



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending August 30, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released August 31, 2009, 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."*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. The weather was an improvement from the previous weeks. The beginning of the week seemed to have good haymaking conditions. Primary field activities were: harvesting oats, potatoes, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, and making hay. Fall plowing has started, and is 8% completed, compared to 16% last year, and the five year average of 18%.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 30, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	12	74	13

**Crop Progress:** Sixty-nine percent of corn has reached the dough stage, behind last year's estimate and the average of 84%. Twenty-eight percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind 48% last year, and the average of 52%. Nine percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate and the average of 21%. Oats harvesting is nearing completion at 97% harvested, behind last year's estimate and five year average of 99%. Tobacco harvesting is 50% harvested. This is compared to last year's 61% and the average of 54%. Potatoes are 27% harvested, ahead of last year's 23% and the average of 22%. Third cutting alfalfa is 82% completed, behind last year's 95%, and the average of 85%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 22% completed. This is behind last year's 30%, and the average of 21%. Eighty-four percent of the second cutting of timothy clover is completed, which is behind last year's 89%, yet ahead of the average of 81%. Eighty-four percent of the peach crop has been harvested, behind the 88% estimate at this time last year, and equal to the average. Thirty-Two percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 29%, and equal to the average.

**Crop Condition:** The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 12% fair, 50% good and 32% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 0% very poor, 4% poor, 16% fair, 54% good, and 26% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 5% poor, 25% fair, 54% good, and 15% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 4% very poor, 10% poor, 21% fair, 58% good and 7% excellent. The apple conditions are at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 63% good and 37% excellent.

**Nationwide as of August 24, 2009:** Locally heavy rain across the eastern half of the nation contrasted with mostly dry conditions in the West. Meanwhile, chilly conditions across the northern and central Plains and the western Corn Belt held weekly tempera-

tures as much as 10 degrees below normal. Hot weather prevailed, however, in the Northeast, Northwest, and drought-stricken southern Texas. Weekly readings averaged up to 10 degrees above normal in New England. West of the Rockies, warmth promoted Northwestern wheat harvesting and development of summer crops such as rice and cotton. Toward week's end, scattered showers in the Southwest provided limited relief from a sub par monsoon. Meanwhile, showers gradually subsided across the nation's mid-section, followed by a surge of cool air. Rainfall was heaviest, with more than 4 inches (and local flooding) reported, in several areas from north-central Oklahoma into the mid-Mississippi Valley. Despite crop developmental delays, growing conditions remained mostly favorable for corn, soybeans, and other summer crops from the central and southern Plains into the Midwest. Elsewhere, heavy rain also soaked portions of the South and East, with totals of 2 to 4 inches or more common from the central Gulf Coast region into the Northeast. Across the Deep South, harvest activities for crops such as corn, rice, and sorghum were slowed in some areas by wet conditions. Across the remainder of the South and East, however, conditions remained mostly favorable for pastures and immature summer crops. Early in the week, Tropical Storm Claudette quickly lost its punch after moving inland. On August 16, Claudette developed over the Gulf of Mexico, just south of Apalachicola, FL. Claudette made landfall early August 17.

**Corn:** Nationally, 57 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 9 points behind last year and 22 points, or over 1 week, behind the 5-year average. Cooler temperatures throughout the major corn-producing areas of the country slowed development in the crop. Development to the dough stage was over 1 week behind normal in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota. Together, these States represent over half of the corn acreage planted for the 2009 crop season. Meanwhile, acreage at or beyond the dent stage advanced 9 points during the week, leaving progress, at 18 percent, 7 points behind last year and 25 points behind the average. Overall, 70 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, a 2 point improvement from last week and 6 points better than last year.

**Soybeans:** Ninety-seven percent of soybean fields were at the blooming stage or beyond, on par with the pace a year ago, but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Pod set was evident in 85 percent of the crop, 1 point behind last year and 7 points behind the average. Overall, 69 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 3 points better than last week and 8 points better than a year ago. **Oats:** Oat producers harvested 10 percent of their crop during the week. At 72 percent, overall progress was 16 points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average.

