



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending August 17, 2008

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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."*

**Good week for Field Work:** Five days were suitable for field work last week. Fall plowing has begun and shows to be 8% completed. Principal farm activities included spreading manure and lime, preparing for fall seedings, picking fruit, cutting and baling hay and straw, mowing weeds, as well as harvesting oats, sweet corn, and other vegetables.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 17, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6	27	58	9

**Crops:** The corn was estimated as 78 percent good or excellent condition compared with 82% last week. Four percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor. The state's corn is 95% tasseled, with 44% at the dough stage, and 14% dented. Eighty-four percent of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. Ninety-eight percent of the oats are now ripe, compared to last year's 92 percent, and the average of 93 percent. The oat harvest continued and shows to be 91 percent harvested. The potato harvest is estimated to be 17% complete. The tobacco harvest continued, and shows to be 16% harvested. Alfalfa third cutting continued and is 82% completed. The fourth cutting continued and is now 13% complete. The second cutting of timothy clover is 75% completed, compared with the average of 64%. The quality of hay improved and is at 79 percent good or excellent, with 4 percent rated as poor or very poor. The peach harvest is 65 percent completed, which is 7 points better than last year and 5 points above average. The apple condition declined and is estimated at 72 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest shows to be 21% complete, compared with last year's 26% and the average of 22%.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions declined last week. Forty-six percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is down 9 points from last week. Twenty percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 14 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 5% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 36% good, and 10% excellent.

**U.S. as of August 10, 2008:** Tropical Storm Edouard made landfall on the upper Texas coast near the Louisiana border on the morning of August 5. Despite having maximum sustained winds near 65 miles per hour. At landfall, Edouard was a fairly insignificant tropical storm. Rainfall totals as high as 2 to 6 inches were observed with Edouard, but little flooding occurred due to

pre existing drought. Elsewhere across the nation's mid-section, heavy rain soaked the Central Plains. The rain caused some flash flooding but was generally beneficial across the drought-affected Central High Plains. Farther north, showers caused only minor small grain harvest delays on the Northern Plains. Meanwhile, cooler air overspread the Midwest and the Southeast, preceded by scattered showers and thunderstorms. Midwestern conditions remained nearly ideal for reproductive to filling summer crops, but Southeastern pastures and summer crops continued to suffer from varying degrees of drought stress. Farther west, very warm, dry weather across most areas west of the Rockies contrasted with the return of locally heavy monsoon showers to the Four Corners States. In the Northwest, warm, dry conditions hastened spring wheat maturation and promoted small grain harvesting. Near- to above-normal temperatures prevailed nationwide, except in the Northeast. Weekly temperatures ranged from more than 5 degrees F below normal in parts of Maine to at least 5 degrees F above normal at a few locations across the southern Plains and the Intermountain West. High temperatures routinely reached or exceeded 100 degrees F in the south-central U.S.

**Corn:** Silking was nearly complete in most states, at 93 percent nationwide. Silking was 5 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Acreage was at or behind the usual silking pace in all States except Colorado, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Acreage at or beyond the dough stage, at 30 percent, was 29 points behind last year and 20 points behind the average. Most States trailed last year and the average. Progress to the dent stage was well underway in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, where more than half of the acreage was denting. Corn condition improved slightly during the week, reaching 67 percent good to excellent.

**Soybeans:** Soybean condition was rated 63 percent good to excellent, unchanged from last week.

**Winter Wheat:** The winter wheat crop was 92 percent harvested, which is 5 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Six percent of the crop was harvested during the week.

**Oats:** Fifty-four percent of the oat crop had been reaped, 24 and 14 points behind last year and the 5-year average, respectively. Harvest was progressing ahead of the normal pace in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but was at or behind normal elsewhere. Oat condition ratings declined 2 points from last week, to 55 percent good to excellent.

