



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 16, 2009

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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 a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Many areas experienced winds and rain early in the week, with temperatures heating up by the weekend. Primary activities included: harvesting oats, fruits, vegetables, and continuing to make hay. Tobacco harvest has begun, as well as field preparation for future seeding of small grains and hay. Corn silage should soon be ready to chop and blight continues to be a concern for many potato and tomato producers.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 16, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	16	69	14

Crop Progress: Corn is 90% silked, compared to 94% at this time last year, and the 95% five-year average. Thirty-two percent of corn has reached the dough stage, versus 41% last year, and the average of 53%. Six percent of corn has reached the dent stage, versus 12% last year, and the average of 20%. Ninety-three percent of the oats are reported ripe, behind last year's 97%, and the state's five year average of 96%. Oats harvesting is 71% completed, behind last year's 88% and the average of 81%. Tobacco harvesting has begun, and is 13% harvested. This is compared to last year's 16% and the average of 16%. Potato harvesting has also started. Potatoes are 17% harvested, compared to last year's 16% and the five year average of 14%. The alfalfa second cutting is 97% complete. This is behind last year's 98%, but the same as the average. Third cutting alfalfa is 57% completed, behind last year's 78%, and the five year average of 68%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa has started, and is 7% completed. This is behind last year's 12%, but ahead of the average of 6%. Seventy-six percent of the second cutting of timothy clover is completed, which surpasses both last year's 73%, and the average of 70%. Sixty-eight percent of the peach crop has been harvested, compared to 63% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 60%. Thirty percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 20%, and also ahead of the average of 24%.

