



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Northeastern Regional Field Office

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Week Ending August 4, 2013

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

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. This week featured days with temperatures in the 70s and was very mild, which is usually not what the weather in August is like in Pennsylvania. Again a few showers passed in different parts of the state giving areas anywhere from a sprinkle to a few inches of rain. All crops throughout the state are looking amazing and should be aided by cool temperatures and rain again this coming week. Corn is almost all in tassel while ears can be seen on many stalks. Oats and soybeans seem to be fairing very well with pods beginning to form on soybeans. Tobacco and potatoes were started to be harvested this past week and will continue for weeks to come as long as rain is not expected. Fruit harvests are well underway with peach harvest over half way completed and apples almost a quarter harvested. Overall crops look great and should continue to flourish as weather seems to be staying cool with some rain showers predicted. Field activities for the week included cutting alfalfa, timothy and other forage; harvesting oats, tobacco, potatoes, peaches and apples, side dressing fields with nitrogen and applying other fertilizer, mowing pastures, spraying herbicides and pesticides.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 4, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4	6	78	12

Crop Progress: Corn is 92% silked (tasseled), which is behind progress at this time last year of 93% but ahead of the 5-year average of 85% silked. Corn is 27% doughed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 29% but ahead of the 5-year average of 21% doughed. Oats are 84% ripe, which is behind progress at this time last year of 98% but ahead of the 5-year average of 80% ripe. Oats are 56% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 84% but ahead of the 5-year average of 55% harvested. Tobacco is 8% harvested, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 3% and the 5-year average of 1% harvested. Potatoes are 6% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 18% and the 5-year average of 8% harvested. Alfalfa second cutting is 92% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 96% and the 5-year average of 93% cut. Alfalfa third cutting is 37% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 69% and the 5-year average of 56% cut. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 65% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 80% and the 5-year average of 68% cut. Peaches are 65% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 83% but ahead of the 5-years average of 49% harvested. Apples are 18% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 31% and the 5-years average of 19% harvested.

Crop Condition: Corn conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 41% good, and 45% excellent. Oats conditions are; 3% very poor, 2% poor, 26% fair, 43% good, and 26% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 54% good, and 31% excellent. Quality of Hay made conditions are; 2% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 54% good and 16% excellent. Pasture conditions