### Weather Data For Week Ending August 17, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 17, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
<b>Northwest</b>													
Erie	78	56	67	-4	1.01	2	16.08	-0.25	61	2,071	269	3,349	
Franklin	76	52	64	-6	0.66	3	19.79	0.69	71	1,793	84	3,070	
Meadville	74	51	63	-5	0.54	4	17.38	-1.30	64	1,790	225	3,066	
Mercer	77	50	64	-6	0.67	3	19.36	1.38	75	1,749	59	3,033	
Springboro	77	50	64	-7	1.15	2	23.77	7.39	68	1,657	-140	2,906	
Warren	77	52	64	-6	0.66	3	21.15	2.29	76	1,686	23	2,931	
<b>North Central</b>													
Bradford Region	73	45	59	-6	0.59	4	18.20	-0.81	81	1,303	79	2,472	
Emporium	78	51	65	-2	0.32	4	14.89	-4.40	74	1,760	394	3,029	
Kane	74	46	60	-4	1.21	3	18.55	-0.62	70	1,288	83	2,457	
Laporte	74	51	62	-8	0.88	5	20.94	3.34	74	1,558	-152	2,777	
Lock Haven	82	52	67	-3	0.00	0	15.12	-2.20	62	1,989	182	3,294	
Port Allegany	75	47	61	-5	0.37	3	14.25	-3.72	71	1,431	81	2,632	
Renovo	81	52	66	-4	0.52	3	15.45	-1.87	59	1,948	141	3,244	
Ridgway	76	46	61	-5	0.64	4	17.61	-1.68	71	1,425	59	2,640	
Stevenson Dam	79	52	65	0	0.43	3	14.03	-5.26	64	1,773	407	3,037	
Towanda	79	51	65	-5	0.13	4	17.68	3.12	62	1,810	86	3,073	
Wellsboro	75	47	61	-5	0.16	3	15.51	0.79	72	1,434	137	2,634	
Williamsport	82	53	69	-3	1.02	3	17.09	-0.17	63	2,171	177	3,500	
<b>Northeast</b>													
Hawley	80	50	64	-3	1.72	4	16.42	-0.11	57	1,648	176	2,880	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	53	67	-4	0.80	4	15.70	-0.52	64	2,012	115	3,294	
Susquehanna	77	51	64	-2	0.57	4	18.63	0.92	71	1,716	305	2,972	
<b>West Central</b>													
Butler	78	49	64	-6	0.27	2	14.62	-3.43	81	1,721	-48	3,017	
New Castle	84	51	67	-3	0.44	2	15.63	-0.79	72	2,016	242	3,332	
Slippery Rock	78	51	64	-4	0.58	2	17.96	0.45	65	1,750	149	3,067	
<b>Central</b>													
Altoona/Blair	81	50	65	-6	0.07	5	15.27	-0.62	70	1,938	41	3,230	
DuBois	74	49	62	-6	0.56	4	17.70	-0.35	77	1,672	22	2,917	
Lewistown	84	54	68	-5	0.16	2	17.36	0.11	59	2,092	16	3,392	
Middletown	84	57	71	-4	0.19	2	15.97	-0.75	52	2,474	134	3,818	
Prince Gallitzi	78	46	62	-5	0.12	2	17.16	-3.25	64	1,607	88	2,860	
Selinsgrove	82	54	68	-4	1.36	4	16.26	-1.09	57	2,049	103	3,348	
State College	82	52	67	-3	0.06	2	16.09	0.16	58	2,045	166	3,348	
<b>East Central</b>													
Allentown-Bethel	82	53	67	-6	0.67	5	17.37	-0.59	52	2,173	26	3,483	
Lehighton	82	54	67	-6	1.80	4	15.70	-2.21	63	1,987	-88	3,282	
Matamoras	85	53	67	-4	0.75	6	16.17	-2.21	65	1,806	-74	3,060	
Mt_Pocono	74	49	62	-4	1.24	6	16.15	-3.15	69	1,542	246	2,757	
<b>Southwest</b>													
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	54	67	-4	0.43	3	16.52	-0.49	63	2,143	240	3,477	
Derry	79	51	65	-6	0.50	4	21.88	4.27	73	1,873	81	3,179	
Myersdale	78	46	61	-9	0.02	1	22.59	3.26	67	1,397	-353	2,626	
Mount Pleasant	80	49	64	-5	0.17	2	20.51	0.67	68	1,841	247	3,160	
Pittsburgh Intl	80	52	66	-5	1.12	2	16.84	0.84	63	2,106	116	3,438	
Connellsville	83	52	67	-5	0.03	1	23.47	4.54	70	2,059	35	3,392	
Waynesburg	82	50	65	-5	0.00	0	21.69	4.13	59	1,855	12	3,175	
<b>South Central</b>													
Biglerville	84	56	68	-6	0.24	2	19.61	4.17	54	2,249	-39	3,572	
Everett	82	49	65	-7	0.09	2	20.15	4.65	60	1,779	-96	3,061	
Hanover	85	52	69	-6	0.54	1	17.25	1.81	57	2,233	-55	3,551	
Harrisburg_AP	84	56	70	-5	0.43	3	13.68	-3.04	42	2,415	68	3,762	
South Mountain	80	51	64	-7	2.45	4	24.31	8.42	70	1,774	-116	3,044	
York	84	50	67	-7	0.35	4	20.97	3.91	61	2,278	1	3,617	
<b>Southeast</b>													
Green Lane	84	56	69	-3	1.13	5	20.84	3.29	59	2,284	237	3,614	
Hamburg	85	54	69	-2	2.48	4	14.76	-5.78	57	2,301	426	3,631	
West_Chester	85	53	68	-6	2.06	2	16.08	-3.12	47	2,214	-52	3,531	
Lancaster	84	54	69	-5	0.23	3	15.79	-2.19	53	2,208	51	3,531	
Neshaminy Falls	86	55	70	-4	0.41	3	16.73	-3.78	49	2,291	154	3,623	
New Holland	85	56	70	-4	1.24	4	18.16	0.18	53	2,339	182	3,669	
Philadelphia	86	60	73	-4	2.31	2	15.19	-2.32	46	2,727	263	4,092	
Philadelphia NE	90	58	73	-3	0.39	2	13.14	-4.37	51	2,819	355	4,187	
Reading	85	54	69	-5	1.28	3	13.87	-5.15	57	2,395	274	3,727	
Valley Forge Na	85	54	68	-8	1.62	4	20.06	1.81	52	2,186	-216	3,524	
Willow Grove	85	56	70	-3	0.38	2	15.49	-5.02	56	2,435	298	3,779	

