



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 14, 2008

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Fair week for Field Work: The rain did not allow farmers to get out into the fields as much last week as the previous weeks. A total of four days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included mowing weeds, making hay, fall plowing, spreading manure and lime, planting alfalfa, barley and wheat, picking fruit, as well as harvesting corn, tobacco, and potatoes. Farmers are also continuing fall plowing, as fall plowing is now 24 percent complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 14, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
12	21	63	4

Crops: Last week's rains did not seem to significantly improve crop conditions in Pennsylvania. Corn condition was estimated at 64 percent good or excellent, compared with 63% last week. Fourteen percent of the corn is estimated as poor or very poor. The state's corn is 94% at the dough stage, 70% dented, 32% mature, and 12% harvested, compared with the five year average of 94%, 76%, 36% and 8% respectively. Soybean condition declined slightly, as 65% of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. This is compared with last week's 67 percent. Winter wheat planting has begun, and is 6% completed. Corn silage harvest continues and is 55% completed. Barley planting is also going on in Pennsylvania and is 17% complete. The potato harvest is estimated to be 38% complete. The tobacco harvest is 86% harvested. The fourth cutting of alfalfa continued and is 62% complete. Hay quality declined last week, as 63 percent of the hay made was of good or excellent quality, with 3 percent rated as poor or very poor. The peach harvest is nearly completed and is now 98 percent completed, which is 2 points above the five year average. The apple condition improved and is estimated at 72 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest is 36% complete, compared with last year's 51% and the average of 42%.

Livestock: Only 19 percent of the state's pastures were estimated to be in good or excellent condition, which is 3 points lower than last week. Forty-one percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 48 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 13% very poor, 28% poor, 40% fair, 15% good, and 4% excellent.

U.S. as of September 7, 2008: Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna became the fourth and fifth consecutive named Atlantic Basin storms to make landfall in the U.S., following Hurricane Dolly (July 23 in Texas), Tropical Storm Edouard (August 5 in Texas), and Tropical Storm Fay (four Florida landfalls from August 18-23). On September 1, Gustav reached the Gulf Coast just south of Houma, LA, as a category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 110 m.p.h. Gustav cut through a portion of Louisiana's sugarcane region, which typically accounts for about half of the nation's sugarcane acreage and about 40 percent of production. The majority of sorghum and nearly half of the rice in Louisiana were already harvested at the time of Gustav's landfall. In the Delta and neighboring areas, cotton bolls that were opening were buffeted by gusty winds and soaked by heavy rain. Later, Hanna reached the Atlantic Coast near the South Carolina-North Carolina border early on September 6 with maximum sustained winds near 70 M.P.H. Cotton

bolls were just starting to open in the Southeast, helping to reduce the threat of significant harm to the crop. From September 5-7, Hanna produced gusty winds and dropped as much as 2 to 8 inches of rain from the eastern Carolinas into southern New England. Although Hanna departed quickly, reaching coastal New England by early September 7, Gustav's remnant circulation lingered across the Mid-South on September 2-3 before finally crossing the central Corn Belt on September 4. Local rainfall totals as high as 10 to 20 inches drenched Louisiana and Arkansas and the southwestern half of Mississippi, causing extensive flooding. Much of Missouri received 4 to 6 inches of rain, while widespread 2- to 4-inch totals were reported in Illinois and Michigan. In Gustav's wake, late-developing crops in the central Corn Belt benefited from the boost in topsoil moisture. However, much of the eastern Corn Belt and the upper Mississippi Valley remained unfavorably dry. Farther west, widespread showers on the Plains slowed fieldwork but continued to boost moisture reserves in preparation for the upcoming winter wheat establishment season.

In addition, unusually cool weather prevailed on the Plains. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees F below normal across parts of the northern Plains, where readings near the freezing mark (32 degrees F) were reported on September 2-3. Elsewhere, cool weather lingered early in the week across the West, followed by a rapid warming trend. From September 3-7, readings above 100 degrees F were common as far north as California's Sacramento Valley. Following an early-week round of briefly heavy showers across the Intermountain West, dry weather in most areas from the Rockies westward promoted fieldwork and summer crop maturation.

