



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112  
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending August 28, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

Released August 29, 2011, 4 pm

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**Good Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. Pennsylvania farmers took full advantage of the good weather early in the week. As many were uncertain of what havoc hurricane Irene would unleash on the region, everyone prepared for the worst. While there were some power outages and downed trees, Pennsylvania fared better than many of our eastern neighbors. Primary field activities for the week included seeding of forage crops, spreading lime, and making hay. Fall plowing is 22% complete which is ahead of the 15% this time last year and the 5-year average of 16%.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 28, 2011**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4	12	64	20

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 72% at the dough stage, slightly behind the 74% a year ago and the 5-year average of 77%. Corn is 34% at the dent stage, behind the 44% last year and the average of 45%. The corn crop is 5% mature, the same as this time last year, but behind the 5-year average of 10%. Corn has reached a measurable height of 87 inches, compared to 88 inches last year, and an average of 81 inches. Corn for Silage harvest is 14% complete, behind the previous year's 27% and the 5-year average of 20%. The oat harvest is 96% complete, compared to last year's 97% and the average of 97%. The tobacco harvest is 28% complete, compared to the 42% last year and the average of 41%. The potato harvest is 11% complete, compared to 19% at this time last year and the 5 year average of 20%. The third cutting of alfalfa is 92% complete, compared to the 96% last year and the 5-year average of 87%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 19% complete, behind the previous year's 34% and the 5-year average of 23%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 91% complete, behind last year's 95%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 87%. Peach harvesting is 78% complete, compared to 93% at this time last year and the average of 83%. Apple harvesting is 33% complete, behind the 40% last year, and the average of 33%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 4% very poor, 15% poor, 32% fair, 38 % good, and 11% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, and 13% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 0% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 45% good, and 20% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 12% very poor, 36% poor, 30% fair, 20% good and 2% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 13% poor, 17% fair, 51% good and 19% excellent.

**Nationwide as of August 21, 2011:** Near normal temperatures aided summer crop development and small grain harvest across much of the United States during the week. However, scorching daytime highs centered over the southern Great Plains rose to well over the century mark, continuing to negatively impact crop and soil moisture conditions. Elsewhere, showers in portions of the northern Great Plains, Corn Belt, northern Delta, and southern Florida benefited row crops and provided some drought relief.

**Corn:** Nationally, 73 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 13 percentage points behind last year but on par with the 5-year average. By August 21, one third of the corn crop was at or beyond the dent stage, 18 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in Michigan, where overall progress was over 2 weeks behind normal. Overall, 57 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week and 13 points below the same time last year. In Illinois, continued below-average rainfall negatively impacted corn conditions, with an 8-point decline in the good to excellent category from a week ago. Soybeans: By August 21, soybean blooming had advanced to 97 percent complete, slightly behind last year but on par with the 5-year average. Nationally, 83 percent of the soybean crop was setting pods by August 21, seven percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. In Iowa, some soybean fields have begun turning color. Overall, 59 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 5 points below the same time last year. Winter Wheat: Producers had harvested 94 percent of this year's winter wheat by August 21, on par with last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Despite favorable weather conditions that promoted double-digit harvesting in the Pacific Northwest during the week, overall progress remained 23 percentage points or more behind normal in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Small Grains: By August 21, oat producers had harvested 80 percent of this year's crop, 10 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Favorable weather provided nearly ideal conditions for a rapid harvest pace in estimating states where progress was not complete or nearly complete. Barley harvest advanced quickly, as producers in four of the five major producing states ramped up fieldwork to help gain ground on what has been a slower-than-normal crop year. Nationally, 25 percent of this year's crop was harvested by week's end, 20 percentage points behind last year and 30 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 66 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 18 points below the same time last year.