Crop Condition: The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 6% poor, 14% fair, 49% good, and 30% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 0% very poor, 4% poor, 12% fair, 56% good, and 28% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 4% poor, 27% fair, 42% good, and 26% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 2% very poor, 7% poor, 28% fair, 49% good and 14% excellent. The apple conditions slightly improved at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 72% good, and 28% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 10, 2009: Cooler air abruptly overspread the West, accompanied by heavy rain across the northern Intermountain region. Mostly dry weather persisted in the Southwest. Meanwhile, locally heavy rain fell on the Plains, especially late in the week across the northern half of the region. Rain disrupted small grain harvesting on the northern Plains but maintained generally favorable conditions for summer crops throughout the Nation's mid-section. Farther east, warmer weather and frequent showers provided nearly ideal conditions for Midwestern corn and soybeans, although thunderstorms caused local wind and hail damage. Elsewhere, heat gradually returned to the South, preceded by scattered showers. Southern pastures and summer crops continued to benefit from mostly adequate to abundant soil moisture levels, except in heat- and drought-stricken southern Texas. Readings rebounded to 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher on the central and southern Plains but remained below 80 degrees Fahrenheit for the entire week in some areas from North Dakota to northern Maine. Heat lingered early in the week across the West. Later, cool air spilled into the Northeast. Meanwhile, markedly cooler air invaded the West, resulting in dozens of late-week record lows. **Corn:** Acreage at or beyond the silking stage reached 89 percent by week's end, 2 points behind last year and 7 points slower than the 5-year average. Crop development was at or behind in all States except Colorado, where 27 percent of the crop began silking during the week, leaving progress 9 points ahead of the average. Meanwhile, 24 percent of the Nation's crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 4 points behind last year and 22 points, or over 1 week, behind normal. Acreage in the dent stage, at 5 percent, was 1 point behind last year and 9 points behind normal. 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:** Nationally, 86 percent of this year's soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 1 point behind last year and 7 points behind the average. Blooming was active across much of the growing region; however, progress remained at or behind the 5-year average in all estimating states. Pod set was evident in 55 percent of the crop by August 9, two points behind last year and 17 points behind normal. Overall, 66 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down 1 point from last week, but 3 points better than a year ago. **Oats:** Forty-eight percent of this year's oat crop was harvested, 6 points behind last year and 21 points, or over 1 week, behind normal. Harvest was active across much of the growing region, with producers in Ohio reaping 39 percent of their crop during the week. Overall, 56 percent of the oat crop was rated in good to excellent condition as harvest neared the halfway mark.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 16, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 16, 2009						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	90	63	75	5	0.07	2	17.12	0.95	64	1,753	-9	2,994	
Franklin	90	61	76	7	0.55	3	21.28	2.33	66	1,676	5	2,911	
Meadville	87	61	74	7	0.08	3	17.60	-0.89	66	1,641	110	2,868	
Mercer	88	60	74	6	0.96	4	19.28	1.42	67	1,670	16	2,907	
Springboro	89	57	73	4	0.48	2	17.18	0.97	68	1,476	-282	2,676	
Warren	88	58	73	5	1.95	3	21.51	2.82	61	1,531	-96	2,747	
North Central													
Bradford Region	83	52	69	5	1.33	4	19.58	0.72	70	1,176	-20	2,335	
Oswayo	86	53	71	6	1.44	4	20.46	2.63	72	1,213	-107	2,377	
Kane	86	52	69	6	1.71	3	24.21	5.20	66	1,154	-25	2,307	
Laporte	85	60	70	2	1.39	4	24.40	6.92	76	1,361	-312	2,565	
Lock Haven	89	64	75	6	0.72	4	21.47	4.29	63	1,846	77	3,113	
Port Allegany	86	58	72	7	1.66	4	19.15	1.32	64	1,300	-20	2,482	
Renovo	91	64	75	6	1.63	5	17.42	0.24	68	1,736	-33	2,994	
Ridgway	87	56	72	7	1.04	4	19.82	0.66	64	1,327	-9	2,501	
Stevenson Dam	87	64	74	9	0.57	3	16.50	-2.66	62	1,648	312	2,882	
Towanda	90	61	75	6	0.87	2	19.93	5.46	63	1,653	-33	2,896	
Wellsboro	85	56	71	7	0.55	3	20.44	5.83	65	1,250	-17	2,431	
Williamsport	92	65	76	6	0.35	2	18.30	1.15	63	2,082	130	3,396	
Northeast													
Hawley	89	59	72	5	0.97	4	22.51	6.12	61	1,484	45	2,708	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	63	74	4	1.97	4	18.90	2.79	62	1,901	44	3,190	
Susquehanna	87	61	72	7	1.75	4	22.01	4.43	68	1,548	168	2,773	
West Central													
Butler	89	60	74	5	1.00	4	19.08	1.18	69	1,635	-96	2,876	
New Castle	92	62	76	8	0.65	2	17.24	0.93	64	1,873	137	3,132	
Slippery Rock	91	59	75	8	0.67	2	20.00	2.64	66	1,707	140	2,947	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	88	59	74	4	0.21	3	14.43	-1.39	70	1,785	-72	3,045	
DuBois	85	58	73	5	1.04	4	22.27	4.37	73	1,594	-21	2,816	
Lewistown	93	62	76	5	0.65	3	20.83	3.69	66	1,932	-102	3,215	
Middletown	92	66	78	4	0.79	3	21.93	5.33	65	2,329	36	3,655	
Prince Gallitzi	88	56	73	6	1.33	2	17.24	-3.07	67	1,491	5	2,683	
Selinsgrove	92	63	75	4	0.28	2	22.03	4.82	54	1,886	-20	3,153	
State College	90	62	75	5	2.08	3	18.19	2.36	67	1,866	27	3,136	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	91	63	75	3	0.66	3	22.63	4.84	62	2,040	-63	3,333	
Lehighton	87	64	74	2	1.98	5	27.21	9.46	64	1,788	-243	3,060	
Matamoras	89	61	72	2	2.28	4	21.55	3.28	56	1,643	-197	2,883	
Mt_Pocono	86	60	72	7	2.41	4	25.10	5.94	76	1,517	251	2,732	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	64	76	6	0.76	3	15.90	-1.01	69	2,107	243	3,409	
Indiana_PA	88	59	73	4	0.25	1	9.33	-10.27	50	1,786	-11	3,033	
Myersdale	85	56	71	2	1.84	5	20.65	1.41	68	1,340	-372	2,510	
Mount Pleasant	87	59	73	6	1.96	3	21.90	2.23	68	1,840	281	3,107	
Pittsburgh Intl	90	62	76	5	1.49	3	16.22	0.31	64	2,107	157	3,405	
Connellsville	90	61	76	5	0.47	2	23.23	4.42	73	1,988	5	3,283	
Waynesburg	89	56	74	5	1.27	3	18.04	0.60	70	1,804	-1	3,076	
South Central													
Biglerville	92	64	76	3	0.26	2	23.17	7.84	67	2,138	-105	3,435	
Everett	92	59	75	5	0.02	1	18.28	2.86	66	1,715	-120	2,902	
Hanover	93	61	76	3	0.43	2	18.82	3.49	62	2,149	-94	3,454	
Harrisburg_AP	93	65	77	3	0.97	4	20.21	3.61	66	2,308	8	3,632	
South Mountain	87	59	73	3	0.21	3	24.14	8.32	70	1,670	-180	2,922	
York	92	61	76	3	1.56	3	18.59	1.64	57	2,141	-91	3,442	
Southeast													
Green Lane	92	64	76	5	2.20	3	25.94	8.54	66	2,100	95	3,398	
Hamburg	91	64	75	6	0.68	3	28.71	8.32	70	2,090	255	3,396	
West_Chester	92	64	76	3	1.51	3	23.53	4.45	63	2,111	-110	3,392	
Lancaster	92	63	76	3	0.63	3	17.55	-0.30	61	2,175	63	3,472	
Neshaminy Falls	93	63	77	5	0.73	2	24.11	3.77	61	2,170	76	3,471	
New Holland	93	65	76	4	1.23	4	21.60	3.75	63	2,173	61	3,479	
Philadelphia	95	67	79	4	1.14	2	20.59	3.20	66	2,591	177	3,937	
Philadelphia NE	93	64	77	2	0.93	3	20.33	2.94	67	2,335	-79	3,660	
Reading	93	64	77	4	0.77	4	21.96	3.08	69	2,284	208	3,596	
Sellersville	91	62	74	3	0.80	3	24.94	7.54	64	1,953	-52	3,236	
Willow Grove	92	64	76	4	0.32	3	40.68	20.34	65	2,250	156	3,563	

