



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending August 1, 2010

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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."*

**Excellent Week for Field Work:** A few showers across the state have crops starting to recover from the previous drought conditions in those areas. Hot and dry conditions are being experienced in most counties, which are aiding in crop harvesting yet hindering in corn growth. Irrigation is being used to help fruit and vegetable crops during these dry conditions in some parts of the state. Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were haymaking, straw baling, spraying, and liming along with harvesting fruits, oats and sweet corn.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 1, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
9	29	61	1

**Crop Progress:** The average corn silked is 88%, compared to last year's 70% and the 5 year average of 77%. Corn dough averages out at 22% compared to last year's 10% and the average of 16%. The average corn height is 79 inches tall, compared to last year's 78 inches, and the 5 year average of 75 inches. Ripe oats are at 93%, way ahead of the 5 year average of 64% and last years 56%. Harvested oats are at 65%, ahead of last year's 22% and the average of 33%. Soybean blooming is at 84%, ahead of a 20% average. Soybean pod setting is at 51%, ahead of the 5 year average of 7%. Alfalfa third cutting is at 63%, well ahead of last year's 28% and the 38% average. Timothy/Clover second cutting is at 81% with 56% last year and 47% average. Peach harvest is 47%, ahead of last year's 41% and the average of 34%. Apples harvested are at 18%, above last year's 12%, and the 5 year average of 13%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn condition is 2% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, 37% good, and 15% excellent. Oat condition is 6% poor, 23% fair, 48% good, and 23% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 4% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, and 9% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 5% poor, 23% fair, 51% good, and 21% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are 1% very poor, 7% poor, 29% fair, 54% good, and 9% excellent. The quality of hay made is 1% very poor, 7% poor, 23% fair, 47% good, and 22% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 19% very poor, 23% poor, 30% fair, 26% good and 2% excellent. Peach conditions are 3% fair, 62% good, and 35% excellent. Apple conditions are 4% poor, 21% fair, 42% good, and 33% excellent.

**Nationwide as of July 24, 2010: Highlights:** While average temperatures in the northernmost Rocky Mountains and Great Plains fell to as many as 6 degrees below normal during the week, abnormally warm temperatures persisted in a band stretching from coast to coast across the Nation's midsection. Specifically,

temperatures in areas along the Mid-Atlantic Coast reached as many as 10 degrees above normal. Despite the lingering heat, small grain and row crop conditions remained mostly good to excellent throughout much of the major growing regions. Strong summer thunderstorms delivered above average precipitation to several regions of the country during the week, replenishing inadequate soil moisture levels in some areas while adding to already soggy fields in others. Most notably, portions of the Corn Belt received in excess of 5 inches of rainfall during the week, leading to localized flooding and ponding in some low-lying fields. **Corn:** With progress at or ahead of both last year and normal in all estimating States, 84 percent of the Nation's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage by July 25, thirty-two percentage points ahead of last year and 14 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Near to above average temperatures throughout much of the major corn-producing areas continued to promote rapid phenological development of this year's crop despite abundant to locally excessive soil moisture levels. Nationally, 17 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Doughing was furthest ahead of last year and the 5-year average in Illinois, the second largest corn-producing State, where nearly ideal growing conditions had pushed progress to 20 days ahead of last year's growing pace. Overall, 72 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but slightly better than the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By July 25, three-quarters of this year's soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 15 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. With the exceptions of Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi, double-digit blooming was evident throughout the major soybean-producing areas. Seventeen percent of the Nation's soybean crop began setting pods during the week, leaving progress, at 35 percent complete, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop development was most rapid in Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, and Ohio, where 21 or more percent of the crop began setting pods during the week. Overall, 67 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from both ratings last week and the same time last year. **Oats:** A week of warm, mostly sunny days allowed ample time for oat producers in all estimating States except North Dakota, where harvest was just beginning, and Texas, where harvest was nearly complete, to harvest 11 percent or more of their crop during the week. At 30 percent complete, National progress was 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 78 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 23 percentage points better than the same time last year.

