



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 5, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. Field activities for the week included harvesting oats, clipping pastures, haymaking, and preparing for fall seeding.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 5, 2012

| Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 7 | 21 | 70 | 2 |

Crop Progress: Corn silking continues and is 94% complete, ahead of last year's 85% and the 5-year average of 84%. Corn dough continues and is 31% complete, compared with 18% last year and the average of 22%. Corn dent has begun and is 5% complete, ahead of 2% at this time last year and the average of 1%. Corn height is 80 inches, ahead of 76 inches last year and the average of 77 inches. Oats are 99% ripe, compared with 71% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 80%. Oats harvest continues and is 87% complete, compared with 46% last year and the average of 51%. The potato harvest continues and is 20% complete, ahead of last year's 5% and the average of 5%. Third cutting alfalfa continues and is 70% complete ahead of last year's 62% and the 5-year average of 54%. Fourth cutting alfalfa has begun and is 7% complete compared with 1% at this time last year and the average of 2%. The second cutting of timothy/clover continues and is 80% complete, ahead of last year's 72% and the 5-year average of 64%. The peach harvest continues and is 86% complete compared with 29% last year and the 5-year average of 40%. The apple harvest is 32% complete, ahead of 18% at this time last year and the average of 16%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 3% very poor, 12% poor, 37% fair, 35% good, and 13% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 46% good, and 16% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 37% fair, 39% good and 24% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 19% very poor, 27% poor, 41% fair, 11% good and 2% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 45% good, and 39% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 29, 2012: Temperatures from the Great Plains eastward were well above normal during the week, aiding a rapid dry-down pace for many crops. Most notably, weekly temperatures in portions of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains averaged more than 8°F above normal. Elsewhere, temperatures along the Pacific Coast were below average. Precipitation was scattered across the country during the week, with some locations receiving more than twice the

normal rainfall, while other areas remained dry. **Corn:** Ninety-four percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage by July 29, sixteen percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures continued throughout the major corn-producing regions, promoting a rapid dry-down pace for this year's crop. By week's end, 37 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirteen percent of the nation's crop was at or beyond the dent stage, 10 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Increased rainfall in portions of the Corn Belt came too late to benefit most fields, as producers continued to chop corn for silage. Overall, 24 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 38 points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 88 percent of this year's soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. As pod setting advanced rapidly, producers in portions of the Corn Belt treated soybean fields for spider mites during the week. By July 29, fifty-five percent of the soybeans were at or beyond the pod setting stage, 26 percentage points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 29 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 31 points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** By July 29, producers had harvested 85 percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. **Small Grains:** Oat producers had harvested 73 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 45 percentage points ahead of last year and 39 points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm, mostly sunny days provided ample time for fieldwork, with double-digit harvest progress evident in most states. By July 29, barley producers had harvested 14 percent of the nation's crop, 11 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Producers in Minnesota utilized nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 44 percent of their crop during the week. Overall, 61 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 4 percentage points from last week but 11 points below the same time last year. By week's end, 28 percent of the spring wheat crop was harvested, 27 percentage points ahead of last year and 25 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 63 percent of the spring wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 3 percentage points from last week but 7 points below the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 5, 2012

