



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Northeastern Regional Field Office

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Week Ending August 18, 2013

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This report can be found on the Internet at 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. This week provided an exceptional time for Pennsylvania farmers to be out in the fields. Cool weather conditions persisted with temperatures being in the 70's and low 80's, which is unusually cool conditions for August. Corn and soybeans are looking amazing and still seem to remain the best we have had in many years. There is some disease, from wet weather, and insect damage reported but farmers are quickly taking care of these issues. Peaches and apple harvest is well underway with yields being measured as very good but there are some reports of smaller size peaches compared to other years. The cooler weather is causing fruits to ripen slower than usual. Farmers were able to cut alfalfa and timothy/clover this week as many areas experienced very little rain, where rain and wet conditions have been a problem in weeks past. Tobacco, potato and oats harvest is in full swing, as barley is starting to be planted for next year's crop. Weather predictions for the week include, more rain scattered throughout several days but temperatures should get to near normal in the 80's and 90's. Field activities for the week included cutting alfalfa, timothy and other forage; harvesting oats, tobacco, potatoes, peaches and apples, planting barley, side dressing fields with nitrogen and applying other fertilizer, mowing pastures, spraying herbicides and pesticides.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 18, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	15	77	7

Crop Progress: Corn is 55% doughed, which is behind progress at this time last year of 70% but ahead of the 5-year average of 50% doughed. Corn is 16% dent, which is behind progress at this time last year of 24% and the 5-year average of 17% dent. Barley is 7% planted, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 0% and the 5-year average of 1% planted. Oats are 99% ripe, which is the same progress at this time last year of 99% but ahead of the 5-year average of 96% ripe. Oats are 79% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 96% and the 5-year average of 89% harvested. Tobacco is 21% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 22% but ahead of the 5-year average of 20% harvested. Potatoes are 16% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 37% and the 5-year average of 19% harvested. Alfalfa third cutting is 77% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 85% and the 5-year average of 81% cut. Alfalfa fourth cutting is 14% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 20% and the same as 5-year average of 14% cut. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 85% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 90% but ahead of the 5-year average of 84% cut. Peaches are 79% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 95% but ahead of the 5-years average of 75% harvested. Apples are 33% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 42% but ahead of the 5-years average of 30% harvested.

Crop Condition: Corn conditions are; 2% very poor, 2% poor, 12% fair, 40% good, and 44% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 55% good, and 31% excellent. Quality of Hay

