



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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**Week Ending August 29, 2010**

**Issued weekly, April-November**

**Released August 30, 2010, 4 pm**

*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:** The weather conditions for many counties across the state this week have returned to hot and dry. Crop conditions are varied throughout the state depending on current soil moisture content and time of planting. Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were harvesting vegetables, apples, corn silage, and preparing for fall seedings. Fall plowing has begun, and is now 16% complete, ahead of 7% last year, yet the same as the five year average.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 29, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
13	20	66	1

**Crop Progress:** Corn at the dough stage averages out at 77%, compared to last year's 66% and the average of 80%. Corn at the dent stage is 46%, ahead of 26% from last year and slightly behind the 47% 5 Yr. Avg. Corn is 5% mature, ahead of 3% from a year ago, but behind the 13% average. Corn silage is 28% harvested, compared to 9% last year and the 18% 5 Yr. Avg. Barley is 7% harvested, ahead of last year's 1%, and the 5 Yr. Avg. of 5%. The tobacco harvest is at 42%, behind the 47% from a year ago and the 47% Avg. Potatoes are at 19% harvested, behind the 27% from a year ago and the 22% 5 Yr Avg. The alfalfa third cutting is at 96%, well ahead of last year's 80% and the 87% average. The alfalfa fourth cutting is at 36%, ahead of the 20% a year ago, and the 21% 5 year average. The timothy/clover second cutting is at 95%, ahead of the 84% last year and the 83% average. The peach harvest is 94% completed, ahead of last year's 83% and the average of 82%. The apples harvested are at 41%, above last year's 32%, and the 5 year average of 31%.

**Crop Condition:** State-wide corn condition is 4% very poor, 12% poor, 27% fair, 43% good, and 14% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 56% good, and 18% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are 1% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, and 3% excellent. The quality of hay made is 0% very poor, 2% poor, 10% fair, 55% good, and 33% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 15% very poor, 17% poor, 28% fair, 34% good and 6% excellent. Apple conditions are 1% very poor, 6% poor, 21% fair, 42% good, and 30% excellent.

**Nationwide as of August 22, 2010:** Warm, mostly dry weather returned to many areas west of the Rocky Mountains during the week, aiding summer crop development and promoting the rapid harvest of small grains. Elsewhere, above average rainfall throughout much of the Southeast did little to improve rapidly declining crop conditions as abnormally hot temperatures continued to dominate the region. Near- to above-average temperatures across much of the Great Plains and Corn Belt continued to aid the rapid phenological development of corn and soybeans, while additional wet weather in portions of the Midwest and Tennessee Valley triggered isolated flash flooding during the week. **Corn:** Nationally, 88 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 33 percentage points ahead of last year and 14 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. The most rapid progress was evident in Colorado, Minnesota, and the Dakotas, where 23 percent or more of the crop reached the dough stage during the week. By August 22, fifty-four percent of the Nation's corn crop was at or beyond the dented stage, 37 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average, while 8 percent of the crop was at or beyond the mature stage, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. In Illinois, high temperatures during the week pushed crop maturity to 29 days ahead of last year. Overall, 70 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from ratings last week but unchanged from the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** With producers in the Pacific Northwest and Montana harvesting 10 percent or more of their crop during the week, overall progress advanced to 95 percent complete by August 22, slightly behind last year and 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay remained in Montana where harvest was two weeks behind the average pace. **Small Grains:** Oat producers had harvested 90 percent of the Nation's crop by week's end, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. While overall progress in Wisconsin, the largest oat-producing State, remained behind normal, producers in North Dakota took advantage of warm, dry weather and nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork as they harvested 30 percent of their crop during the week, pushing progress ahead of the average pace for the first time this season. With barley producers in the five major estimating States harvesting 12 percent or more of their crop during the week, progress advanced to 52 percent complete by August 22, twenty-eight percentage points ahead of last year but 10 percentage points behind the 5-year average. As harvest surpassed the halfway point, 84 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 4 percentage points better than the same time last year.

