | 23.59                     | 6.22   | 70   | 2,535        | 77   | 3,931    |
| Prince Gallitzi      | 88                        | 57  | 72      | 7   | 0.56          | 3    | 17.82                     | -3.33  | 71   | 1,640        | 41   | 2,902    |
| Selinsgrove          | 89                        | 65  | 76      | 6   | 0.90          | 4    | 22.93                     | 4.88   | 58   | 2,066        | 21   | 3,403    |
| State College        | 91                        | 64  | 76      | 8   | 0.49          | 4    | 18.68                     | 2.15   | 71   | 2,051        | 77   | 3,391    |
| <b>East Central</b>  |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Allentown-Bethel     | 90                        | 64  | 78      | 7   | 1.06          | 3    | 23.69                     | 4.92   | 65   | 2,237        | -18  | 3,600    |
| Lehighton            | 86                        | 64  | 75      | 5   | 1.97          | 4    | 29.18                     | 10.52  | 68   | 1,964        | -217 | 3,306    |
| Matamoras            | 88                        | 63  | 76      | 7   | 0.99          | 3    | 22.54                     | 3.44   | 59   | 1,824        | -152 | 3,134    |
| Mt_Pocono            | 87                        | 62  | 74      | 11  | 1.18          | 4    | 26.28                     | 6.18   | 80   | 1,688        | 321  | 2,973    |
| <b>Southwest</b>     |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Pittsburgh/Alle      | 89                        | 61  | 76      | 7   | 0.45          | 4    | 16.35                     | -1.26  | 73   | 2,288        | 289  | 3,660    |
| Indiana_PA           | 88                        | 61  | 74      | 6   | 0.83          | 5    | 10.16                     | -10.28 | 55   | 1,957        | 28   | 3,274    |
| Myersdale            | 86                        | 57  | 72      | 3   | 0.79          | 6    | 21.44                     | 1.43   | 74   | 1,493        | -351 | 2,733    |
| Mount Pleasant       | 88                        | 60  | 74      | 7   | 0.80          | 5    | 22.70                     | 2.01   | 73   | 2,010        | 331  | 3,347    |
| Pittsburgh Intl      | 90                        | 62  | 76      | 7   | 1.10          | 3    | 17.32                     | 0.71   | 67   | 2,289        | 198  | 3,657    |
| Connellsville        | 91                        | 63  | 77      | 7   | 0.70          | 3    | 23.93                     | 4.28   | 76   | 2,177        | 51   | 3,542    |
| Waynesburg           | 90                        | 60  | 75      | 6   | 0.75          | 3    | 18.79                     | 0.53   | 73   | 1,976        | 39   | 3,318    |
| <b>South Central</b> |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Biglerville          | 91                        | 62  | 77      | 5   | 0.26          | 3    | 23.43                     | 7.33   | 70   | 2,331        | -71  | 3,698    |
| Everett              | 93                        | 60  | 75      | 6   | 0.74          | 3    | 18.95                     | 2.90   | 69   | 1,896        | -77  | 3,153    |
| Hanover              | 91                        | 64  | 78      | 6   | 0.81          | 3    | 19.62                     | 3.52   | 64   | 2,348        | -54  | 3,723    |
| Harrisburg_AP        | 90                        | 67  | 78      | 5   | 1.98          | 5    | 22.19                     | 4.82   | 71   | 2,507        | 42   | 3,901    |
| South Mountain       | 90                        | 61  | 75      | 6   | 1.29          | 4    | 25.43                     | 8.98   | 74   | 1,846        | -140 | 3,168    |
| York                 | 91                        | 63  | 78      | 6   | 0.83          | 4    | 19.42                     | 1.70   | 61   | 2,339        | -51  | 3,710    |
| <b>Southeast</b>     |                           |     |         |     |               |      |                           |        |      |              |      |          |
| Green Lane           | 91                        | 66  | 78      | 9   | 1.71          | 4    | 27.65                     | 9.34   | 70   | 2,301        | 151  | 3,669    |
| Hamburg              | 90                        | 64  | 77      | 8   | 2.14          | 4    | 30.85                     | 9.55   | 74   | 2,279        | 307  | 3,655    |
| West_Chester         | 91                        | 64  | 79      | 7   | 1.45          | 4    | 24.98                     | 5.06   | 67   | 2,315        | -64  | 3,666    |
| Lancaster            | 92                        | 65  | 78      | 7   | 3.07          | 5    | 20.62                     | 1.95   | 66   | 2,374        | 106  | 3,741    |
| Neshaminy Falls      | 93                        | 65  | 79      | 8   | 3.11          | 3    | 27.22                     | 5.87   | 64   | 2,377        | 131  | 3,748    |
| New Holland          | 90                        | 69  | 78      | 7   | 1.25          | 5    | 22.85                     | 4.18   | 68   | 2,373        | 105  | 3,749    |
| Philadelphia         | 95                        | 71  | 82      | 8   | 3.66          | 3    | 24.25                     | 6.02   | 69   | 2,817        | 227  | 4,233    |
| Philadelphia NE      | 92                        | 68  | 80      | 6   | 1.98          | 3    | 22.31                     | 4.08   | 70   | 2,548        | -42  | 3,943    |
| Reading              | 92                        | 66  | 79      | 8   | 0.82          | 2    | 22.78                     | 2.99   | 71   | 2,490        | 259  | 3,872    |
| Sellersville         | 90                        | 63  | 77      | 7   | 2.09          | 4    | 27.03                     | 8.72   | 68   | 2,145        | -5   | 3,498    |
| Willow Grove         | 91                        | 68  | 80      | 8   | 2.46          | 3    | 43.14                     | 21.79  | 68   | 2,459        | 213  | 3,842    |