are; 4% very poor, 3% poor, 33% fair, 45% good and 15% excellent. Peaches conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 8% fair, 48% good and 44% excellent. Apples conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 9% fair, 50% good and 41% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 28, 2013: Cooler-than-normal weather settled over areas from the Great Plains eastward during the week, while hot, dry conditions promoted small grain maturation and harvest in the Northwest. Elsewhere, thunderstorms dumped heavy rainfall totaling more than 4 inches on portions of the Great Plains, easing drought conditions and benefiting developing summer row crops and pasture grass. Monsoon showers in the Southwest boosted soil moisture levels; however, additional rainfall was needed to alleviate prolonged drought conditions. Throughout much of the Southeast, dry weather provided a much needed window favorable for fieldwork. Corn: By week's end, 71 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 22 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. In Iowa, cooler weather coupled with some rainfall lessened stress on corn in the critical pollination stage; however, total rainfall in parts of the state was not enough to increase soil moisture levels and led to a decline in crop conditions. Nationally, 8 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 27 percentage points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 63 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 39 percentage points better than the same time last year. Soybeans: Sixty-five percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage by July 28. This was 22 percentage points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. By week's end, 20 percent of the nation's soybean crop was setting pods, 32 percentage points behind last year and 14 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Cooler weather and scattered showers benefited portions of the Corn Belt's soybean crop; however, producers ran irrigation in areas where soil moisture was not supporting crop development. Overall, 63 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 34 percentage points better than the same time last year. Winter Wheat: Producers had harvested 81 percent of the winter wheat crop by July 28, five percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Favorable weather in areas where harvest was ongoing supported rapid progress during the week. Other Small Grains: Oat producers had harvested 27 percent of this year's crop by July 28, forty-three percentage points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 56 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week. Comparison data for the previous year was unavailable due to last year's early harvest. Ninety-eight percent of the barley crop was headed by week's end, 2 percentage points behind last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest was underway in Idaho, Montana, and Washington. Overall, 68 percent of the barley was reported in good to excellent condition, up 3 percentage points from last week and 7 points better than the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 4, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 4, 2013					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	58	68	-4	0.74	4	21.78	7.11	58	1,809	297	2,918
Franklin_AG	78	51	65	-5	0.22	4	18.34	0.97	66	1,745	308	2,845
Meadville-Port	76	54	66	-3	0.19	3	16.29	-0.40	64	1,773	459	2,892
Clarion	78	50	64	-7	0.72	3	19.29	1.40	60	1,509	46	2,585
Springboro	79	50	64	-8	0.34	5	24.17	9.45	58	1,560	47	2,634
Warren	78	53	65	-6	0.03	1	15.36	-1.69	60	1,623	224	2,711
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	46	62	-4	0.05	4	14.31	-2.99	65	1,455	434	2,539
Oswayo	77	45	63	-3	0.25	3	14.77	-1.74	52	1,287	153	2,329
Kane	76	47	61	-4	0.04	2	19.24	1.88	56	1,255	248	2,298
Laporte	75	51	63	-8	0.60	3	22.82	6.66	53	1,385	-54	2,449
Lock Haven	82	52	68	-4	0.91	4	16.84	1.03	48	1,822	297	2,949
Coudersport_1SW	78	47	63	-4	0.24	4	16.18	-0.33	61	1,321	187	2,372
Renovo	82	53	68	-4	0.58	3	14.26	-1.55	50	1,822	297	2,940
Ridgway	78	42	63	-5	0.43	3	18.57	0.93	60	1,496	354	2,565
Stevenson Dam	81	52	66	-2	0.87	3	15.74	-1.90	47	1,656	514	2,750
Towanda	80	52	66	-5	0.83	3	16.87	3.48	44	1,611	161	2,712
Wellsboro	78	49	63	-4	0.52	3	16.94	3.41	57	1,340	261	2,407
Williamsport	84	53	70	-4	0.73	3	14.10	-1.73	45	1,994	303	3,156
Northeast												
Hawley	78	49	65	-5	0.58	3	22.48	7.42	50	1,483	255	2,553
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	53	69	-4	0.30	5	12.41	-2.42	46	1,917	309	3,066
Susquehanna	78	52	66	-3	1.57	3	18.10	1.96	49	1,556	375	2,647
West Central												
Butler	79	50	64	-7	0.53	4	18.87	2.59	58	1,731	238	2,835
New Castle	79	52	66	-5	0.38	3	17.73	2.72	54	1,775	274	2,889
Slippery Rock	83	50	66	-3	0.53	3	16.10	0.20	53	1,806	453	2,912
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	50	67	-5	0.18	3	12.38	-2.34	56	1,903	294	3,052
DuBois	78	51	66	-4	0.38	2	14.52	-1.82	48	1,756	364	2,870
Lewistown	85	55	70	-4	0.45	3	13.07	-2.82	51	2,031	268	3,202
Middletown	83	61	72	-5	0.08	2	14.04	-1.34	54	2,210	218	3,405
Prince Gallitzi	79	47	65	-4	0.25	3	15.67	-3.14	54	1,668	391	2,781
Selinsgrove	82	54	68	-5	0.60	5	18.06	2.24	48	1,875	226	3,023
State College	79	55	67	-5	0.55	3	19.18	4.55	52	1,860	269	3,002
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	82	56	70	-5	1.45	5	17.27	1.14	48	2,076	252	3,255
Lehighnton	80	56	68	-7	1.88	5	20.86	4.67	50	1,758	1	2,911
Matamoras	81	56	68	-4	1.36	4	21.28	4.43	51	1,792	202	2,932
Mt_Pocono	76	50	64	-4	1.62	5	23.30	5.70	50	1,513	436	2,595
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	54	68	-4	0.27	3	19.62	4.01	56	2,103	486	3,269
Indiana_PA	79	52	66	-6	0.31	3	18.36	0.22	62	1,855	298	2,995
Myersdale	76	48	62	-9	0.16	3	14.87	-2.93	64	1,475	2	2,560
Chalk_Hill	76	45	63	-11	0.80	4	22.34	5.00	64	1,517	-207	2,603
Pittsburgh Intl	81	53	68	-6	0.37	3	17.67	3.03	51	2,047	355	3,200
Connellsville	81	51	68	-6	0.41	4	21.71	4.37	69	1,880	156	3,016
Waynesburg	81	50	65	-7	0.35	4	17.75	1.76	59	1,783	221	2,911
South Central												
Biglerville	83	56	70	-5	0.40	3	13.95	-0.16	49	2,064	110	3,243
Everett	81	50	66	-7	0.02	1	12.90	-1.35	53	1,718	135	2,849
Hanover	83	54	70	-6	0.32	4	14.09	-0.02	57	2,036	82	3,212
Harrisburg_AP	84	59	71	-5	0.08	4	13.18	-2.20	57	2,200	201	3,400
South Mountain	78	52	66	-7	0.35	3	18.25	3.53	55	1,656	54	2,788
York	82	54	70	-5	0.35	4	13.71	-1.94	52	2,079	132	3,243
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	58	70	-4	1.08	3	21.35	5.51	49	2,048	311	3,227
Hamburg	82	58	70	-3	0.79	5	18.28	-0.49	55	2,020	438	3,195
West_Chester	84	55	70	-5	2.41	4	24.14	6.53	54	2,035	101	3,207
Lancaster	84	57	71	-5	0.38	3	15.44	-0.96	51	2,056	228	3,226
Neshaminy Falls	84	57	71	-4	1.11	3	20.79	2.28	50	2,156	340	3,348
New Holland	84	59	71	-4	0.49	2	17.96	1.56	50	2,186	358	3,382
Philadelphia	86	65	75	-3	5.59	3	26.86	10.95	48	2,490	392	3,708
Philadelphia NE	85	61	73	-5	1.68	4	19.47	3.56	53	2,266	168	3,465
Reading	85	59	72	-3	0.70	5	18.37	1.04	49	2,253	460	3,454
Sellersville	81	55	69	-5	1.19	4	24.75	8.91	45	1,947	210	3,105
Doylestown_AG	83	59	71	-3	1.61	5	25.01	6.50	48	2,156	340	3,344