## Weather Data For Week Ending August 30, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 30, 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	78	55	67	-2	0.31	3	18.26	0.15	70	2,065	34	3,446
Franklin	81	53	66	-2	1.21	4	24.29	3.52	73	1,967	51	3,342
Meadville	77	51	65	-1	0.96	4	19.93	-0.65	74	1,918	162	3,285
Mercer	81	51	66	-2	1.17	5	21.96	2.35	77	1,952	57	3,329
Springboro	80	49	64	-5	0.25	3	19.74	1.71	74	1,737	-280	3,077
Warren	80	53	65	-2	0.63	3	23.98	3.33	67	1,806	-58	3,162
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	75	45	61	-1	0.72	3	23.63	2.92	76	1,399	28	2,698
Oswayo	79	48	64	2	0.96	3	22.94	3.41	78	1,458	-51	2,762
Kane	78	47	62	1	0.44	3	27.15	6.17	73	1,382	34	2,675
Laporte	77	56	65	-2	1.79	4	27.21	8.10	83	1,620	-294	2,964
Lock Haven	85	57	69	2	0.88	2	23.07	4.21	68	2,162	140	3,569
Port Allegany	79	49	63	1	0.81	3	21.45	1.92	70	1,553	44	2,875
Renovo	83	56	69	2	0.57	2	18.63	-0.23	74	2,044	22	3,442
Ridgway	79	49	64	1	0.87	2	21.67	0.83	70	1,584	49	2,898
Stevenson Dam	82	56	67	4	0.49	2	17.94	-2.90	68	1,948	413	3,322
Towanda	83	54	68	2	1.50	4	21.99	6.15	71	1,959	29	3,342
Wellsboro	78	51	63	1	0.51	5	22.18	6.25	74	1,494	39	2,815
Williamsport	85	60	71	2	2.42	3	21.42	2.75	70	2,422	194	3,876
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	80	56	66	2	1.02	2	27.00	8.93	67	1,769	115	3,133
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	57	68	1	1.00	4	21.28	3.68	69	2,209	91	3,638
Susquehanna	80	55	67	4	1.56	4	25.37	6.03	79	1,839	259	3,204
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	83	53	66	-2	0.97	4	21.41	1.69	77	1,922	-61	3,303
New Castle	88	51	69	2	0.85	3	18.77	0.93	69	2,198	214	3,597
Slippery Rock	87	51	67	2	0.76	2	21.77	2.59	71	2,008	217	3,388
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	84	53	69	2	2.02	1	16.78	-0.35	73	2,091	-28	3,491
DuBois	79	51	65	-2	0.81	2	23.49	3.70	80	1,862	18	3,224
Lewistown	87	57	70	1	0.98	3	22.38	3.84	72	2,268	-52	3,691
Middletown	86	62	74	2	1.27	3	24.86	6.72	73	2,703	90	4,169
Prince Gallitzi	82	50	66	2	0.80	2	18.62	-3.41	73	1,756	52	3,088
Selinsgrove	87	57	70	2	1.04	3	23.97	5.08	61	2,205	30	3,612
State College	84	58	68	1	1.08	4	19.76	2.50	75	2,181	83	3,591
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	84	60	71	1	1.34	3	25.03	5.28	68	2,386	-10	3,819
Lehighton	82	50	68	-3	0.94	5	30.12	10.52	73	2,090	-228	3,502
Matamoras	83	57	67	-1	0.70	2	23.24	3.30	61	1,946	-154	3,326
Mt_Pocono	79	58	67	4	0.85	3	27.13	6.05	83	1,806	351	3,161
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	55	70	2	0.50	3	16.85	-1.49	76	2,427	302	3,869
Indiana_PA	81	54	68	0	0.14	2	10.30	-10.99	57	2,082	29	3,469
Myersdale	80	49	65	-4	0.15	1	21.59	0.79	75	1,600	-368	2,910
Mount Pleasant	83	54	68	2	0.86	2	23.56	1.89	75	2,137	347	3,544
Pittsburgh Intl	82	54	70	1	0.49	3	17.81	0.50	70	2,427	205	3,865
Connellsville	87	56	71	3	0.24	2	24.17	3.71	78	2,326	65	3,761
Waynesburg	84	53	69	2	0.24	3	19.03	0.00	76	2,111	50	3,523
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	88	59	72	2	1.73	2	25.16	8.27	72	2,489	-63	3,926
Everett	87	53	69	1	1.36	1	20.31	3.61	70	2,032	-70	3,359
Hanover	88	58	73	2	4.10	3	23.72	6.83	67	2,510	-42	3,955
Harrisburg_AP	87	61	73	2	1.12	3	23.31	5.17	74	2,669	49	4,133
South Mountain	83	56	69	1	1.13	2	26.56	9.43	76	1,976	-136	3,368
York	86	57	72	2	1.76	3	21.18	2.69	64	2,496	-44	3,937
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	85	62	73	4	1.61	4	29.26	10.04	74	2,461	175	3,899
Hamburg	84	61	71	3	2.54	3	33.39	11.13	77	2,426	327	3,872
West_Chester	86	60	74	3	1.36	3	26.34	5.53	70	2,483	-46	3,904
Lancaster	85	61	73	3	1.48	4	22.10	2.59	70	2,539	125	3,976
Neshaminy Falls	87	59	73	4	0.87	3	28.09	5.73	67	2,540	151	3,981
New Holland	86	62	73	3	2.35	2	25.20	5.69	70	2,538	124	3,984
Philadelphia	89	68	77	4	2.87	3	27.12	8.05	72	3,011	255	4,497
Philadelphia NE	87	65	75	2	0.96	3	23.27	4.20	73	2,726	-30	4,191
Reading	85	62	73	2	2.56	3	25.34	4.64	74	2,649	274	4,101
Sellersville	83	60	71	2	1.51	3	28.54	9.32	71	2,294	8	3,717
Willow Grove	85	64	73	4	1.02	3	44.16	21.80	71	2,624	235	4,077