Corn: Portions of the northern Great Plains and Middle Mississippi Valley received significant rainfall during the week. Temperatures in the Corn Belt remained cooler than normal west of the Mississippi and warmer than normal eastward. Corn acreage at or beyond the dough stage reached 91 percent, 7 points behind last year and 5 points behind normal. In Colorado, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, progress remained 15, 3, and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Elsewhere, development was at or behind the normal pace. Development to the dough stage was complete in North Carolina and Tennessee. Sixty-two percent of the acreage reached the dent stage, 25 points behind last year and 17 points behind the 5-year average. Acreage was reaching the dent stage behind the average in all States except Colorado and Michigan. In the central Corn Belt and North Dakota, development to the dent stage was furthest behind. Eleven percent of the corn crop was mature, 27 points behind last year and 17 points behind the 5-year average. Corn condition was rated 61 percent good to excellent, the same as last week.

Soybeans: Temperatures were up to 8 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than average east of the Mississippi, while to the west, temperatures reached up to 4 degrees warmer than the average. Precipitation received across much of the major soybean-producing area ranged from a half-inch to four inches; however, larger amounts fell in the Delta. Condition of the crop was rated 57 percent good to excellent, the same as the previous week.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 14, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 14, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	50	67	3	1.55	5	18.40	-2.01	72	2,651	361	4,209
Franklin	79	44	63	0	1.60	5	21.83	-0.97	81	2,265	125	3,822
Meadville	74	46	63	1	2.02	6	20.41	-2.30	77	2,261	299	3,817
Mercer	79	45	64	1	1.92	5	22.63	0.96	84	2,229	110	3,793
Springboro	75	40	61	-5	1.42	5	26.00	5.98	79	2,065	-198	3,594
Warren	78	45	63	0	1.28	3	22.62	-0.19	81	2,154	78	3,679
North Central												
Bradford Region	71	35	59	1	1.29	6	20.84	-2.00	94	1,633	118	3,081
Emporium	77	44	63	3	1.41	4	18.27	-4.33	83	2,181	473	3,720
Kane	74	38	58	0	1.71	5	21.27	-1.93	79	1,609	123	3,058
Laporte	72	47	60	-3	1.69	5	23.90	2.87	84	1,929	-197	3,428
Lock Haven	82	49	65	3	1.61	4	17.70	-3.02	71	2,487	234	4,072
Port Allegany	75	41	60	2	0.88	4	16.64	-4.93	80	1,802	133	3,283
Renovo	78	47	63	-1	1.34	4	17.98	-2.74	69	2,403	150	3,979
Ridgway	76	43	61	1	1.20	4	20.15	-2.58	79	1,798	90	3,293
Stevenson Dam	80	46	64	5	0.99	4	16.21	-6.52	71	2,246	538	3,790
Towanda	79	47	63	1	0.87	4	20.00	2.53	73	2,239	97	3,782
Wellsboro	75	41	59	0	0.66	4	17.60	0.05	81	1,778	167	3,258