### Weather Data For Week Ending August 1, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 1, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	89	58	71	-1	1.04	3	15.35	1.04	50	1,906	460	3,034
Franklin	90	56	70	-1	1.14	3	15.96	-0.99	51	1,825	448	2,954
Meadville	88	55	69	1	1.19	3	17.63	1.39	63	1,740	483	2,863
Mercer	88	55	70	0	0.94	3	17.56	1.50	63	1,825	460	2,965
Springboro	88	53	68	-4	2.30	3	20.57	6.21	54	1,619	169	2,699
Warren	88	53	68	-3	1.30	2	14.98	-1.68	47	1,661	322	2,771
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	82	46	64	-2	2.30	2	16.72	-0.19	52	1,352	376	2,407
Oswayo	84	43	64	-3	1.49	2	17.43	1.25	54	1,351	265	2,393
Kane	85	46	64	-2	1.71	2	15.71	-1.26	49	1,331	369	2,376
Laporte	86	52	68	-4	1.10	2	12.86	-2.97	60	1,600	221	2,691
Lock Haven	90	55	72	2	0.61	2	11.59	-3.87	41	1,985	523	3,153
Port Allegany	85	51	66	1	1.37	3	15.19	-0.99	53	1,476	390	2,547
Renovo	89	54	71	-1	1.04	2	14.56	-0.90	47	1,895	433	3,061
Ridgway	85	50	67	-1	0.62	3	14.84	-2.41	52	1,483	392	2,565
Stevenson Dam	88	54	70	4	1.04	3	13.86	-3.39	46	1,780	689	2,927
Towanda	88	51	68	-3	0.88	2	10.97	-2.15	44	1,708	318	2,839
Wellsboro	82	50	65	-2	1.83	2	14.02	0.76	48	1,443	412	2,531
Williamsport	90	56	73	2	1.47	3	12.61	-2.89	45	2,204	581	3,402
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	85	46	67	-3	0.61	2	13.41	-1.32	45	1,564	390	2,658
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	53	72	-1	1.00	3	9.22	-5.28	41	2,027	485	3,177
Susquehanna	86	50	68	1	0.26	2	14.15	-1.63	54	1,668	539	2,788
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	89	55	71	0	0.67	3	19.95	4.06	54	1,785	354	2,924
New Castle	92	57	73	3	0.48	2	17.54	2.86	49	1,986	546	3,140
Slippery Rock	90	55	71	3	0.96	3	17.26	1.72	55	1,850	554	3,001
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	87	55	71	0	1.68	4	16.11	1.69	50	1,968	422	3,128
DuBois	85	52	69	-1	0.62	3	14.01	-1.96	53	1,750	415	2,891
Lewistown	90	57	73	-1	0.33	2	12.46	-3.10	42	2,084	390	3,275
Middletown	92	61	77	2	0.40	1	16.76	1.71	37	2,410	496	3,621
Prince Gallitzi	86	51	68	-1	0.43	2	16.82	-1.58	48	1,589	366	2,717
Selinsgrove	90	57	72	0	1.18	4	10.39	-5.10	36	2,037	454	3,216
State College	87	56	72	1	0.53	2	11.97	-2.34	43	2,014	486	3,182
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	88	56	73	-2	0.48	3	18.38	2.64	39	2,157	405	3,337
Lehighton	88	57	71	-3	0.67	4	15.59	-0.21	42	1,940	255	3,113
Matamoras	86	50	68	-4	0.21	2	12.40	-4.09	42	1,750	226	2,887
Mt_Pocono	84	49	69	2	0.67	2	11.80	-5.41	48	1,682	655	2,794
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	61	74	3	0.11	2	14.88	-0.39	49	2,221	668	3,394
Indiana_PA	87	55	70	-1	0.94	4	17.39	-0.36	61	1,788	294	2,937
Myersdale	84	51	66	-5	0.61	4	14.06	-3.33	53	1,418	6	2,514
Mount Pleasant	87	56	71	3	0.73	4	16.58	-0.95	45	1,909	626	3,055
Pittsburgh Intl	90	57	74	2	0.09	3	14.94	0.63	47	2,161	535	3,330
Connellsville	90	56	73	1	0.76	3	17.17	0.22	55	2,089	431	3,258
Waynesburg	89	55	72	2	0.65	1	14.86	-0.74	41	1,958	459	3,108
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	95	59	75	0	0.43	1	10.15	-3.66	31	2,243	364	3,434
Everett	89	55	71	-2	0.50	3	13.74	-0.21	46	1,828	311	2,983
Hanover	95	56	76	1	0.54	1	10.29	-3.52	38	2,232	353	3,420
Harrisburg_AP	91	59	76	0	0.94	1	16.60	1.55	39	2,348	427	3,552
South Mountain	88	54	71	-2	0.44	1	9.96	-4.46	38	1,796	257	2,942
York	92	55	74	-1	0.76	1	13.44	-1.88	40	2,161	289	3,344
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	91	59	75	2	0.35	2	12.24	-3.20	39	2,241	573	3,441
Hamburg	88	58	74	3	0.51	4	16.78	-1.57	44	2,208	692	3,402
West_Chester	93	56	74	-1	1.33	1	16.66	-0.56	33	2,193	334	3,383
Lancaster	90	59	75	1	0.65	2	13.19	-2.82	39	2,270	514	3,461
Neshaminy Falls	91	58	75	1	0.08	1	10.94	-7.09	39	2,300	556	3,507
New Holland	91	60	75	0	1.00	3	14.41	-1.60	41	2,277	521	3,467
Philadelphia	95	68	80	3	0.05	1	13.51	-2.01	36	2,744	727	3,971
Philadelphia NE	93	63	78	1	0.51	1	11.34	-4.18	47	2,549	532	3,767
Reading	92	59	77	3	0.37	2	13.16	-3.78	40	2,425	704	3,634
Sellersville	89	58	74	1	0.39	1	13.62	-1.82	39	2,077	409	3,251
Willow Grove	91	62	76	3	0.29	1	12.67	-5.36	33	2,399	655	3,608