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)** - The majority of the rainfall was beneficial. Corn and soybeans are looking better with the heat and rainfall from last week. Hay continues to be made. Some days were overcast and not good for drying. Some fields have been prepared for small grain seedings. Peaches, plums, and early apples continue to be harvested. Good yields are being reported. Other vegetables in the county are doing well.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - Sporadic downpours have drenched the area over the last 24 hrs. There have been no significant changes in the apple crop. Fruit size continues to be better than normal.

**BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour (FSA)** - The good weather that was promised for all of last week sent haybines to the fields in a hurry. With rain from the previous week, combined with the humidity, the cut hay didn't dry as well as it normally would this time of year. Farmers spent an additional day preparing it for dry hay baling. Some baled it earlier than desired to get it off the fields before Friday and Saturday's rains. Corn chopping is just around the corner.

**BRADFORD COUNTY, Lisa Shanks (FSA)** - We have had ample moisture that has subsequently produced ample feed.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - The rain continues to cause problems. There are some questions about the late planted corn if there will be enough time for it to mature.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - The showers made field work difficult. I had 1.3 inches in my gauge.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA)** - Most of the farmers are finishing up the third and fourth cuttings of hay. Weather conditions have had an effect on quality. Reports have hay estimated to be around 18% protein. The corn and soybeans need heat and sunlight.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - The Crawford County Fair was in full swing last week, getting most of the producers off the farm and up to the fair. It was another cool and wet week which slowed field work down to the bare minimum. Pastures are rebounding quite well with all the rains.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)** - The growing season is winding down. Corn plant maturity is rapidly approaching silage harvest stage. In many cases, plants are remaining greener than whole plant moistures would indicate. Choppers should be starting up this week. Many weeds are popping up in corn and bean fields.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Foggy mornings and late week showers delayed hay making again. Pastures, as well as corn and soybeans, are still in great shape. Corn is slow to dry down for silage harvest. The apple and peach crops are getting better.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - We had some good second cutting alfalfa made last week. We still have some straw to make, weather permitting. We still have sweet corn coming on. The regular corn and soybeans look better than usual.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - I saw quite a bit of hay being made last week. Tobacco, tomatoes and potato harvests are coming along. Corn is still looking green, but harvesting has begun.

**MERCER COUNTY, Gary Micsky (EXT)** - The soybean aphid populations are beginning to decline. The majority of corn checked this week was in milk to early dough stage.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - The late blight has resulted in very low yields in tomatoes! Pepper yields, on the other hand, are excellent.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The beginning of the week was a good haymaker, but the end of the week was a washout. Haymaking and preparing equipment for the upcoming harvest season were the main activities.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Kelly Sundy (FSA)** - Making dry hay has still been unattainable. There is mostly round bales that are wrapped. Oats were not able to be made.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - The week started out warm. Last week was a good time to mow hay. The hay that was down had several brief rain showers on it. More chopping is going on than baling. Corn is maturing, but growth is less than spectacular. No plowing has been done yet.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - There were excellent growing conditions, continued with adequate moisture and average temperatures.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 30, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	8	16	18
Corn, dough	69	84	84
Corn, dent	28	48	52
Corn silage, harvested	9	21	21
Oats, harvested	97	99	99
Tobacco, harvested	50	61	54
Potatoes, harvested	27	23	22
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	82	95	85
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	22	30	21
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	84	89	81
Peaches, harvested	84	88	84
Apples, harvested	32	29	32

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 30, 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	5	12	50	32
Soybeans	0	4	16	54	26
Quality of hay made	1	5	25	54	15
Pasture	4	10	21	58	7
Apples	0	0	0	63	37

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