



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 2, 2012

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. Field activities for the week included corn silage harvest, apple harvest, and cutting hay. Fall plowing continues and is 18% complete, behind last year's 23%, but equal to the average at this time of year.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	29	66	2

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 91% at the dough stage, compared with 78% last year and the average of 81%. Corn is 59% at the dent stage, ahead of 43% at this time last year and the average of 49%. Corn is 15% at the mature stage, ahead of 6% at this time last year and the average of 13%. The corn silage harvest continues at 31% complete, compared to 18% at this time last year and the average of 24%. Tobacco harvest is 68% complete, ahead of 40% at this time last year and the average of 56%. The potato harvest is 47% complete, ahead of last year's 19% and the average of 23%. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is 50% complete compared with 25% at this time last year and the average of 33%. The second cutting of timothy/clover is 94% complete, ahead of last year's 92% and the 5-year average of 90%. The apple harvest is 50% complete, ahead of 34% at this time last year and the average of 37%. Grape harvest has begun, now at 8% complete, compared to 3% at this time last year and the average of 1%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn conditions are; 1% very poor, 9% poor, 27% fair, 46% good, and 17% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 54% good, and 20% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 8% very poor, 31% poor, 28% fair, 30% good and 3% excellent.

**Nationwide as of August 26, 2012:** The weather across parts country was relatively cool during the week, with temperatures averaging more than 6°F below normal in portions of the Delta and Southeast. Conversely, warm, dry

weather in the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains aided crop maturity in late-seeded fields and promoted a rapid fieldwork pace as small grain harvest neared completion. Rainfall was scattered during the week, with portions of the Southwest and central Great Plains, as well as several Gulf and Atlantic Coast States, receiving more than 2 inches of moisture during the week.

**Corn:** The 2012 corn crop continued to develop at one of the quickest paces on record. Ninety-five percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn dented or beyond advanced to 76 percent complete by August 26, twenty-nine percentage points ahead of last year and 30 points ahead of the 5-year average. By week's end, 26 percent of this year's crop was at or beyond the mature stage, 19 percentage points ahead of last year and 18 points ahead of the 5-year average. In Nebraska, some drought-damaged corn still containing enough moisture was chopped for silage. Producers had harvested 6 percent of the nation's crop for grain or seed by August 26, four percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Early yield reports varied drastically throughout the Corn Belt. Overall, 22 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 32 percentage points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By August 26, ninety-six percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the pod setting stage, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Rainfall in portions of the Corn Belt was expected to increase pod set in some soybean fields. Leaf drop advanced to 8 percent complete by week's end, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Bean Leaf Beetles and Sudden Death Syndrome were reported in some fields in the Corn Belt during the week. Overall, 30 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 27 percentage points below the same time last year. **Small Grains:** Producers had harvested 79 percent of this year's barley crop by week's end, 42 percentage points ahead of last year and 24 points ahead of the 5-year average. In Idaho, harvest was complete in most low-elevation fields.

