



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending August 9, 2009

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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:** Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work, with many areas experiencing rain towards the end of the week. Primary activities included: harvesting oats, baling straw and making hay, as well as some fruit and vegetable harvesting. Crops continue to be assessed for indications of fall yield, and the effects that this summer's weather has had on them. Blight is a concern for many potato and tomato producers.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	6	72	22

**Crop Progress:** Corn is 84% silked or tasseled, compared to 86 % at this time last year and the 89% five-year average. Twenty-four percent of corn has reached the dough stage, versus 24% last year, and the average of 37%. The corn has an average height of 84 inches, which is 10 inches ahead of last year's 74 inches, and 6 inches ahead of the five year average of 78 inches. Ninety-six percent of Pennsylvania's oats have turned yellow, which is ahead of last year's 94% and the five year average of 98%. Seventy-seven percent of the oats are reported ripe, behind last year's 89 %, and the state's five year average of 87%. Oats harvesting is 50% completed, behind last year's 64% and the average of 61%. The alfalfa second cutting is 93% complete. This is behind last year's 95% and the average of 95% complete. Third cutting alfalfa is 46% completed, behind last year and the five year average of 53%. Sixty-five percent of the second cutting of timothy/clover is completed, which surpasses both last year and the average of 60%. Fifty-five percent of the peach crop has been harvested, compared to 47% at this time last year, and the five-year average of 50%. Seventeen percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 14%, and behind the average of 20%.

**Crop Condition:** The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 50% good, and 28% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 0% very poor, 1% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, and 18% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 6% poor, 27% fair, 49% good, and 17% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 2% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 49% good and 15% excellent. The apple conditions remained the same at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 76% good, and 24% excellent.

**Nationwide as of August 3, 2009:** Temperatures in the heart of the country were cooler than normal during the week, with recordings in the northern and central Great Plains as many as 11 degrees below average. In contrast, much of the western, southern, and eastern edges of the Nation experienced above average temperatures, with locations in Washington as many as 17 degrees above normal. Little to no rain fell west of the Rocky Mountains, in the northern Great Plains, or much of the Corn Belt. Conversely, a U-shaped band of storms delivered at least 1inch of rainfall to the Rocky Mountains, the northern half of Texas, the Southeast, Tennessee Valley, and up the Atlantic Coast. Most notably, the Ark-La-Tex region received upwards of 9 inches of rainfall. **Corn:** Silking advanced 21 points during the week reaching 76 percent complete by August 2, three points behind last year and 13 points behind the 5-year average. Fourteen percent of the corn crop reached the dough stage by week's end, 1 point behind last year and 15 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of the corn crop was rated good to excellent, a 2 point decline from last week's condition rating. **Soybeans:** Seventy-six percent of the soybean acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage, moving 13 points during the week. Soybean bloom was occurring at the same pace as last year's crop, but 10 points behind the average. Thirty-six percent of the crop reached the pod-setting stage during the week, the same pace as last year's crop, but 18 points behind the average. Soybean condition was rated 67 percent good to excellent by August 2, unchanged from last week.