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - August 5, 2012 | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|---------------|-------|------|--------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|----------|
| | Temperature | | | Precipitation | | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | Base 40F |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | Total |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 94 | 61 | 77 | 7 | 0.00 | 0 | 9.80 | -5.01 | 38 | 2,050 | 496 | 3,152 |
| Franklin_AG | 92 | 58 | 74 | 5 | 0.02 | 1 | 12.65 | -4.89 | 48 | 1,904 | 427 | 3,003 |
| Meadville-Port | 89 | 59 | 75 | 7 | 0.29 | 2 | 12.32 | -4.56 | 42 | 1,977 | 625 | 3,091 |
| Clarion | 89 | 55 | 72 | 4 | 0.02 | 1 | 15.39 | -2.64 | 45 | 1,683 | 181 | 2,764 |
| Springboro | 91 | 54 | 72 | 2 | 0.02 | 2 | 12.75 | -2.12 | 46 | 1,719 | 164 | 2,783 |
| Warren | 92 | 58 | 74 | 5 | 0.22 | 2 | 13.54 | -3.66 | 48 | 1,773 | 334 | 2,856 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 88 | 52 | 71 | 7 | 2.99 | 2 | 14.90 | -2.55 | 48 | 1,592 | 541 | 2,658 |
| Oswayo | 89 | 49 | 70 | 4 | 0.76 | 2 | 12.35 | -4.28 | 43 | 1,438 | 272 | 2,475 |
| Kane | 87 | 53 | 70 | 6 | 0.70 | 2 | 16.44 | -1.06 | 49 | 1,423 | 386 | 2,465 |
| Laporte | 84 | 58 | 71 | 2 | 0.86 | 2 | 21.38 | 5.10 | 53 | 1,556 | 77 | 2,629 |
| Lock Haven | 92 | 59 | 76 | 5 | 0.74 | 2 | 15.03 | -0.90 | 54 | 2,020 | 453 | 3,188 |
| Coudersport_1SW | 89 | 53 | 70 | 5 | 2.15 | 3 | 17.02 | 0.39 | 55 | 1,454 | 288 | 2,493 |
| Renovo | 91 | 58 | 75 | 5 | 1.66 | 2 | 19.10 | 3.17 | 49 | 1,963 | 396 | 3,122 |
| Ridgway | 90 | 57 | 73 | 7 | 0.72 | 2 | 13.93 | -3.86 | 50 | 1,682 | 506 | 2,766 |
| Stevenson Dam | 90 | 56 | 73 | 7 | 2.23 | 2 | 16.44 | -1.35 | 44 | 1,880 | 704 | 3,021 |
| Towanda | 92 | 56 | 74 | 5 | 0.61 | 2 | 14.36 | 0.88 | 52 | 1,812 | 322 | 2,913 |
| Wellsboro | 87 | 52 | 70 | 5 | 0.86 | 1 | 13.19 | -0.45 | 47 | 1,495 | 384 | 2,564 |
| Williamsport | 90 | 61 | 77 | 5 | 0.24 | 2 | 13.93 | -2.02 | 52 | 2,184 | 449 | 3,365 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 89 | 59 | 72 | 5 | 0.08 | 2 | 14.06 | -1.12 | 48 | 1,623 | 359 | 2,701 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 91 | 64 | 76 | 6 | 0.63 | 3 | 14.50 | -0.46 | 54 | 2,059 | 409 | 3,198 |
| Susquehanna | 90 | 59 | 74 | 7 | 0.79 | 3 | 18.34 | 2.07 | 50 | 1,728 | 513 | 2,816 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 91 | 59 | 75 | 5 | 0.02 | 1 | 12.43 | -4.00 | 45 | 1,954 | 421 | 3,091 |
| New Castle | 91 | 59 | 76 | 6 | 0.11 | 1 | 13.97 | -1.16 | 40 | 2,074 | 533 | 3,222 |
| Slippery Rock | 95 | 57 | 76 | 8 | 0.32 | 2 | 14.32 | -1.71 | 41 | 2,008 | 619 | 3,148 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 87 | 58 | 74 | 4 | 0.16 | 2 | 13.99 | -0.82 | 45 | 2,098 | 447 | 3,276 |
| DuBois | 87 | 58 | 73 | 5 | 0.17 | 1 | 13.66 | -2.83 | 45 | 1,809 | 379 | 2,923 |
| Lewistown | 90 | 61 | 76 | 4 | 0.43 | 3 | 16.28 | 0.26 | 57 | 2,126 | 318 | 3,328 |