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 had a pretty nice week of weather. Most mornings in high 50's for temperature and daytime into the high 70's. Wednesday night into Thursday morning, York Springs received 0.25" of rainfall and also other areas of county received this rainfall. However Thursday afternoon/evening some parts of county had downpour (0.5" rainfall) where others received nothing.

Corn continues to mature and most out in tassel and ears are visible. A lot of producers stating best corn they ever seen and is really tall. Soybeans are also coming along with early soybeans getting some height and double-crop soybeans are now emerged but will take some more moisture to get them going. Barley and wheat yields were pretty good in the county with some wheat going for feed wheat. Oats are being harvested and good yields being reported also. Hay continues to be made when the weather conditions permit. Fruit crops are maturing and gaining size and color. Early apples and peaches are being picked. Overall the crops in the county are looking well and producers are hoping to continue that till harvest. We still need to get some rainfall through August and not have storms to damage the crops. Producers are putting in long days.

ADAMS County, Lee Showalter

Peach harvest is slowly getting underway. The cool nights have made ripening of the fruit very slow. Size has been good but not up to expectation given the light set on some trees. Apples continue to size well with Ginger Gold harvest expected to start August 10-12th. Apple quality appears to be very good with very little disease noted to date.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Some field work achieved during the week. Rain showers resulted in 1.2 inches for the week.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Harvesting of small grains. Most of wheat and oat crops harvested

CRAWFORD County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Crops in the western half of Crawford County on the heavier soils are very disappointing. The over abundance of rain has severely affected the yields on corn and soybeans. Many producers are worried that they will be short on winter feed.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Nice weather week, a few spotty showers. Some areas of the county are still suffering from lack of moisture. Peaches are excellent in quality and size this year. Apples still sizing well. No major problems with fruit. It appears that hay and forage will be sufficient this season for the dairy industry.

INDIANA County, David B. Overdorff

Last week was a pretty good farming week. Most of the oats is cut except for a field that was planted later and it is not quite

ripe enough yet. It should be ready by the weekend or early next week. The corn and soy beans are looking really good. They had the rain and the warm weather at the right time when it was at its growing stage for making ears and bean pods. The hay quality was not bad but could have been better. There is still time to make some good second cutting. Hope everyone has a safe farming week.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

Corn crop has had lots of rain at the most important times and should produce good yields this year. This past week's hay making was difficult due to the short periods of mid-afternoon rain showers that occurred on three days. Cooler days and nights has slowed down the ripening of tomatoes and garden crops.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Grain harvest is completed. Corn is developing very well and the soybeans are developing pods. Main activities for the week were baling straw, haymaking and machinery maintenance.

SUSQUEHANNA County, Jim Garner

More thunderstorms, plenty of moisture.

WESTMORELAND County, John Lohr

Weather continued to be wet and cool. Harvest continues to be slowed by these same weather conditions. Growing crops are still all doing very well.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 4, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	92	93	85
Corn, dough	27	29	21
Oats, ripe	84	98	80
Oats, harvested	56	84	55
Tobacco, harvested	8	3	1
Potatoes, harvested	6	18	8
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	92	96	93
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	37	69	56
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	65	80	68
Peaches, harvested	65	83	49
Apples, harvested	18	31	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 4, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	2	11	41	45
Oats	3	2	26	43	26
Soybeans	0	0	15	54	31
Quality of hay made	2	4	24	54	16
Pasture	4	3	33	45	15
Peaches	0	0	8	48	44
Apples	0	0	9	50	41

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