## Weather Data For Week Ending August 9, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 9, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	82	55	68	-4	0.59	4	17.05	1.78	62	1,578	-39	2,749
Franklin	81	50	66	-5	0.21	3	20.73	2.69	63	1,495	-42	2,660
Meadville	79	51	66	-3	0.55	3	17.52	0.08	63	1,470	64	2,627
Mercer	80	51	66	-4	0.36	3	18.32	1.30	63	1,499	-23	2,666
Springboro	81	47	65	-7	0.60	4	16.70	1.38	66	1,311	-307	2,441
Warren	82	50	64	-6	0.86	3	19.56	1.85	58	1,370	-126	2,516
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	76	41	61	-5	1.11	3	18.25	0.30	66	1,045	-51	2,134
Oswayo	80	41	61	-6	1.66	2	19.02	1.96	68	1,067	-147	2,161
Kane	78	42	60	-5	1.16	3	22.50	4.47	63	1,018	-63	2,101
Laporte	77	50	64	-7	0.92	2	23.01	6.30	72	1,216	-323	2,350
Lock Haven	83	52	68	-4	1.25	2	20.75	4.39	59	1,667	38	2,864
Port Allegany	80	46	63	-4	1.00	2	17.49	0.43	60	1,146	-68	2,258
Renovo	84	51	67	-4	1.04	3	15.79	-0.57	63	1,558	-71	2,746
Ridgway	80	42	62	-5	1.68	2	18.78	0.49	60	1,171	-54	2,275
Stevenson Dam	83	50	67	1	1.05	2	15.90	-2.39	57	1,476	251	2,640
Towanda	85	49	66	-4	1.12	2	19.06	5.22	61	1,478	-72	2,651
Wellsboro	82	46	63	-4	1.14	3	19.89	5.91	62	1,103	-56	2,214
Williamsport	85	53	70	-3	0.90	3	17.95	1.57	61	1,897	96	3,141
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	83	47	65	-3	0.07	2	21.54	5.93	57	1,333	15	2,487
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	50	68	-4	0.58	2	16.93	1.55	58	1,735	22	2,954
Susquehanna	82	48	66	-2	0.55	2	20.26	3.52	64	1,389	123	2,544
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	80	49	66	-5	0.19	3	18.08	1.15	65	1,468	-125	2,639
New Castle	83	51	68	-3	0.20	3	16.59	1.03	62	1,686	85	2,875
Slippery Rock	81	49	67	-2	0.09	3	19.33	2.83	64	1,531	88	2,701
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	80	51	68	-3	0.09	1	14.22	-0.97	67	1,619	-95	2,809
DuBois	78	48	65	-5	0.90	4	21.23	4.24	69	1,434	-53	2,586
Lewistown	85	54	70	-4	0.31	2	20.18	3.74	63	1,749	-129	2,962
Middletown	86	61	74	-2	0.53	2	21.14	5.24	62	2,133	13	3,389
Prince Gallitzi	81	48	65	-4	0.16	3	15.91	-3.55	65	1,331	-36	2,453
Selinsgrove	85	54	70	-3	1.49	2	21.75	5.38	52	1,712	-47	2,909
State College	83	54	68	-3	0.35	3	16.11	0.98	64	1,692	-4	2,892
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	86	55	71	-4	0.94	2	21.97	5.16	59	1,861	-82	3,084
Lehighton	83	54	68	-6	1.71	2	25.23	8.39	59	1,621	-252	2,823
Matamoras	83	50	67	-5	0.01	1	19.27	1.82	52	1,486	-210	2,656
Mt_Pocono	79	48	66	-1	1.06	2	22.69	4.44	72	1,365	208	2,510
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	57	70	-1	0.23	1	15.14	-1.02	66	1,924	202	3,156
Indiana_PA	79	50	67	-4	0.18	1	9.08	-9.68	49	1,622	-36	2,799
Myersdale	79	49	65	-6	0.31	2	18.81	0.38	63	1,191	-382	2,291
Mount Pleasant	81	52	67	-2	0.28	1	19.94	1.29	65	1,674	241	2,871
Pittsburgh Intl	82	54	70	-2	0.00	0	14.73	-0.46	61	1,925	123	3,153
Connellsville	85	55	70	-2	0.21	1	22.76	4.79	71	1,807	-27	3,032
Waynesburg	81	55	68	-4	0.02	1	16.77	0.17	67	1,640	-25	2,842
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	86	59	73	-2	1.05	3	22.91	8.30	65	1,953	-123	3,180
Everett	84	52	69	-3	0.06	1	18.26	3.51	65	1,540	-149	2,657
Hanover	86	54	72	-3	0.92	2	18.39	3.78	60	1,964	-112	3,199
Harrisburg_AP	86	58	74	-3	0.60	2	19.24	3.34	62	2,116	-11	3,370
South Mountain	80	55	68	-4	0.63	3	23.93	8.74	67	1,510	-197	2,692
York	85	54	72	-3	1.04	3	17.03	0.85	54	1,960	-107	3,191
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	86	58	72	-2	2.45	3	23.74	7.25	63	1,917	66	3,145
Hamburg	84	57	71	-1	3.92	2	28.03	8.56	67	1,911	221	3,147
West_Chester	88	56	72	-3	2.54	3	22.02	3.78	60	1,928	-127	3,139
Lancaster	85	57	73	-2	1.34	3	16.92	-0.09	58	1,992	44	3,219
Neshaminy Falls	88	56	73	-1	0.50	2	23.38	4.09	59	1,980	46	3,211
New Holland	85	58	73	-2	1.87	4	20.37	3.36	59	1,987	39	3,223
Philadelphia	89	65	76	0	2.62	4	19.45	2.90	64	2,383	151	3,659
Philadelphia NE	87	59	74	-4	1.50	4	19.40	2.85	64	2,142	-90	3,397
Reading	87	58	73	-2	2.46	4	21.19	3.21	65	2,093	180	3,335
Sellersville	86	55	71	-2	1.21	4	24.26	7.77	62	1,780	-71	2,993
Willow Grove	87	61	73	0	2.46	3	40.36	21.07	62	2,064	130	3,307