## Weather Data For Week Ending August 28, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 28, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	85	57	71	2	1.14	2	23.51	5.69	71	2,401	406	3,747
Franklin_AG	83	50	67	-2	1.24	3	25.88	5.37	81	2,357	473	3,712
Meadville-Port	80	51	67	2	1.12	2	23.81	3.52	83	2,398	672	3,749
Mercer	81	49	67	1	1.35	4	25.59	6.24	95	2,339	476	3,716
Springboro	81	48	65	-4	1.99	2	26.34	8.57	83	2,075	93	3,395
Warren	83	48	67	1	1.15	2	24.40	4.03	76	2,161	329	3,503
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	79	42	64	3	1.26	3	26.48	6.05	84	1,856	507	3,140
Oswayo	82	42	63	-1	1.37	3	22.57	3.30	73	1,841	356	3,145
Kane	79	48	65	4	1.73	3	29.18	8.49	72	1,792	466	3,089
Laporte	77	48	64	-3	2.68	4	38.99	20.12	83	1,954	72	3,266
Lock Haven	82	49	68	1	1.40	4	23.10	4.48	68	2,542	554	3,928
Port Allegany	79	48	66	3	1.47	4	26.24	6.97	79	1,982	497	3,292
Renovo	82	50	68	0	1.35	4	24.89	6.27	78	2,482	494	3,862
Ridgway	82	44	65	1	1.31	3	22.24	1.64	78	1,986	477	3,322
Stevenson Dam	84	50	68	5	0.74	2	24.33	3.73	64	2,371	862	3,732
Towanda	81	49	67	1	1.74	4	30.17	14.53	69	2,234	336	3,589
Wellsboro	79	46	64	0	1.92	4	23.86	8.13	76	1,931	500	3,229
Williamsport	83	50	71	2	1.28	4	29.80	11.35	70	2,704	513	4,114
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	83	47	67	2	5.54	4	37.02	19.19	70	2,014	388	3,356
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	50	70	2	3.69	3	27.91	10.53	73	2,477	393	3,868
Susquehanna	80	48	67	3	4.69	3	31.39	12.31	74	2,118	564	3,463
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	82	46	67	-1	1.23	4	23.06	3.60	77	2,398	449	3,793
New Castle	85	49	70	3	2.02	2	26.75	9.13	77	2,624	674	4,021
Slippery Rock	86	46	68	3	1.09	4	24.19	5.27	76	2,410	649	3,798
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	83	49	70	2	0.83	4	21.25	4.32	66	2,670	586	4,075
DuBois	82	47	67	1	0.95	3	24.70	5.17	76	2,251	437	3,606
Lewistown	86	52	71	0	1.95	4	27.16	8.82	66	2,726	444	4,146
Middletown	86	58	74	2	5.34	4	32.50	14.58	61	3,013	443	4,466
Prince Gallitzi	80	44	67	2	2.15	3	21.17	-0.60	68	2,263	588	3,611
Selingsgrove	86	49	70	2	3.37	3	27.50	8.85	72	2,554	415	3,954
State College	80	53	69	1	2.68	4	22.96	5.92	65	2,564	500	3,950
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	86	52	72	3	6.62	3	32.48	13.01	64	2,809	452	4,240
Lehighton	80	51	68	-3	3.92	4	31.59	12.27	69	2,429	149	3,839
Matamoras	83	49	68	-1	5.04	4	37.99	18.29	74	2,150	84	3,522
Mt_Pocono	79	47	67	4	5.18	5	37.71	16.91	78	2,111	680	3,457
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	52	71	3	0.95	2	19.54	1.42	77	2,806	716	4,238
Indiana_PA	82	48	69	0	1.24	3	25.39	4.35	92	2,463	444	3,859
Myersdale	81	42	64	-5	0.58	4	21.32	0.76	76	1,931	-3	3,282
Chalk_Hill	79	45	64	-6	0.68	3	32.57	12.35	81	1,996	-227	3,360
Pittsburgh Intl	84	51	71	2	0.69	2	17.40	0.29	69	2,768	582	4,196
Connellsville	85	52	70	2	0.64	3	24.54	4.32	90	2,648	425	4,073
Waynesburg	83	51	68	0	0.73	3	31.67	12.86	74	2,494	467	3,918
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	89	56	73	1	2.83	3	24.88	8.23	57	2,881	371	4,319
Everett	87	46	68	-2	0.58	3	23.44	6.94	66	2,390	324	3,796
Hanover	87	50	72	0	3.58	3	20.02	3.37	59	2,845	335	4,277
Harrisburg_AP	86	55	74	2	4.73	3	29.42	11.50	56	3,004	427	4,455
South Mountain	83	47	68	-1	1.93	3	20.67	3.74	64	2,367	290	3,761
York	87	49	72	0	3.46	3	24.53	6.26	63	2,838	340	4,287
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	85	54	72	2	7.63	3	28.40	9.44	62	2,812	564	4,250
Hamburg	85	54	71	3	4.58	4	29.33	7.35	68	2,784	720	4,210
West_Chester	88	52	71	-2	8.69	4	28.36	7.81	53	2,841	354	4,282
Lancaster	86	53	73	2	3.73	4	24.32	5.05	65	2,919	545	4,361
Neshaminy Falls	87	53	71	1	7.55	3	35.94	13.88	53	2,949	600	4,390
New Holland	87	54	72	1	5.62	3	26.40	7.13	63	2,871	497	4,304
Philadelphia	88	60	76	2	6.36	3	31.77	12.94	52	3,366	656	4,834
Philadelphia NE	86	57	74	0	9.10	3	32.95	14.12	57	3,151	441	4,612
Reading	86	55	74	3	3.56	4	23.44	3.00	67	3,072	737	4,528
Sellersville	86	51	69	-1	8.58	3	31.37	12.41	61	2,633	385	4,051
Doylestown_AG	85	55	72	1	8.97	4	34.09	12.03	63	2,935	586	4,385

