



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 14, 2011

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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. While it is apparent that the rains have returned to the keystone state with multiple days of precipitation received during the week. It would have been nice to have it a few weeks ago to help boost yields in some of the more stressed crop areas. Primary field activities for the week included baling straw, spreading manure, making hay, and harvesting apples, and peaches. Fall plowing is underway and is 8% complete which is slightly ahead of the 7% this time last year and the 5-year average which is about the same.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 14, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4	39	53	4

Crop Progress: Corn in the silk stage is at 92% compared to 96% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 93%. Corn is 35% at the dough stage, behind the 50% a year ago and the 5-year average of 42%. Corn is 7% at the dent stage behind the 15% last year and the average of 13%. Corn has reached a measurable height of 83 inches, compared to 85 inches last year, and an average of 80 inches. Oats are 94% ripe, behind the 97% at this time last year and the average of 94%. Oat harvest is 73% complete, compared to last year's 93% and the average of 77%. Potato harvest is 7% complete compared to 10% at this time last year and is behind the 5 year average of 12%. The third cutting of alfalfa is 77% complete, compared to the 91% last year and the 5-year average of 70%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 80% complete, behind last year's 88%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 76%. Peach harvesting is 52% complete, compared to 73% at this time last year and the average of 63%. Apple harvesting is 20% complete behind the 27% last year, and the average of 25%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 18% poor, 32% fair, 34 % good, and 11% excellent. Oats conditions are; 3% very poor, 28% poor, 39% fair, 29% good, and 1% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 7% poor, 32% fair, 47% good, and 14% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 2% very poor, 2% poor, 27% fair, 51% good, and 18% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 22% very poor, 32% poor, 29% fair, 16% good and 1% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 55% good and 45% excellent. Apple conditions are; 6% very poor, 11% poor, 17% fair, 53% good and 13% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 07, 2011: Above-average temperatures blanketed much of the United States during the week, promoting a rapid pace of crop development while negatively impacting crop and pasture conditions in many areas. Most notably, weekly temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal in an area centered over portions of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Precipitation was scattered across the country, with some locations totaling 2 inches or more during the week, but Oklahoma and Texas received little to no rain.