made conditions are; 2% very poor, 2% poor, 18% fair, 56% good and 22% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 3% very poor, 3% poor, 28% fair, 40% good and 26% excellent. Apples conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 9% fair, 52% good and 39% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 11, 2013: Cooler-than-normal weather blanketed much of the country during the week, with temperatures in portions of the northern Great Plains and northern Rocky Mountains averaging more than 8°F below normal. Elsewhere, daytime highs in the southern Great Plains—where soil moisture remained less than adequate for most dryland crops—climbed to 100°F or higher. Heavy rain totaling more than 7 inches fell on eastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri, triggering localized flooding. Corn: By August 11, ninety-four percent of the corn was at or beyond the silking stage, 6 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. When compared with the average pace, the largest delays persisted in Iowa and Wisconsin, where localized rainfall benefited corn while completely missing some areas where soil moisture has been less than adequate for several weeks. Nationally, 32 percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 44 percentage points behind last year and 16 points behind the 5-year average. By August 11, denting was evident in 5 percent of this year's crop, 34 percentage points behind last year and 12 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 64 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 41 percentage points better than the same time last year. Soybeans: By week's end, 88 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage. This was 8 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Despite below-average temperatures, pod set advanced rapidly in most areas during the week. Nationwide, 58 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the pod-setting stage by August 11, twenty-three percentage points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 64 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 34 percentage points better than the same time last year. Winter Wheat: With favorable weather conditions supporting rapid fieldwork in areas where winter wheat remained in the field, producers had harvested 92 percent of the nation's crop by week's end. This was 2 percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Other Small Grains: Producers had harvested 51 percent of the nation's oat crop by week's end, 42 percentage points behind last year and 16 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest progress advanced 15 percentage points or more in five of the nine major estimating states. Overall, 55 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition as harvest surpassed the halfway point during the week, unchanged from last week. By August 11, barley producers had harvested 17 percent of this year's crop, 34 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest advanced most rapidly in Idaho and Montana, where more than one-fifth of the crop was combined during the week. Overall, 66 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week and 6 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 18, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 18, 2013					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	78	53	66	-6	1.45	1	23.29	6.86	62	2,058	256	3,307
Franklin_AG	80	46	64	-6	0.66	2	20.14	0.93	71	1,967	258	3,207
Meadville-Port	78	49	64	-5	0.87	3	17.85	-0.94	70	1,992	427	3,251
Clarion	80	45	63	-6	0.42	2	20.83	1.02	66	1,712	-14	2,928
Springboro	78	46	61	-9	0.64	2	25.10	8.63	63	1,758	-39	2,972
Warren	79	46	62	-7	1.45	2	16.81	-2.16	62	1,831	168	3,059
North Central												
Bradford Region	75	38	60	-5	1.40	3	16.36	-2.76	71	1,623	399	2,847
Oswayo	76	37	60	-6	0.53	2	16.25	-1.82	56	1,437	87	2,619
Kane	77	38	59	-5	1.31	2	21.17	1.88	61	1,428	223	2,611
Laporte	75	46	61	-9	1.02	2	26.23	8.53	58	1,561	-149	2,765
Lock Haven	84	46	65	-5	0.07	2	17.59	0.17	54	2,057	250	3,324
Coudersport_1SW	78	41	60	-5	1.22	3	18.44	0.37	67	1,486	136	2,677
Renovo	82	47	65	-5	0.44	2	14.95	-2.47	55	2,054	247	3,312
Ridgway	79	42	61	-5	0.44	1	19.83	0.43	64	1,688	322	2,897
Stevenson Dam	81	48	64	-3	0.56	2	16.67	-2.73	52	1,872	506	3,106
Towanda	81	45	63	-6	0.34	2	17.63	2.98	49	1,822	98	3,063
Wellsboro	77	43	61	-5	0.30	1	17.76	2.97	61	1,510	213	2,717
Williamsport	84	47	68	-4	0.04	1	15.34	-2.02	49	2,267	273	3,569
Northeast												
Hawley	79	44	62	-6	0.46	1	24.21	7.58	56	1,677	205	2,887
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	46	67	-4	0.19	2	12.95	-3.36	51	2,175	278	3,464
Susquehanna	79	46	63	-4	0.89	2	20.53	2.71	52	1,761	350	2,992
West Central												
Butler	81	44	63	-6	0.36	3	20.78	2.62	65	1,946	177	3,190
New Castle	80	47	64	-5	0.14	2	19.67	3.15	61	2,009	235	3,263
Slippery Rock	84	45	65	-3	0.27	2	18.06	0.44	59	2,042	441	3,288
Central												
Altoona/Blair	83	46	66	-4	0.56	4	14.47	-1.53	64	2,156	259	3,445
DuBois	79	46	64	-5	0.59	1	16.12	-2.04	53	1,983	333	3,237
Lewistown	86	50	69	-4	0.12	2	14.50	-2.84	57	2,306	229	3,617
Middletown	85	53	70	-5	1.25	4	16.04	-0.78	62	2,509	168	3,844
Prince Gallitzi	80	41	63	-4	0.08	1	16.90	-3.65	57	1,885	366	3,138
Selinsgrove	84	47	66	-6	0.25	1	18.47	1.02	51	2,119	173	3,407
State College	81	50	66	-4	0.01	1	19.81	3.78	56	2,106	227	3,388
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	49	68	-5	2.06	3	22.34	4.27	55	2,354	207	3,673
Lehighton	78	47	64	-9	0.81	3	23.26	5.25	56	1,985	-90	3,278
Matamoras	81	49	66	-5	0.69	3	24.55	6.05	57	2,036	156	3,316
Mt_Pocono	77	44	62	-3	0.44	2	26.44	7.02	56	1,710	414	2,932
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	49	67	-3	0.01	1	20.42	3.31	60	2,371	467	3,677
Indiana_PA	79	46	65	-5	0.49	3	20.51	0.67	68	2,100	265	3,380
Myersdale	81	43	61	-9	0.69	2	20.11	0.65	70	1,661	-89	2,886
Chalk_Hill	84	40	60	-12	0.86	3	25.87	6.82	70	1,697	-328	2,923
Pittsburgh Intl	83	47	68	-4	0.00	0	17.84	1.73	54	2,321	330	3,614
Connellsville	84	49	67	-5	1.07	2	25.17	6.12	74	2,142	117	3,418
Waynesburg	83	47	65	-5	0.27	3	19.70	2.02	65	2,012	169	3,280
South Central												
Biglerville	85	50	68	-6	2.24	3	17.49	1.94	54	2,339	50	3,658
Everett	83	45	65	-7	0.40	4	14.90	-0.70	60	1,952	77	3,223
Hanover	84	48	67	-7	2.26	4	17.38	1.83	65	2,306	17	3,622
Harrisburg_AP	85	51	70	-5	1.91	4	15.47	-1.35	65	2,498	150	3,838
South Mountain	80	45	63	-7	2.51	3	21.27	5.27	62	1,874	-16	3,146
York	84	48	68	-6	3.16	4	19.65	2.48	60	2,357	79	3,661
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	51	68	-4	1.52	3	23.26	5.60	56	2,328	281	3,647
Hamburg	83	51	68	-3	1.44	3	21.04	0.39	61	2,297	422	3,612
West_Chester	86	48	69	-5	4.34	3	28.94	9.62	61	2,315	48	3,627
Lancaster	84	50	69	-5	1.79	2	17.90	-0.19	56	2,339	181	3,649
Neshaminy Falls	84	51	69	-4	2.92	2	24.47	3.83	55	2,456	318	3,788
New Holland	86	51	69	-5	2.11	2	20.94	2.85	54	2,478	320	3,814
Philadelphia	86	58	73	-3	2.05	3	29.32	11.69	53	2,828	363	4,186
Philadelphia NE	87	57	73	-4	1.76	3	21.99	4.36	60	2,603	138	3,942
Reading	85	52	70	-4	2.14	3	21.21	2.07	54	2,556	435	3,897
Sellersville	83	48	68	-5	1.46	2	26.56	8.90	51	2,210	163	3,508
Doylestown_AG	83	53	69	-4	1.93	2	27.96	7.32	54	2,441	303	3,769