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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## 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)**

The York Springs area had 1.6 inches of rainfall and Hunterstown had 0.3 inches rainfall. The Lake Meade area had 2.6 inches of rainfall from Thursday morning into Friday morning. Rains have been very sporadic throughout the county when we get rain. Saturday into Sunday, we had at least 3 inches of rain, with lots of wind in the York Springs area. The Hunterstown area had 2 inches of rain. No major flooding occurred, which means the soil soaked it up. Some uprooted trees, tree branches, and other debris are being cleaned up from the wind. The wind caused some loss of fruit on the trees, due to heavy gusts and weight on the trees. Corn continues to grow. Some of the earlier corn is now drying down, and will soon be chopped for silage in the next week or two. Soybeans continue to grow and develop pods. Another cutting of hay is being made. Producers are busy preparing fields for new seedings of hay. Oats yields are lighter this year, with not much straw. Peaches continue to be harvested, with good yields being reported. Apples continue to grow and are also showing color. Early varieties are being harvested. Vegetables are also being harvested. Irrigated sweet corn is being harvested, while fields with no irrigation dried up. Overall, the producers are busy with various field work, and preparing for this fall's season. Farmers are getting anxious to harvest when that time comes.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

It was a good week for field work. There was 1 and 5/8 inches of rainfall.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner**

Oat and wheat yields were considerably less than last year yields. Corn and soybeans are shaping up and could be some average yields. Corn silage isn't going to make the tonnage compared to last year either. Counties still could use rain.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

Not much effect from the hurricane, but we did get some needed rain to help the pastures and late cuttings of hay. More than 50% of the corn silage has been put away so far, with yields from normal to less than 50 percent of a crop. Soybeans look well at this time. Fruit is now a bit ahead of normal for harvesting in some of the earlier varieties.

### **LANCASTER COUNTY, Dale Kriner (NRCS)**

We got about 3 inches of rain from Irene. Strong winds brought down trees, one in my backyard, and limbs. Silage harvest will be difficult, as many corn fields have lodged.

### **LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler**

There were several days of sunshine in between rainy days that allowed farmers to mow and bale alfalfa, chop corn silage, and haul manure.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

Follow up from the Friday, August 19, 2011 severe hail storm. Tomato growers are reporting that the tomatoes are 100% pitted, vines 100% pitted with fruit rotting and stems-vines open to disease and die back. Pumpkins are 100% pitted with stem and vine damage. Peppers, gourds, melons and other vegetable crops had similar damage. Apple orchards are invested with apple scab damage so bad that many growers are wondering if harvest is feasible. The Great Stoneboro Fair, the only large fair in Mercer County, takes place August 31-September 5, 2011 in Stoneboro PA.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield**

Hurricane Irene battered the area with flooding rains and high winds. Rainfall was between 5 and 9 inches, and winds up to 60 mph. Field crops were not too badly damaged, however there are some flooded fields and down corn. Vegetables and orchards were damaged worse. Sweet corn fields went down, and fruit trees lost limbs. Pastures in bottom ground were flooded, and fences were damaged. Power was lost in some areas and some are still without electricity. Downed trees, lodged sweet corn, flooding and wet basements were the most common damage in the county that I am aware of.

### **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor**

I received 1.5 inches of rain from Irene.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer**

Fall seeding of alfalfa and cover crops is near completion. Rain in excess of two inches fell from Irene, which will benefit the crops and push the fourth cutting of alfalfa along very well. The main activities for the week were seeding, haymaking, and spreading lime.

### **UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker**

Crops all look good. Some of the early corn is hurt somewhat from the late June and early July dry spell, but the later planted looks excellent. We had 4.9" from Irene and that should finish all the crops. We do need several more weeks of warm frost free weather to finish the later planted corn to have good test weight.

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr**

Normal temperatures and adequate moisture continued our string of excellent growing weeks. Some very nice hay was baled this week.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 28, 2011**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	22	15	16
Corn, dough	72	74	77
Corn, dent	34	44	45
Corn, mature	5	5	10
Corn average height, inches	87	88	81
Corn silage, harvested	14	27	20
Oats, harvested	96	97	97
Tobacco, harvested	28	42	41
Potatoes, harvested	11	19	20
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	92	96	87
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	19	34	23
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	91	95	87
Peaches, harvested	78	93	83
Apples, harvested	33	40	33

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 28, 2011**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	15	32	38	11
Soybeans	0	5	27	55	13
Quality of hay made	0	6	29	45	20
Pasture	12	36	30	20	2
Apples	0	13	17	51	19

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**United States**  
**Department of Agriculture**  
 National Agricultural Statistics Service  
 Pennsylvania Field Office  
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203  
 Harrisburg PA 17112

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