Corn: By week's end, 93 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 4 percentage points behind last year but on par with the 5-year average. Fourteen percent of the corn crop entered the dough stage during the week, leaving progress—at 32 percent complete—17 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Doughing was behind normal in 15 of the 18 estimating states. By August 7, seven percent of the crop was at or beyond the dent stage, 7 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in Kentucky, where progress was 23 percentage points behind last year and 11 points behind the average. Overall, 60 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 11 points below the same time last year. In Iowa, Goss' wilt was reported in some fields in central to north-central portions of the state. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 87 percent of the soybean crop was blooming by week's end, 5 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. As blooming neared completion in some areas, favorable growing conditions promoted double-digit progress in 11 of the 18 estimating states. By August 7, pods were setting on 51 percent of this year's soybean acreage. This was 18 percentage points behind last year and 12 points behind the 5-year average. Despite rapid pod development across much of the major producing region, progress was well behind both last year and normal in many states. Overall, 61 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but 5 percentage points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** With harvest complete or nearly complete in many areas, winter wheat producers harvested 4 percent of the nation's crop during the week. At 85 percent complete, progress was 2 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Across the Northern Tier, seeding and developmental delays earlier in the season left progress 26 percentage points or more behind normal. **Small Grains:** By August 7, oat producers had harvested half of this year's crop, 18 percentage points behind last year and 13 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was just beginning in North Dakota. Overall, 52 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition as harvest reached the halfway mark, down 3 percentage points from last week and 25 points below the same time last year. Heading of this year's barley crop advanced to 96 percent complete by week's end, 3 percentage points behind both last year and the 5-year average. Harvest was underway in three of the five estimating states, with 2 percent of the crop out of the field by August 7. This was 11 percentage points behind last year and 21 points behind the 5-year average. Delays of 20 percentage points or more were evident in all states except Idaho. Overall, 72 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 11 percentage points below the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 14, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 14, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	83	61	72	2	2.03	4	21.34	5.43	66	2,102	380	3,308
Franklin_AG	86	52	70	2	1.92	4	23.29	4.60	73	2,099	466	3,314
Meadville-Port	85	54	70	3	0.69	4	21.69	3.50	77	2,135	639	3,346
Mercer	85	52	70	2	1.44	4	22.80	5.18	86	2,076	459	3,313
Springboro	84	51	68	-3	1.62	5	21.60	5.65	77	1,837	119	3,017
Warren	87	51	68	-1	1.01	3	20.87	2.46	69	1,904	313	3,106
North Central												
Bradford Region	83	45	66	2	0.52	4	23.87	5.27	78	1,641	473	2,785
Oswayo	86	42	65	-1	0.44	2	20.44	2.83	66	1,622	332	2,786
Kane	83	50	68	4	0.89	4	26.41	7.68	68	1,609	458	2,766
Laporte	80	50	67	-3	1.52	5	33.91	16.65	75	1,733	98	2,905
Lock Haven	86	51	71	2	0.05	2	20.32	3.38	61	2,266	537	3,512
Port Allegany	84	50	68	4	0.88	5	23.09	5.48	73	1,762	472	2,932
Renovo	88	52	71	2	0.10	4	22.12	5.18	72	2,206	477	3,446
Ridgway	86	45	68	2	0.44	5	19.76	0.84	71	1,769	464	2,965
Stevenson Dam	89	50	71	5	0.60	2	22.11	3.19	61	2,097	792	3,318
Towanda	84	49	69	-1	0.52	2	25.89	11.60	61	1,976	328	3,191
Wellsboro	85	47	67	2	0.24	3	20.61	6.18	69	1,713	476	2,871
Williamsport	86	52	73	2	1.08	4	27.67	10.74	63	2,399	489	3,669
Northeast												
Hawley	83	49	68	2	0.65	2	30.36	14.20	62	1,770	365	2,972
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	52	71	0	0.57	3	23.75	7.84	67	2,191	374	3,442
Susquehanna	83	50	69	3	0.89	4	25.91	8.57	67	1,867	519	3,072
West Central												
Butler	85	50	70	1	1.82	4	20.99	3.36	70	2,135	442	3,390
New Castle	92	51	73	5	2.43	4	22.89	6.78	71	2,327	629	3,584
Slippery Rock	90	49	71	4	2.55	4	21.48	4.38	68	2,140	607	3,388
Central												
Altoona/Blair	85	50	71	1	1.14	5	19.77	4.13	59	2,382	565	3,647
DuBois	84	51	70	2	0.78	3	22.23	4.59	69	2,000	421	3,215
Lewistown	88	53	73	0	1.46	4	24.67	7.73	58	2,415	425	3,695
Middletown	87	59	75	0	0.72	4	26.86	10.46	54	2,665	420	3,978
Prince Gallitzi	83	46	69	2	1.05	4	17.98	-2.09	63	2,006	554	3,214
Selinsgrove	88	52	71	-1	0.19	3	23.61	6.64	66	2,260	396	3,520
State College	84	55	72	2	0.23	4	19.10	3.47	58	2,285	486	3,531
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	53	74	1	3.89	2	25.04	7.53	55	2,489	431	3,780
Lehighton	83	53	70	-4	1.77	3	26.20	8.71	61	2,164	177	3,434
Matamoras	85	51	70	-2	0.85	3	29.07	11.02	66	1,893	93	3,125
Mt_Pocono	86	48	71	5	2.42	5	31.00	12.10	68	1,869	633	3,075
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	54	73	3	1.68	4	18.05	1.34	73	2,507	683	3,799
Indiana_PA	82	50	69	-1	1.20	4	22.92	3.56	85	2,197	439	3,453
Myersdale	81	43	67	-3	0.59	3	19.92	0.90	69	1,718	45	2,929
Chalk_Hill	80	44	67	-6	0.96	3	31.34	12.77	76	1,779	-162	3,003
Pittsburgh Intl	88	52	73	3	0.77	3	15.79	0.08	64	2,466	558	3,754
Connellsville	84	51	72	1	1.48	4	23.23	4.66	84	2,347	406	3,632
Waynesburg	86	51	71	2	1.56	4	30.57	13.37	69	2,226	461	3,510
South Central												
Biglerville	88	57	74	0	0.66	2	21.65	6.54	51	2,551	355	3,849
Everett	86	48	70	-1	1.00	3	21.86	6.62	60	2,116	322	3,382
Hanover	91	53	74	0	0.52	3	15.84	0.73	52	2,522	326	3,814
Harrisburg_AP	88	56	75	-1	0.40	4	24.01	7.61	50	2,657	405	3,968
South Mountain	86	49	71	-1	0.79	2	18.14	2.50	57	2,099	289	3,353
York	88	51	73	-2	1.29	2	20.83	4.10	55	2,513	327	3,822
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	56	74	3	0.86	2	19.06	1.92	54	2,499	538	3,797
Hamburg	87	57	73	3	1.25	3	23.71	3.58	60	2,473	678	3,759
West_Chester	89	54	74	0	1.77	3	16.12	-2.72	44	2,533	358	3,834
Lancaster	88	56	74	1	1.51	3	20.27	2.66	56	2,590	524	3,892
Neshaminy Falls	90	56	74	2	6.12	2	24.49	4.45	45	2,624	575	3,925
New Holland	89	58	74	2	2.19	2	19.64	2.03	56	2,553	487	3,846
Philadelphia	92	65	78	3	4.45	2	19.50	2.35	44	3,004	642	4,332
Philadelphia NE	90	59	77	0	2.87	3	20.14	2.99	48	2,806	444	4,127
Reading	90	57	75	2	0.95	3	19.60	0.98	59	2,729	699	4,045
Sellersville	88	53	72	0	2.09	3	20.91	3.77	54	2,344	383	3,622
Doylestown_AG	88	57	74	2	4.41	3	23.15	3.11	53	2,619	570	3,929