| Middletown | 89 | 66 | 78 | 3 | 1.60 | 3 | 17.59 | 2.09 | 49 | 2,397 | 354 | 3,620 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 86 | 54 | 72 | 5 | 0.40 | 2 | 17.53 | -1.40 | 44 | 1,747 | 434 | 2,870 |
| Selinsgrove | 90 | 63 | 76 | 4 | 1.13 | 2 | 15.39 | -0.55 | 54 | 2,061 | 368 | 3,224 |
| State College | 88 | 61 | 75 | 5 | 1.02 | 2 | 16.08 | 1.35 | 55 | 2,026 | 393 | 3,194 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 91 | 63 | 77 | 4 | 0.59 | 2 | 17.45 | 1.17 | 48 | 2,228 | 356 | 3,424 |
| Lehighton | 89 | 64 | 74 | 1 | 0.97 | 5 | 17.90 | 1.55 | 57 | 1,892 | 88 | 3,055 |
| Matamoras | 90 | 63 | 75 | 4 | 0.47 | 4 | 17.71 | 0.74 | 64 | 1,915 | 282 | 3,081 |
| Mt_Pocono | 85 | 61 | 72 | 6 | 0.07 | 1 | 16.36 | -1.38 | 57 | 1,657 | 548 | 2,767 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 91 | 64 | 77 | 7 | 0.11 | 1 | 12.64 | -3.09 | 46 | 2,345 | 687 | 3,534 |
| Indiana_PA | 88 | 59 | 75 | 5 | 0.49 | 3 | 15.78 | -2.50 | 64 | 1,998 | 400 | 3,141 |
| Myersdale | 86 | 53 | 70 | -2 | 1.08 | 1 | 16.73 | -1.20 | 51 | 1,502 | -11 | 2,602 |
| Chalk_Hill | 85 | 52 | 70 | -3 | 0.35 | 3 | 17.04 | -0.44 | 53 | 1,629 | -138 | 2,737 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 90 | 61 | 77 | 5 | 0.50 | 1 | 14.30 | -0.45 | 43 | 2,275 | 540 | 3,455 |
| Connellsville | 89 | 59 | 74 | 3 | 0.54 | 4 | 16.13 | -1.35 | 53 | 2,085 | 318 | 3,275 |
| Waynesburg | 90 | 58 | 75 | 5 | 0.19 | 1 | 12.80 | -3.32 | 43 | 2,014 | 410 | 3,180 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 89 | 63 | 77 | 3 | 1.23 | 2 | 17.60 | 3.40 | 49 | 2,242 | 239 | 3,452 |
| Everett | 89 | 56 | 74 | 3 | 1.14 | 2 | 16.54 | 2.19 | 53 | 1,857 | 231 | 3,013 |
| Hanover | 89 | 64 | 77 | 3 | 0.33 | 2 | 16.97 | 2.77 | 51 | 2,180 | 177 | 3,379 |
| Harrisburg_AP | 89 | 67 | 79 | 4 | 2.07 | 4 | 18.19 | 2.69 | 51 | 2,451 | 401 | 3,676 |
| South Mountain | 86 | 57 | 73 | 2 | 2.08 | 3 | 19.55 | 4.74 | 51 | 1,801 | 157 | 2,948 |
| York | 90 | 64 | 76 | 3 | 1.43 | 4 | 15.79 | 0.05 | 56 | 2,195 | 201 | 3,379 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 91 | 65 | 77 | 5 | 0.90 | 5 | 16.39 | 0.40 | 51 | 2,193 | 410 | 3,403 |
| Hamburg | 89 | 65 | 76 | 5 | 1.89 | 4 | 18.35 | -0.59 | 53 | 2,162 | 536 | 3,359 |
| West_Chester | 95 | 64 | 78 | 4 | 0.32 | 2 | 13.69 | -4.06 | 34 | 2,172 | 190 | 3,360 |
| Lancaster | 89 | 64 | 77 | 3 | 0.06 | 2 | 13.34 | -3.20 | 41 | 2,296 | 421 | 3,495 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 93 | 66 | 79 | 6 | 1.96 | 4 | 18.19 | -0.51 | 52 | 2,275 | 412 | 3,503 |
| New Holland | 92 | 65 | 79 | 5 | 0.71 | 2 | 16.04 | -0.50 | 40 | 2,329 | 454 | 3,561 |
| Philadelphia | 93 | 69 | 81 | 4 | 0.46 | 3 | 10.78 | -5.27 | 34 | 2,644 | 493 | 3,893 |
| Philadelphia NE | 92 | 67 | 79 | 2 | 1.59 | 3 | 13.88 | -2.17 | 43 | 2,426 | 275 | 3,656 |
| Reading | 94 | 67 | 79 | 6 | 0.34 | 3 | 13.03 | -4.44 | 49 | 2,425 | 584 | 3,643 |
| Sellersville | 90 | 63 | 76 | 4 | 0.19 | 2 | 16.22 | 0.23 | 41 | 2,042 | 259 | 3,211 |
| Doylestown_AG | 92 | 66 | 78 | 5 | 0.18 | 2 | 16.26 | -2.44 | 45 | 2,270 | 407 | 3,483 |