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)** - There weren't enough good days of weather in a row to make hay. Corn is growing. There are still different maturity levels within fields. Soybeans continue to grow. Double cropped soybeans are still pretty short. Vegetables are looking good. They are being sold throughout the county. Peaches, Plums and early apples are being harvested, with good crops being reported. This week is supposed to be really hot. Overall, crops are doing ok for now.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little** - Producers are harvesting oats and trying to make hay. The potato farmers are spraying for potato blight.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It was a good week for field work. We had some rain at the end of the week.

**CHESTER COUNTY, Hollis Baker (FSA)** - With rainfall about every third day, farmers are experiencing difficulty harvesting dry alfalfa.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner** - The wheat and oat crops are ripe. I see the combines working the fields. The corn and soybeans are shaping up. They could use some heat. The cool temperatures over the past few weeks have slowed the growing process.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Some dry hay was squeaked in between the rains this week. Pastures have rebounded with good growth from all the rains across the county. Soybeans in parts of the county are showing stress from the cool and damp weather.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - Crops are looking good. The rain on Saturday evening/Sunday will help to get through the coming heat wave.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Warm weather returned this week along with a few showers. Soil moisture is sufficient to assure a good yield in all crops this fall. Some problems in making quality hay, but not shortage in quantity. Apples and peaches are shaping up to be a decent crop.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - I hope the weather holds so I can get the oats combined. Both the corn and soybeans have been growing well in the warm weather this past week. We dug a few potatoes to see how they are doing. We should have some ready in a couple of weeks. The leaves on the soy beans seem bigger than usual.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - Some tobacco harvesting began last week. Crops are growing. There are not too many complaints related to crop conditions.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT)** - The county was beginning to experience some moisture stress. This was alleviated by timely rains over the weekend.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - It was a good week for harvesting oats, baling straw, making hay, and fall alfalfa seeding. The corn and soybeans made significant progress with the soil moisture and sunny skies. The third cutting of hay is looking very good.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - Last week was a good week for field work. Combines, choppers, and balers were spotted in the fields. The rain came Saturday evening into Sunday afternoon. We received around 2 inches.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - It was a fairly dry week that allowed for harvesting to continue. Corn and soybean progress was excellent.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 9, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	84	86	89
Corn, dough	24	24	37
Corn average height, inches	84	74	78
Oats, turning yellow	96	94	98
Oats, ripe	77	89	87
Oats, harvested	50	64	61
Alfalfa, 2nd cutting	93	95	95
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	46	53	53
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	65	60	60
Peaches, harvested	55	47	50
Apples, harvested	17	14	20

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 9, 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	3	18	50	28
Soybeans	0	4	14	55	27
Quality of hay made	1	6	27	49	17
Pasture	2	3	31	49	15
Apples	0	0	0	76	24

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