Williamsport	80	51	68	3	1.74	4	20.01	-0.39	72	2,714	230	4,323
Northeast												
Hawley	80	46	62	2	1.42	3	20.95	1.06	67	2,058	218	3,570
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	50	66	3	1.93	3	18.75	-0.57	70	2,538	181	4,100
Susquehanna	76	45	62	3	2.04	4	22.22	1.02	82	2,146	397	3,682
West Central												
Butler	81	42	63	-2	1.94	5	17.30	-4.32	89	2,194	-23	3,770
New Castle	87	44	66	3	2.41	5	18.91	-0.74	80	2,551	333	4,147
Slippery Rock	79	43	63	1	3.37	5	22.63	1.60	73	2,214	217	3,811
Central												
Altoona/Blair	78	45	66	2	2.30	5	19.09	0.38	80	2,434	74	4,006
DuBois	75	43	63	2	1.44	5	21.15	-0.57	88	2,129	81	3,654
Lewistown	82	50	66	1	3.37	5	22.58	2.41	70	2,613	25	4,193
Middletown	82	56	71	4	1.22	2	20.60	0.65	59	3,117	200	4,741
Prince Gallitzi	79	45	64	3	3.19	5	22.83	-1.28	74	2,018	116	3,551
Selinsgrove	82	51	66	2	1.56	4	19.16	-1.70	66	2,541	117	4,120
State College	80	49	65	2	2.72	5	19.60	0.68	68	2,575	243	4,158
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	51	68	3	1.36	3	20.96	-0.91	58	2,745	75	4,335
Lehighton	80	53	66	2	1.54	2	19.21	-2.49	69	2,489	-90	4,064
Matamoras	79	51	65	2	1.50	3	20.52	-1.42	72	2,285	-48	3,819
Mt_Pocono	74	46	63	5	2.10	4	19.67	-3.64	77	1,956	350	3,451
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	50	68	4	1.43	5	18.87	-1.13	70	2,736	365	4,350
Derry	80	48	65	2	2.24	5	25.06	4.19	83	2,355	114	3,941
Myersdale	78	47	62	-3	1.69	5	25.65	2.96	76	1,774	-433	3,283
Mount Pleasant	81	47	65	3	2.35	5	23.54	-0.20	75	2,321	317	3,920
Pittsburgh Intl	80	45	67	3	1.68	5	19.60	0.77	71	2,677	196	4,289
Connellsville	84	52	68	3	2.70	5	26.54	4.28	80	2,637	111	4,250
Waynesburg	83	48	66	2	1.48	5	24.01	3.36	67	2,371	69	3,971
South Central												
Biglerville	83	56	69	2	1.21	3	24.69	5.99	62	2,830	-19	4,433
Everett	80	47	64	0	2.04	4	23.97	5.77	69	2,240	-110	3,802
Hanover	84	56	69	2	1.42	2	24.43	5.73	66	2,799	-50	4,397
Harrisburg_AP	83	54	70	3	1.21	3	17.12	-2.83	49	3,041	117	4,668
South Mountain	78	49	64	0	2.46	4	29.61	10.90	78	2,227	-126	3,777
York	83	52	69	2	0.90	2	27.31	7.12	67	2,827	-8	4,446
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	55	68	4	1.89	2	26.00	4.81	66	2,867	314	4,477
Hamburg	83	54	68	5	1.74	3	19.15	-5.24	63	2,883	545	4,493
West_Chester	84	52	68	0	2.25	3	22.05	-0.90	53	2,773	-57	4,370
Lancaster	82	55	69	3	1.81	2	20.76	-0.59	59	2,784	87	4,387
Neshaminy Falls	90	52	69	4	1.38	3	20.81	-3.79	53	2,876	211	4,488
New Holland	84	54	68	3	2.05	2	23.58	2.23	59	2,935	238	4,545
Philadelphia	84	59	73	4	1.07	2	18.55	-2.32	51	3,422	333	5,067
Philadelphia NE	87	56	73	4	1.16	2	16.69	-4.18	56	3,532	443	5,180
Reading	85	54	70	5	1.68	2	18.55	-4.26	63	3,007	354	4,619
Valley Forge Na	84	55	69	1	1.49	4	24.58	2.46	60	2,764	-231	4,382
Willow Grove	83	55	70	4	1.65	2	20.06	-4.54	61	3,067	402	4,691