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 another dry week of weather. It started in the morning with temperatures in the 70's then rose into the 90's with hot and humid weather during the day. On Thursday the morning temperatures dropped to 60 degrees with daytime temperatures in the 80's. No rain was received after all of the forecasted thunderstorms. Corn continues to show signs of drought stress. Crop adjusters are requesting information so they can appraise some of the corn that looks the worst so the producers can start chopping next week. Some areas of the county still look okay where rainfall was received at but other areas are bad and already done. Soybeans are doing all right for now and are still growing. Hay continues to be made throughout the county. Fruit crops continue to be harvested. A lot of the fruit crops are being irrigated to improve the condition since we haven't had beneficial rainfall. Some of the apples, peaches, apricots, etc. have been affected from weather conditions over the year. Sweet corn continues to be harvested as well as other vegetables with some of those being irrigated. Hopefully we get some rainfall this week to help some of the other crops.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - While there has been rain scattered about Pennsylvania, the main fruit areas in Adams County have not experienced any appreciable rainfall, so the deficit moisture conditions continue. Peach harvest is active with excellent quality. However size is less than desired and this will impact final yields. Gingergold apple harvest will commence this week. The fruit has good quality and size is adequate. The apple harvest is still 10 days ahead of "normal".

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Oats harvesting is near completion and straw baling continued throughout the week. The county received less than 2.5 inches of rainfall for the week.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner** - Most of the wheat crop has been harvested with yields averaging around 95 bushels per acre. Oats yields are averaging 70 bushels per acre. Soybeans and corn are shaping up to be well above last year yields. However, the counties could use rain.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - The light rains, heat and humidity are perfect for the crops. Farmers are busy getting hay and silage finished up, so there will be a little time left over to go to the local fairs.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - This week was not as hot, but still had no significant rainfall in the southern half of the county. Corn is now showing the signs of drought and will be to far gone for recovery. Yields will be significantly reduced for both silage and grain harvest. Beans are looking okay for the most part right now, but plants are short for this stage of growth. Fruit is still being harvested earlier than normal and size is not as large as could be but quality is excellent.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - The County had fairly good weather this week. Operators were able to get most of their oats cut. If Monday and Tuesday are sunny and dry we should finish harvesting our oats. We are still having great growing weather for the corn and soybeans. I hope everyone has a safe work week farming.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - Insect pressure on the sweet corn has eased up to some extent for corn earworms. We received .5 inch of rainfall on Wednesday; just enough to keep the crops growing at a good pace. Many of the third cutting, Alfalfa fields are excellent and need to be cut again.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield** - We had good weather for haymaking early in the week. Spotty showers provided rain for some but soil conditions are now drying out. Corn and soybeans are looking good and produce is plentiful.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger** - The County did not receive any rain this weekend.

**POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman** - Some much needed, timely rains have this area going well. Wheat and spelt were harvested last week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The corn and soybeans are making a remarkable turnaround as a result of the recent rains. The corn is shorter than normal; however, the soybeans have almost neared a normal height for this time of the year. Japanese beetles are making their presence known in the soybeans. The main activities for the week were haymaking, spraying, baling straw and spreading lime.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - Much of the county missed this week's isolated rain showers. Crops will soon need some moisture to finish maturing.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 1, 2010**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	88	70	77
Corn, dough	22	10	16
Corn average height, inches	79	78	75
Oats, ripe	93	56	64
Oats, harvested	65	22	33
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	63	28	38
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	81	56	47
Peaches, harvested	47	41	34
Apples, harvested	18	12	13

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 1, 2010**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	12	34	37	15
Oats	0	6	23	48	23
Soybeans	0	4	25	62	9
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	5	23	51	21
Timothy clover stand	1	7	29	54	9
Quality of hay made	1	7	23	47	22
Pasture	19	23	30	26	2
Peaches	0	0	3	62	35
Apples	0	4	21	42	33

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