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 (FSA) - The corn fields still have different height and maturity within the same fields. Soybeans are coming along; however, the double crop soybeans are still pretty short. Hay continues to be made when weather permits. Some field preparations are being done for future seeding. Peaches are being harvested with good yields reported. Apples are also doing well, and early varieties are being harvested. Producers are preparing equipment and land for fall harvests and plantings.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Beth Abbott (FSA) - Cooler temperatures are having an effect on crops. Based on charts, we are 150 growing degree days below normal as of this date. Wet weather has prevented dry hay from being harvested. This is resulting in lower quality.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Crop conditions are good to excellent. The past week provided time for field work. I had 0.75 inches of rainfall.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of 2nd, 3rd and 4th cuttings were lost, or are poor quality due to weather conditions. The warm weather this week has really helped the soybean and corn crops.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - The beginning of the week brought heavy rains. Sunshine prevailed the rest of the week, letting farmers get out in the field. Quite a bit of hay was made. Oats were combined. Overall, pasture conditions are better than usual for this time of year.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - Grapes are being affected by downey mildew, due to excess rainfall.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - A heavy rain early in the week slowed hay making. Corn and soybeans are still looking good. The first corn was harvested for silage late last week. Expect more to be done in the days ahead. Peaches and apples are in great shape.

INDIANA COUNTY, David Overdorff - We had 1.60" of rain last Monday, and then had 0.60 of rain on Wednesday.

We just finished combining the oats on Saturday. We are going to try and bale some second cutting hay soon. The corn and soybeans are doing really well with all of the hot days and warm nights.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - There was some hay making and tobacco harvesting last week. We are getting ready for silage harvest.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Tobacco harvest is now in full swing. Growers are reporting that the crop has good weight and quality.

LEHIGH COUNTY, Bob Leiby (EXT) - Last week, new late blight infections were discovered on both tomatoes and potatoes. Late blight is much more common than in past years.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Several days were in the high 80's. This has helped the field corn catch up in maturity. The late blight has hit the tomatoes in the neighborhood.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The rains and winds of last weekend caused some lodging with the soybeans. The weather this week has improved the condition of the corn and soybeans. There is significant leaf beetle damage in some soybean fields. With everything taken into consideration, the corn and soybeans look good. Preparations are being made for fall planting of alfalfa, and small grains. Harvesting of oats has been completed and the making of third cutting of dry hay is well underway.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters (FSA) - High winds went through parts of the county on Sunday, August 9. Oats and many trees went down in places. Oats are close to being ripe and ready to harvest, but field conditions in some areas may delay combining. All crops are behind due to wet weather. It is hard to make dry, good quality hay. The stages of corn vary across the county.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Excellent growing conditions continued last week. Corn, soybeans, and hay are doing very well.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 16, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	90	94	95
Corn, dough	32	41	53
Corn, dent	6	12	20
Oats, ripe	93	97	96
Oats, harvested	71	88	81
Tobacco, harvested	13	16	16
Potatoes, harvested	17	16	14
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	97	98	97
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	57	78	68
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	7	12	6
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	76	73	70
Peaches, harvested	68	63	60
Apples, harvested	30	20	24

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 16, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	6	14	49	30
Soybeans	0	4	12	56	28
Quality of hay made	1	4	27	42	26
Pasture	2	7	28	49	14
Apples	0	0	0	72	28

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