## Weather Data For Week Ending August 29, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 29, 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	79	52	68	-2	0.22	3	17.25	-0.71	59	2,569	556	3,977
Franklin	83	48	66	-2	0.47	2	20.51	-0.13	62	2,434	534	3,843
Meadville	82	47	65	-1	0.21	2	20.44	0.00	72	2,336	595	3,739
Mercer	83	48	66	-1	0.23	3	20.56	1.08	74	2,442	563	3,862
Springboro	80	44	64	-5	0.32	4	24.04	6.14	67	2,179	179	3,539
Warren	84	48	65	-2	0.09	2	16.95	-3.56	58	2,263	415	3,653
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	77	38	60	-3	0.34	3	19.84	-0.73	62	1,800	440	3,135
Oswayo	80	40	61	-3	0.30	2	20.59	1.19	68	1,823	326	3,145
Kane	79	40	61	-2	0.23	2	19.41	-1.42	60	1,794	457	3,119
Laporte	76	49	62	-6	1.51	3	18.63	-0.36	70	2,099	201	3,470
Lock Haven	83	51	67	-1	0.07	2	16.70	-2.04	52	2,599	594	4,047
Port Allegany	80	46	63	0	0.09	3	18.23	-1.17	65	1,978	481	3,329
Renovo	82	52	68	-1	0.18	3	17.07	-1.67	60	2,496	491	3,942
Ridgway	81	43	63	-1	0.75	3	17.68	-3.04	62	1,994	472	3,356
Stevenson Dam	82	50	67	3	0.07	1	16.51	-4.21	56	2,364	842	3,791
Towanda	81	48	64	-3	0.51	3	13.88	-1.86	52	2,267	353	3,678
Wellsboro	78	44	62	-2	0.34	2	17.84	2.01	58	1,907	464	3,275
Williamsport	81	51	68	-2	0.23	2	16.36	-2.20	55	2,847	637	4,325
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	80	46	62	-3	2.67	4	19.59	1.64	54	2,064	424	3,438
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	49	65	-3	0.79	3	11.12	-6.37	48	2,652	551	4,082
Susquehanna	80	48	63	-2	1.55	3	18.63	-0.58	62	2,206	639	3,606
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	83	47	67	-2	0.11	3	23.99	4.40	65	2,406	440	3,825
New Castle	88	50	70	3	0.07	1	21.92	4.19	58	2,677	710	4,111
Slippery Rock	87	45	68	3	0.12	2	19.68	0.63	65	2,505	729	3,936
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	81	47	66	-4	0.24	3	18.69	1.66	60	2,559	457	3,999
DuBois	80	46	64	-3	0.08	3	17.03	-2.63	66	2,302	473	3,723
Lewistown	84	51	68	-3	0.14	3	15.99	-2.45	52	2,730	429	4,201
Middletown	85	57	71	-2	0.12	2	18.48	0.45	45	3,150	558	4,641
Prince Gallitzi	80	41	62	-3	0.30	3	19.34	-2.56	57	2,115	425	3,523
Selinsgrove	82	51	67	-3	0.88	2	12.81	-5.96	46	2,661	504	4,120
State College	81	51	66	-2	0.22	3	15.20	-1.95	52	2,615	534	4,063
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	83	50	67	-4	0.96	2	20.08	0.47	45	2,820	443	4,280
Lehighton	79	50	66	-5	0.46	2	17.87	-1.59	50	2,526	227	3,979
Matamoras	80	50	64	-5	2.91	4	16.86	-2.96	51	2,300	217	3,717
Mt_Pocono	79	47	63	-1	1.86	6	15.42	-5.52	62	2,212	769	3,604
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	54	69	2	0.12	3	16.94	-1.29	60	2,916	808	4,369
Indiana_PA	82	48	66	-3	0.28	2	20.34	-0.82	71	2,372	336	3,801
Myersdale	84	44	64	-5	0.39	3	15.24	-5.44	61	1,910	-41	3,286
Mount Pleasant	83	43	67	1	0.38	1	18.45	-3.08	52	2,523	748	3,949
Pittsburgh Intl	85	50	68	-1	0.11	2	16.62	-0.59	56	2,850	646	4,299
Connellsville	86	43	70	0	0.76	4	20.11	-0.23	64	2,782	540	4,231
Waynesburg	86	48	68	0	0.28	2	17.11	-1.81	48	2,603	559	4,033
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	84	53	69	-3	0.24	3	13.01	-3.76	40	2,939	408	4,410
Everett	84	47	66	-4	0.34	2	16.22	-0.38	54	2,418	334	3,853
Hanover	85	51	69	-4	0.01	1	14.13	-2.64	46	2,917	386	4,385
Harrisburg_AP	86	53	70	-3	0.02	1	20.94	2.91	48	3,064	465	4,548
South Mountain	80	48	65	-4	0.39	3	13.51	-3.52	47	2,373	278	3,799
York	85	49	68	-4	0.02	2	16.46	-1.92	49	2,840	321	4,303
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	83	53	69	-2	0.50	3	14.63	-4.46	48	2,925	658	4,405
Hamburg	83	53	68	0	0.41	2	18.62	-3.50	53	2,866	784	4,340
West_Chester	84	51	68	-4	0.41	3	19.78	-0.90	40	2,865	357	4,335
Lancaster	85	53	70	-2	0.08	2	14.69	-4.70	48	2,960	566	4,431
Neshaminy Falls	95	52	69	-2	0.58	2	11.84	-10.37	45	3,015	646	4,502
New Holland	85	54	69	-2	0.27	2	16.58	-2.81	50	2,966	572	4,436
Philadelphia	85	60	73	-2	1.88	2	15.70	-3.25	44	3,557	824	5,064
Philadelphia NE	85	57	71	-4	1.24	3	13.12	-5.83	54	3,312	579	4,810
Reading	86	54	70	-1	0.21	2	14.41	-6.16	48	3,153	798	4,642
Sellersville	84	50	66	-4	0.95	2	15.20	-3.89	46	2,720	453	4,174
Willow Grove	83	55	69	-2	2.15	3	15.61	-6.60	42	3,107	738	4,596