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 conditions. Monday started off with temperatures in the 80's. Tuesday received a thunderstorm in the morning with 1/2 inch of rainfall. Wednesday was sunny, with temperatures in the 70's. Thursday was cloudy with temperatures in the 70's. Friday morning was in the 60's with some sporadic showers, with Friday afternoon having more steady rainfall. Most areas received 3/4 inch of rainfall on Friday. Saturday was in the 80's. Some parts of the county had rainfall. Sunday was one of the hottest days of the summer, with temperatures into the 90's and humid. Corn continues to mature. Some early corn has been cut for silage, but most corn now is still too green because of the recent rainfall. Crop insurance adjusters are appraising corn throughout the county. Soybeans continue to mature, with their conditions not looking too bad, but some are still pretty short. Haylage continues to be chopped, with some dry hay being baled. Pastures are greening up a little, but are still short due to earlier dryness. Wheat and barley are being seeded as soil conditions and weather permit. Peach harvest is just about completed, with nice yields being reported. Apples continue to be harvested, with most producers starting to pick for processors. Pumpkins and late planted sweet corn are also being harvested. Overall the crops are doing better because of the recent rainfall.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most of the south central Pennsylvania fruit areas received .75 to 1.25" of rain this past Friday. The apple harvest continues, with Gala and Honeycrisp harvest nearly concluded. Golden Delicious apples for processing are actively being harvested, with fresh market golds to be harvested this week. Brix levels continue to improve. The coloring on red varieties was helped by the cool nights and bright sunny days. Most red varieties are showing very good to excellent color at this time.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Significant rain fell on Friday, which was the second good rain in as many weekends. Too bad it didn't come earlier to help the corn. Corn silage is progressing nicely, and will be ending soon. Some early corn is near ready for the combine, but will probably take advantage of some "solar drying" before getting picked. Recent rains have helped the soybeans and pastures, and will provide adequate soil moisture for planting small grains.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The county had heavy showers on Tuesday and Friday. There were little showers off and on all day on Saturday. The county needed rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Some good rainfall occurred during the week. There was 3.5 inches in my gauge.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - It is amazing what 4.3 - 5.4 inches of rain in a week can do to green things up. It is too late to benefit the grain crops. Corn and beans are shutting down development. The hope for high yields in July won't be reached. The late summer drought has had a significant impact. Some earlier beans are ready for cutting, with others soon to follow. Corn silage harvest will be completed this week. Many producers are busy with manure hauling and planting cover crops.

ERIE (FSA) Nancy Lewis - The sunny and breezy days permitted harvesting of hay. Corn is just starting to be chopped for silage. Fall vegetables are experiencing some mildew due to past heavy rains. A rainy weekend is expected.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Many acres of 3rd and 4th crop hay have been harvested. Most of the livestock farmers have plenty of hay. Some farmers are cleaning out animal waste facilities. Soybeans and corn crop appear to be in good to excellent conditions. Rain is in the forecast for the weekend.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Much appreciated showers this week are helping the fall planted grasses, early wheat, and barley get established. Corn silage harvest, alfalfa hay making, and fall seeding of grasses and barley were the major field operations for the week. Pastures are now recovering from the recent rains. Peach crop conditions varied throughout the county due to weather varying weather conditions. Apple harvest is underway.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Rain came again this past week. It slowed harvest a little. Harvesting silage and planting cover crops were the main activities last week.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Last week was another very dry week in the region. Haymaking, bean harvesting, and sweet corn harvesting were some of the activities last week. Corn silage harvesting will be starting soon.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Since last Saturday; prior to Hanna, we have had three inches of rainfall. Recent precipitation has made a dramatic improvement on the crops; especially, the corn and soybeans. The main activities for the week were making silage, spreading lime and making preparations for the seeding of winter grain.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Most of the county received about 2 inches of much-needed rainfall last week. The moisture should still benefit some of the later-planted corn and soybeans, late alfalfa cuttings, and pastures. Initial corn silage harvest reports indicate reduced yields.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 14, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	24	32	26
Corn, dough	94	98	94
Corn, dent	70	81	76
Corn, mature	32	48	36
Corn, harvested	12	10	8
Corn silage, harvested	55	54	48
Barley, planted	17	10	15
Wheat, planted	6	7	6
Tobacco, harvested	86	80	81
Potatoes, harvested	38	25	41
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	62	45	36
Peaches, harvested	98	99	96
Apples, harvested	36	51	42

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 14, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	13	22	45	19
Soybeans	1	8	26	53	12
Quality of hay made	2	1	34	51	12
Pasture	13	28	40	15	4
Apples	0	3	25	50	22

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