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 Monday morning temperatures in the low 70's and high humidity. Tuesday was 64 morning temperature and raining until mid morning then cleared and humid then some evening showers and totaled around 0.5" throughout the county. Some thunderstorms are forecasted over the weekend but we'll see if we get them? Corn continues to grow and has changed somewhat with last week's rainfall. There is some corn that is in tassel and only waist high but other corn seems to be continuing to grow. Soybeans are really growing and filling out plants. Some of the late double-cropped soybeans are finally growing with the moisture we received last week. Hay baling has pretty much stopped for now until the fields re-grow due to not growing during dry period. Some soil has been prepared for new hay seedings and future small grain seedings. Fruit crops continue to grow and mature in size. Peaches are still being harvested with good crop being reported and early varieties of apples are being harvested in the county. The stink bugs are affecting the peaches since they are sweeter and growers are hoping they don't start on the apples as they mature. Vegetables continue to be harvested in the county. Sweet corn that wasn't irrigated isn't doing too well. Overall the producers are glad we received the rainfall last weekend and a little more this week to bring the greenness back to the county. They are looking ahead now to getting small grains planted for 2012 crop year.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

The rain hit with a vengeance over the weekend, 4-6" throughout the county. Some areas have had over 10 inches of rain in the past 3 weeks. Soils are now saturated and it will be a few days before any field work can be done. There should be plenty of moisture in the ground to re-seed pastures that were devastated by the hot, dry weather earlier in the summer. All our corn and beans should be "made" by this rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Good week for field work; 1/2" rainfall.

CENTRE COUNTY, Timothy Craul

Recent rains have improved early corn ear development, but corn that was highly stressed during dry period is not recovering. Soybeans have perked up significantly for plants that were under water stress. Overall, yields will be average to slightly lower than average. Third cutting of hay was sparse, alfalfa was stressed and the grasses were mostly in dormant phase.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Wheat and oats yield are considerably lower than last year yields. The average is about 30% lower. Farmers are tilling and planting new seedings.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Off and on rain showers this week brought much needed moisture to the area. Heavy storms were predicted over the weekend but none materialized in our area just light rains. Corn and soybeans are looking good, with good color. Producers are getting ready for the big Crawford County Fair starting on August 20th. It is well worth the drive to see the largest agricultural fair in the state.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

A few light showers, but still very dry top soil. Some hay making this past week, but very short. Beans are looking good. Dry hot weather

has taken toll on milk production. Early corn silage being harvested now from shale ground. Late planted corn will not make a crop.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Well, it was a pretty decent week for farming this week. Got .50" this past Monday and Saturday night-Sunday morning got .30". The rain along with the sunny warm weather has been a difference maker for the corn and soybeans growing and making a comeback., although we'll have to wait and see if the corn is going to make ears. Some 2nd cutting of alfalfa might happen in a week or two. Hope everyone has a safe farming week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhardt

Recent showers have brought much needed rain to the area. It was probably too late to help corn much but beans and hay will benefit. We are still seeing tip back and aborted kernels in corn from the heat and dry weather.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Dale Kriner (NRCS)

Harvest of corn silage and tobacco has started. Received some nice rains over the weekend.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler

The weather has cooled down considerably. Fourth cutting of alfalfa has begun. A small amount of corn for silage has also been harvested. Beans are starting to fill out the soybean pods since the rain last week.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Peach harvesting has begun - mainly Red Haven. Apple orchards are all reporting severe apple scab problems in our area. Oat harvesting is complete with growers reporting poor yields. Most vegetable growers in the area are reporting good growth and yields in sweet corn, tomatoes, pickles, peppers, and etc.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

Soybean growers who also have livestock have assessed soybean fields in the past week. Due to the dry weather earlier in the summer, many soybean fields that had less than adequate stands, or were a second crop planting after barley will not produce satisfactory yields. Those fields will have oats no-tilled in them to provide a fall forage crop. Due to lower hay yields and very high prices for hay, livestock and dairy, producers are looking for additional forage sources.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Rainfall in the one to two inch range has made an improvement in the corn and soybean crop. However, there are some insect problems in the soybeans as well as weeds in a few corn fields. Activities for the week were baling straw, haymaking, spraying in preparation for no-till seeding, and spreading fertilizer.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

It appears that we are back into the same weather pattern as June. Rain every other day if not every day. Corn is looking good and pastures are getting much needed moisture to maintain its growth.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Another good growing week with adequate moisture. Cooler temperatures toward week's end had a feel of fall.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega

Some much needed rain has helped crop conditions.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl

More scattered rains continue to help improve crop conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 14, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	92	96	93
Corn, dough	35	50	42
Corn, dent	7	15	13
Corn average height, inches	83	85	80
Oats, ripe	94	97	94
Oats, harvested	73	93	77
Potatoes, harvested	7	10	12
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	77	91	70
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	80	88	76
Peaches, harvested	52	73	63
Apples, harvested	20	27	25

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 14, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	18	32	34	11
Oats	3	28	39	29	1
Soybeans	0	7	32	47	14
Quality of hay made	2	2	27	51	18
Pasture	22	32	29	16	1
Peaches	0	0	0	55	45
Apples	6	11	17	53	13

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