## Weather Data For Week Ending September 2, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 2, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	87	54	71	4	0.84	1	12.21	-6.40	46	2,630	529	4,012
Franklin_AG	91	50	70	4	0.29	2	15.29	-5.89	60	2,441	463	3,820
Meadville-Port	88	50	70	6	1.04	1	15.46	-5.58	54	2,512	699	3,906
Clarion	88	47	67	2	0.92	3	18.76	-3.19	57	2,149	158	3,510
Springboro	88	47	67	0	1.26	1	16.04	-2.42	57	2,176	92	3,520
Warren	90	48	69	4	0.70	1	16.86	-4.25	59	2,275	352	3,638
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	86	40	68	7	0.67	2	17.65	-3.51	58	2,025	612	3,371
Oswayo	86	38	64	3	0.70	1	15.77	-4.18	53	1,791	236	3,108
Kane	86	40	66	6	0.63	2	19.79	-1.66	60	1,814	426	3,136
Laporte	82	48	67	2	0.85	2	25.25	5.76	63	2,010	36	3,363
Lock Haven	91	54	72	6	0.94	2	17.46	-1.78	63	2,618	532	4,066
Coudersport_1SW	86	44	65	4	0.95	2	20.75	0.80	67	1,873	318	3,192
Renovo	89	53	71	5	0.72	3	21.96	2.72	60	2,536	450	3,975
Ridgway	89	44	67	5	0.40	1	15.75	-5.46	61	2,150	566	3,514
Stevenson Dam	89	53	70	8	0.43	1	20.29	-0.92	53	2,427	843	3,848
Towanda	89	49	69	4	1.01	1	18.44	2.29	60	2,351	361	3,732
Wellsboro	87	44	66	5	0.65	2	14.80	-1.46	56	1,929	429	3,278
Williamsport	91	54	73	6	0.71	2	16.72	-2.29	63	2,810	511	4,271
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	87	46	67	4	0.09	1	16.29	-2.16	56	2,109	402	3,467
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	50	72	6	0.37	1	17.11	-0.84	62	2,669	485	4,088
Susquehanna	87	47	68	6	1.34	1	23.09	3.34	58	2,249	620	3,617
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	91	49	69	3	1.37	2	15.53	-4.60	55	2,479	432	3,896
New Castle	94	51	71	6	2.90	2	20.04	1.83	52	2,667	619	4,095
Slippery Rock	90	47	71	6	2.12	2	18.38	-1.20	53	2,572	724	3,992
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	87	50	71	5	0.73	3	17.87	0.45	58	2,666	480	4,124
DuBois	86	47	69	5	0.48	1	15.33	-4.87	53	2,291	390	3,685
Lewistown	92	55	74	5	0.87	2	19.17	0.32	67	2,773	380	4,255
Middletown	89	60	76	5	0.66	2	22.31	3.80	58	3,103	408	4,606
Prince Gallitzi	88	45	70	6	0.33	3	18.73	-3.70	53	2,253	494	3,656
Selinsgrove	93	55	72	5	0.66	2	19.06	-0.24	63	2,664	420	4,107
State College	87	53	71	5	0.68	2	19.69	2.09	66	2,597	434	4,045
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	91	52	74	6	0.13	2	20.62	0.42	57	2,886	415	4,362
Lehighton	85	52	70	2	0.23	2	20.56	0.51	64	2,459	68	3,902
Matamoras	88	51	71	5	0.60	1	21.48	1.14	74	2,512	347	3,958
Mt_Pocono	84	44	69	7	0.29	2	19.65	-1.87	67	2,154	654	3,544
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	91	57	75	9	0.13	2	15.53	-3.15	57	2,977	785	4,446
Indiana_PA	90	50	72	5	0.69	3	18.62	-3.08	77	2,557	438	3,980
Myersdale	86	46	67	0	0.26	4	18.78	-2.37	64	1,962	-72	3,342
Chalk_Hill	87	45	67	-2	0.53	2	19.97	-0.85	64	2,064	-268	3,452
Pittsburgh Intl	91	53	74	6	0.29	2	17.19	-0.41	54	2,878	586	4,338
Connellsville	89	52	71	3	0.26	3	19.91	-0.91	66	2,632	300	4,102
Waynesburg	91	49	71	4	0.13	2	14.94	-4.41	51	2,566	439	4,012
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	90	56	74	4	0.37	1	20.00	2.74	59	2,894	262	4,384
Everett	90	48	69	2	0.44	2	19.07	2.07	63	2,385	214	3,821
Hanover	89	56	74	4	0.76	3	19.87	2.61	63	2,838	206	4,317
Harrisburg_AP	90	58	76	5	0.59	2	22.73	4.22	61	3,152	450	4,657
South Mountain	85	52	70	3	1.38	3	24.88	7.46	64	2,339	160	3,766
York	88	54	73	3	0.67	2	18.25	-0.57	65	2,835	216	4,299
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	90	56	74	6	0.55	3	21.07	1.44	60	2,864	505	4,354
Hamburg	90	56	74	7	0.17	2	21.56	-1.15	62	2,812	646	4,289
West_Chester	91	55	74	4	0.44	2	17.16	-4.07	43	2,845	236	4,313
Lancaster	90	56	75	5	0.11	1	15.77	-4.11	49	2,971	480	4,450
Neshaminy Falls	90	55	75	6	0.96	3	21.50	-1.33	63	2,967	503	4,475
New Holland	91	57	76	6	0.93	3	20.61	0.73	50	3,032	541	4,544
Philadelphia	92	65	80	7	1.01	1	15.69	-3.74	41	3,452	607	4,981
Philadelphia NE	90	59	77	5	0.89	1	17.31	-2.12	50	3,165	320	4,675
Reading	91	57	76	7	0.40	2	17.00	-4.13	60	3,141	689	4,639
Sellersville	88	53	72	4	0.73	2	21.81	2.18	50	2,662	303	4,111
Doylestown_AG	90	57	75	6	0.96	1	21.61	-1.22	52	2,969	505	4,462

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**

Adams County started the week with some rain on Monday, but the rest of the week has been pretty clear. Temperatures most mornings were high 50's low 60's and daytime temperatures got into the 80's.