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 has received some rain this past week, but sometimes only certain parts of the county are receiving rain and then the next day another part of county receives rain. Most days got into to 80's. Monday afternoon, Gettysburg area had isolated thunderstorm and rain. Tuesday, the York Springs area had 0.5" and majority of the county received some that day. Wednesday was cloudy and Gettysburg area had rain in the evening. Thursday was foggy early and 68 degrees. Upper Adams area had 0.5" of rain in the afternoon and temperatures were in the 80's. Friday started out hazy and 69 degrees. Saturday and Sunday we received various amounts of rainfall with some thunderstorms that went through the county. Sunday afternoon York Springs received 1.75" of rainfall.

Corn continues to grow, but when it was dry it has stunted some of the corn so it is all stalks and no ears. Soybeans continue to look pretty good. Hay continues to be baled along with Sudan grass. Hay is re-growing after recent rains throughout the county. Producers are preparing to start some new forage seedlings here in August. Fruit crops continue to grow and are sizing up nicely. Peaches are being harvested and season will not go into September as the harvest started earlier with spring weather conditions. Most producers are reporting pretty decent yields. Apples are coming along and some early varieties are being harvested now. Other vegetables are being harvested and looking good. Sweet corn is being harvested. Overall producers are still busy with different kinds of field work and harvesting, and are hoping things continue with the rainfall to help their yields.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Showers have been spotty but most areas of the county have received rain in the past two weeks. The corn crop is highly variable, even within the same field. Soybeans fared better through the droughty conditions.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Field activities included harvesting oats, straw and hay. Soybeans are setting pods. Scattered showers occurred during the week, with heavy rains in the Southern part of the county one day.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

It was a good week for field work. The county received 0.5 inches of rainfall for the week.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Generally it was a good week for making hay while showers helped maintain the growth of the crops. Heat was still a problem for livestock. Hail did strike some areas in northern part of the county.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Well, we finished up the oats combining last week. The oats did really well. The rain a week ago helped out the corn, soybeans and hay. I think the corn ears of the later corn that was planted will be on the small/short side. Hope everyone has a safe farming week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Tobacco harvest has begun, Crop looks very good- thus far we have had very little hail damage and blue mold has not resurfaced.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

There were spotty rains this week across the county. Depending on the location, a sprits or something more adequate like half an inch to an inch was received. There was lots of humidity also. The corn crop is being checked. Although some of the corn looks like it has substantial size ears, further inspection reveals lack of kernels. Full season soybean plants are beginning to flower. The fourth cutting of alfalfa looks like it will be good.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Rain is in the forecast for later today. Dry soil conditions have affected most crops like sweet corn pollination and small ears, field corn with barren ears or just a few kernels and hayfields with limited growth and vegetables under stress. Peach orchards have nothing to harvest.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The showers during the week were light and heavy, but had an impact on the corn and soybeans. Some areas may actually get some grain; however, the silage yield will be low due to the shortness of the stalks. The main activities for the week were clipping pastures, haymaking, and preparing for fall seeding.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler

Quality of the corn crop is difficult to judge due to pollination beginning for early planted corn during hot dry conditions and no rainfall for weeks to get top-dressed nitrogen into the soil. Late planted corn growth was stunted, but after the rains it appears to be doing very well. Forages being cut have been very short, but there appears to be very good re-growth for August.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

It was another warm and wet week. Corn and soybean conditions continue to improve. Later hay cuttings should yield much better. Pastures are green and growing.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl

Periodic showers maintain corn and soybean crops in good shape.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 5, 2012

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn, silk | 94 | 85 | 84 |
| Corn, dough | 31 | 18 | 22 |
| Corn, dent | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Corn average height, inches | 80 | 76 | 77 |
| Oats, ripe | 99 | 71 | 80 |
| Oats, harvested | 87 | 46 | 51 |
| Potatoes, harvested | 20 | 5 | 5 |
| Alfalfa, 3rd cutting | 70 | 62 | 54 |
| Alfalfa, 4th cutting | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| Timothy clover, 2nd cutting | 80 | 72 | 64 |
| Peaches, harvested | 86 | 29 | 40 |
| Apples, harvested | 32 | 18 | 16 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 5, 2012

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn | 3 | 12 | 37 | 35 | 13 |
| Soybeans | 0 | 7 | 31 | 46 | 16 |
| Quality of hay made | 0 | 0 | 37 | 39 | 24 |
| Pasture | 19 | 27 | 41 | 11 | 2 |
| Apples | 1 | 0 | 15 | 45 | 39 |

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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