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** - Adams County had a hot and humid week. The rainfall was beneficial to all crops. Tuesday's storm caused some wind damage in the Littlestown area. Corn has different maturity within fields because of wet weather this past spring. Fall plowing is occurring in preparation of new hay and small grain seedings. Peaches and apples continue to look good. The peaches have a nice flavor. Some scab disease is apparent, but yields look good. Overall the crops are looking pretty good pending any future weather conditions.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - Harvest of Gala apples will commence in earnest this week. The overall quality of the apple crop continues to look good. The fruit size is above average.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - The showers during the week kept field work limited.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner** - Those who have harvested wheat and oats are now baling straw. Corn and soybeans are shaping up. Thursday's storm caused several streams to overflow their banks, with some lighting and wind damage to buildings and trees.

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William Clouser** - Late blight has had a serious negative impact on this year's potato crop. In an effort to save some of the crop, farmers have sprayed the tops early; however, the results are not yet known.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dave Reedy** - Producers are scouting their corn and soybean fields, indicating enthusiastic predictions of at or above normal yields. Some cautiously reserve excitement until this year's crop is in the bin.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - It was a good week to harvest oats, bale straw and mow hay. Farmers were trying to wrap projects up just in time for the Crawford County Fair Aug 22-29.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Continued showery weather has slowed hay making, but has been good for soybeans and corn. The peach crop is turning out to be excellent. Early apples are doing great. Pastures are still in good shape.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - We had about an inch of rain this past week. All of the oats are cut. The corn and soybeans are looking good. We are trying to keep the deer from destroying our crops. We will try to make some second cutting of alfalfa this week. The sweet corn is doing well. It should last into September some time.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger** - Late blight and downy mildew continue to spread. Several commercial tomato fields have been destroyed due to late blight.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - Hay was difficult to make this past week. We had 2.5 inches of rain Tuesday and Wednesday.

**POTTER COUNTY, Dave Stratton (FSA)** - Last week was another wet week. Some dry hay was made at the beginning of the week. Snap beans harvest started last week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - Heavy rainfall and cloudy skies put a halt to the planned field activities. The corn and soybeans on well-drained soils are looking very good. Some of the third cutting hay is over mature. A few farmers have sown cover crops into wheat stubble. There are possible white mold problems in soybean fields.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - There were excellent growing conditions. There was finally some heat we needed to get crops to maturity. Grass and alfalfa are excellent for this late in the summer.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 23, 2009**

| Crop                        | Current Week   | Last Year      | 5-Year Average |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                             | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn, silk                  | 96             | 99             | 98             |
| Corn, dough                 | 47             | 69             | 73             |
| Corn, dent                  | 13             | 35             | 38             |
| Corn silage, harvested      | 6              | 13             | 13             |
| Oats, ripe                  | 98             | 100            | 98             |
| Oats, harvested             | 87             | 95             | 93             |
| Tobacco, harvested          | 29             | 37             | 32             |
| Potatoes, harvested         | 26             | 18             | 18             |
| Alfalfa, 3rd cutting        | 70             | 90             | 77             |
| Alfalfa, 4th cutting        | 10             | 18             | 13             |
| Timothy clover, 2nd cutting | 83             | 81             | 75             |
| Peaches, harvested          | 78             | 75             | 70             |
| Apples, harvested           | 31             | 26             | 29             |

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 23, 2009**

| Crop                | Very Poor      | Poor           | Fair           | Good           | Excellent      |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                     | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn                | 0              | 4              | 14             | 53             | 29             |
| Soybeans            | 0              | 3              | 14             | 59             | 24             |
| Quality of hay made | 2              | 9              | 32             | 43             | 14             |
| Pasture             | 3              | 6              | 20             | 58             | 13             |
| Apples              | 0              | 0              | 0              | 64             | 36             |

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