Corn silage harvest has started in the county. Corn for grain continues to mature. Corn yields are going to be all over the place due to the unusual weather conditions this year. Soybeans continue to mature and looking pretty good. Soybean yields should be pretty decent across the county. Hay continues to be cut with some nice drying days this week. Some fields have been prepared for fall seedings.

Peach harvest is just about complete and peaches will be available in about another week in the county. This early season resulted in everything being early this year with weather conditions. Pear harvest is ongoing and are pretty good yields. Apples continue to be harvested and major apple harvest will be started this coming week. Some growers are concerned with the coloring of the apples as nighttime temperatures have not been too cool to make the apples skins color. Prices of apples this year are higher for our growers due to some other major states not having too many apples and they are coming to Adams County buying them causing the prices to increase. Other vegetables seem to be doing pretty good. New strawberry plants have been planted in the last week or so.

Overall, the producers are still busy around their farming operations doing various jobs and readying for their fall harvest season, and also preparing for planting 2013 small grains and hay seedings.

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter**

Honeycrisp and Gala harvest is winding down rapidly. Quality has been good. Growers are actively testing Golden Delicious for brix levels, pressures, and starch levels. Golds for fresh market will start to be harvested sometime next week. Red Delicious has started to make the starch to sugar conversion and will follow in harvest fairly quickly.

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

Good week for field work.

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

Corn silage harvest is the main activity this week. Some signs of blight are present. Beans still look good. Pastures are the best in years. Fruit harvest is in full swing.

### **LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhardt**

Crops are looking good overall in spite of the hot summer weather. Tobacco harvest is in full force with corn silage harvest steadily progressing. Many farmers have started to spread oats and other small grains for forage and cover crop. I look for a few grain farmers to start shelling short season corn end of next week.

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

Corn chopping for silage, alfalfa and mixed grasses were cut and baled or stored as silage, and soil preparation for cover crop planting were some of the activities in Lebanon County this past week. The corn is drying down fast. Soybean pods are filled and may yield well.

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

Sweet corn producers are picking some of their best flavored sweet corn and highest yields of the season. Many local farmers are seeding fields to plant fall radishes and combo-radish mixes this past week. Area has have been filling silos the past week. Orchards have picked Paula Reds, Ginger Golds, Gala, Milton, and Mac apple varieties. Late cutting hay fields are yielding good. Tomato producers have reported excellent yields and quality.

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

Recent rainfall has made a positive impact on the condition of the corn and soybeans. Activities for the week were silo filling, and making preparations for fall seedings.

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

I have been checking corn and doing yield checks and have been pleasantly surprised. There are a few areas of thin soil that got hurt during the heat that may have lower yields 50-60 bushels, but most of the crop looks to be over 200. Beans are difficult to judge, but my opinion is that they will be about average. We have so much to be thankful for, and likely the new genetics have made a big difference in the ability to withstand drought. Harvest will be several weeks early.

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

Another dry week with finally some rain late Saturday. Some nice grass second cutting hay got baled this week. Corn and soybeans continue on a fast track to maturity.

### **YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl**

Initial report on early corn crop better than anticipated. Full season soybeans are at complete pod fill.

**PLEASE NOTE:** NASS is currently conducting our annual September surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of September, NASS is surveying U.S. small grains growers for final production. We are also asking hog producers about their summer pig crop, next year's farrowing intentions, and current inventory. The responses will provide the foundation for 2012 production estimates. All participating farmers should respond. Your information matters!

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 2, 2012**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	18	23	18
Corn, dough	91	78	81
Corn, dent	59	43	49
Corn, mature	15	6	13
Corn silage, harvested	31	18	24
Tobacco, harvested	68	40	56
Potatoes, harvested	47	19	23
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	50	25	33
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	94	92	90
Apples, harvested	50	34	37
Grapes, harvested	8	3	1

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 2, 2012**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	9	27	46	17
Soybeans	0	4	22	54	20
Pasture	8	31	28	30	3

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