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 some rainfall in most areas this week but some areas getting significant and other areas not getting very much at all. Beginning of week morning temperatures were still in the low 70's and daytime into the 80's however after Tuesday storms then morning temperatures were 53 on Wednesday with daytime into the higher 60's. Thursday and Friday morning saw morning temperatures 47 and 48 degrees with daytime yesterday into the high 60's. Wednesday through Friday have been clear blue skies and sunny.

Corn and soybeans continue to mature with both getting taller. Double-cropped soybeans are coming but still pretty short especially if this cooler weather is an indication of an early fall? Haymaking has slowed considerably due to recent heavy rainfall in most of the county and lack of sunny days. Now producers are awaiting field conditions as the amount of rainfall we have had the past two weeks is way above normal and water laying in the fields. Preparation for new seeding of hay and small grains have also slowed due to rains. Oats yields have been reported as being good for this year.

Apples and peaches are being harvested in the county. Jonagold apples are starting to be harvested in the county with other varieties not far away. Apple crop is sizing nicely. Peaches are doing pretty well this year also but recent rains are making it interesting for getting the fruit to the trucks. Sweet corn is being harvested and a nice crop along with other vegetables in the county.

ADAMS County, Lee Showalter

Peaches are now coming in with good mid-season volumes. Quality is good. Ginger Gold apples will be harvested by mid-week. Size and quality is good. Gala harvest will commence in a week to 10 days.

BUTLER County, L. Fritz

Oats and hay harvest is progressing with the good weather. Some producers are spreading lime.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Great week for field work. No rainfall.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Harvesting of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th crop hay. Some potato

harvesting. Many acres of winter cover cropping going on. Corn crop is maturing and looking great. Soybeans are exceptional. It won't be long before harvesting of corn silage.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Sunny weather made for good hay making late in the week. Expect to see some short season corn being chopped this coming week. Corn looks to be the best in several years, beans are very healthy as well. Pastures are in good shape for August.

LANCASTER County, Jeffrey Graybill, Lancaster Extension

Tobacco harvest is well underway, Expect some silage to come off this week. Lots of disease pressure in corn by limit top yields for some.

LEBANON County, Charlene Ziegler

Rain (again) early in the week brought cooler, drier weather. Alfalfa was mowed and baled the end of the week. The corn is beginning to dry down and soon can be chopped for silage. The ears are large. Soybean pods are filling out.

MERCER County, JAMES P. RUST

Peach crop looks excellent with lots of small peaches. Red Havens are being picked. Apple crop is also high yielding in most cases with some orchards reporting a few quality issues. Cooler days and nights has slowed down the ripening of tomatoes and other garden crops. Sweet corn is yielding excellent for the producers.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Slight leaf beetle damage showing on the soybeans, otherwise they are looking good. Corn is developing very well with only minor pollination defects. A very good week for making quality dry hay. Main activities for the week were haymaking, spreading lime and machinery maintenance.

WESTMORELAND County, Tom Sierzega

Dry week allowed for catch up in small grain harvest and hay making. Small grain harvest and quality significantly behind average due to wet weather throughout the summer. Cool temperatures this week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 18, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dough	55	70	50
Corn, dent	16	24	17
Barley, planted	7	0	1
Oats, ripe	99	99	96
Oats, harvested	79	96	89
Tobacco, harvested	21	22	20
Potatoes, harvested	16	37	19
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	77	85	81
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	14	20	14
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	85	90	84
Peaches, harvested	79	95	75
Apples, harvested	33	42	30

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 18, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	2	12	40	44
Soybeans	0	1	13	55	31
Quality of hay made	2	2	18	56	22
Pasture	3	3	28	40	26
Apples	0	0	9	52	39

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