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)** - Adams County had a nice week of weather with most morning temperatures in the 60's and daytime temperatures into the 70's and 80's. On most days, the humidity was not a factor except before thunderstorms. Only a few drops of rain were received on Wednesday and Thursday. The weekend weather was nice with no humidity. The county is still dry, with Gettysburg and south being the driest. Corn and soybeans are maturing, but are showing signs of drought stress. The hail last weekend in the Cashtown/Buchanan Valley areas caused damage to most crops. The hail storm caused damage to corn and soybeans between Heidlersburg and the York Springs area. Flat hail shredded corn and stripped the leaves off of soybeans and trees. Hay baling continues, and some land preparation is being done for fall seedings. Peaches continue to be harvested, with reports of a nice crop. Apples harvested are showing a nice sizing. Previous hail storms have caused damage to apples and peaches, which will create a quality issue when harvested and marketed. Sweet corn continues to be harvested where weather conditions were good. Sweet corn in other places has been mowed down due to no crop present because of weather conditions. Overall the crops are hanging in there in our county. They could really use some nice, steady rainfall to help their future progress.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - Cooler than normal temperatures prevailed again this past week. It seems like whenever it rained that there was also hail. Beyond last Sunday's hail, we had additional hail on Thursday afternoon. Most of the fruit damage from these storms has been in the form of bumping/bruising injury. Some of this type of damage will take the fruit out of the fresh market. It is very difficult to quantify this damage as hail can either be directional (wind driven) or straight down.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - A few scattered showers left little rain this week. A hail storm on Sunday did considerable damage to fruit. Pastures are getting dry, and any fall cuttings of alfalfa will yield less than normal. Early corn silage is being harvested on lighter soils.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Harvesting hay and oats were some of the main activities this week. The potato farmers are gearing up for harvest season. A few trailer loads of potatoes were shipped.

**CENTRE, Dick Decker** - It was a dry week that was good for field work. We need some rain for topsoil moisture.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - Last week's hail damage was extensive in some parts of the County. Tobacco received the worst damage, then corn and soybeans. On the other hand some areas received much need rain.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT)** - Sunday evening, August 10<sup>th</sup>, a large hail storm cut across the entire width of the county about 10 miles south of Lancaster city. This is in addition to a similar storm further south two weeks ago. Several hundred acres of tobacco are totally lost with significant damage to all other crops in the affected areas. Hail the size of golf balls was common.

**LYCOMING COUNTY, Michael Sherman (FSA)** - Crops throughout the county look good, but they could use some much needed rainfall. Many parts of the county are beginning to show signs of the lack of precipitation.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleeger** - We received one inch of rain this past week. All grain crops look good.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The beginning of the week was very dry. By the end of the week, there was significant rainfall that slowed further deterioration of the corn and soybeans quality. Haymaking continued during the beginning of the week, with very good quality hay being harvested. The overall condition of the pastures continued to decline; however, the recent rains will reverse this decline.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Last week was another dry week with a relatively small area receiving heavy downpours from slow-moving thunderstorms. Corn and soybean yields are probably being reduced by the dry conditions we have experienced so far in August. Some nice later-cutting alfalfa is being harvested.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 17, 2008**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	8	12	10
Corn, silk	95	93	92
Corn, dough	44	49	53
Corn, dent	14	20	20
Oats, ripe	98	95	93
Oats, harvested	91	80	76
Tobacco, harvested	16	13	14
Potatoes, harvested	17	8	14
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	82	66	60
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	13	9	5
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	75	77	64
Peaches, harvested	65	58	60
Apples, harvested	21	26	22

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 17, 2008**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	4	18	50	28
Soybeans	0	1	15	65	19
Quality of hay made	0	4	17	65	14
Pasture	5	15	34	36	10
Apples	0	6	22	46	26

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