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 a nice week of weather. Morning temperatures started in the 60's most days with some being in the 50's. Daytime temperatures rose to 80 degrees, but Sunday was around 90 degrees. No rainfall was received. Corn that was affected by the drought in the county continues to be chopped for silage. Earlier corn looks worse than later planted. Soybeans continue to look good and are still green and growing. Hay is being made again where regrowth has occurred from rainfall received earlier this month. Soil is being prepared for fall planting of wheat, barley, rye and some forage seedings. Crop insurance appraisers are busy with corn appraisals. Apples and peaches continue to be picked in the county. Peaches have nice sweet flavor due to dry weather conditions. Sweet corn continues to be harvested also. Other vegetables seem to be pretty good if irrigation was used. Overall, the producers in the county are busy with harvesting this year's crops and preparing to plant next year's.

### **BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier**

Rain last week was very spotty, with some areas getting over an inch and others not getting any. Corn and soybean yields will be very variable this year. Some farmers have had insurance adjusters in to assess crops as the dry weather has really taken its toll on some farms.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Silage corn harvesting is well under way. Received 1/8 inch of rainfall for the week.

### **CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner**

Producers have started harvesting corn silage. Those with bunker or pits are gearing up to fill them.

### **CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)**

Excellent week for visiting the Crawford County Fair and making hay. Corn and soybeans are looking good with good yields expected.

### **DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig**

Back to weather pattern of no rain and hot sunny conditions. Root zone can never get ahead of the demand for evaporation/transpiration. Streams and rivers are getting low but no one is talking about groundwater. Silage harvest has started. Silage crop is rapidly drying down and some silage may be chopped on the dry side.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

Dry again this week, but it was cool at night and this allowed some recovery in the hay. Crop insurance assessments for corn have been anywhere from zero to at best 40 bushels per acre reported for the southern half of the county, and a little better to the north. All in all, an extremely poor yield is expected. Silage harvests reported thus far are about one third the normal crop. Soybeans are not faring much better and with hot and dry week expected again this week, it is not looking good for the producers.

### **LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger**

Fruit and vegetable growers continue harvest. The weather has been cooperative. Crops are maturing ahead of schedule. Yields are average and quality is above average.

### **LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill**

Corn is losing moisture very rapidly and silage producers need to stay on top of it. We are also starting to see significant populations of a new non-native stink bug in soybean fields.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

The cool nights this past week has slowed down the sweet corn from ripening so fast. We are in need of rain again for the pastures and the hay fields regrowth. Vegetable growers in the area are reporting record yields. Quality of the hay made this week was excellent with the dry down very quick.

### **SNYDER COUNTY, William c. Sheaffer**

Fall seeding of alfalfa is near completion and corn silage harvest has begun. Corn is maturing at a more favorable rate than last year. The recent dry weather has allowed for good haymaking. Main activities for the week were planting, haymaking, and preparations for fall harvest.

### **TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters, FSA**

Corn looks good for this area. Timely rains are being received. Apple harvest looks poor due to late frost this spring. Pasture conditions good unless overgrazed.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 29, 2010**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	16	7	16
Corn, dough	77	66	80
Corn, dent	46	26	47
Corn, mature	5	3	13
Corn silage, harvested	28	9	18
Barley, planted	7	1	5
Tobacco, harvested	42	47	47
Potatoes, harvested	19	27	22
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	96	80	87
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	36	20	21
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	95	84	83
Peaches, harvested	94	83	82
Apples, harvested	41	32	31

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 29, 2010**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	12	27	43	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	20	56	18
Timothy clover stand	1	9	32	55	3
Quality of hay made	0	2	10	55	33
Pasture	15	17	28	34	6
Apples	1	6	21	42	30

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