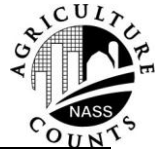




Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 21, 2011

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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. The theme of the season so far seems to be "ever changing weather". The keystone state has experienced prolific rains, drought like conditions, the second coming of the rains, and most recently during this last week parts of the state were hit with noteworthy hail storms. It is apparent that hard work is not a foreign concept to Pennsylvanian farmers, who despite the weather have returned to their fields to work whenever possible. Primary field activities for the week included seeding of forage crops, spreading manure, making hay, and harvesting apples, and peaches. Fall plowing is 9% complete which is behind the 11% this time last year and the 5-year average of 12%.

poor, 0% poor, 2% fair, 49% good and 49% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 13% poor, 17% fair, 51% good and 19% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 14, 2011: Below average temperatures and increased rainfall were welcomed throughout much of the Great Plains and Corn Belt during the week, aiding row crop development and helping to alleviate unusually dry soil conditions in certain areas. Elsewhere, Northwestern fieldwork was promoted by warmer, drier weather. In the South, hot temperatures persisted, while scattered showers benefitted crop and pasture conditions.

Corn: By August 14, silking had advanced to 98 percent complete, slightly behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Nationally, 52 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 19 percentage points behind last year and 6 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Despite milder temperatures compared to recent weeks throughout much of the Midwest, double-digit doughing was evident during the week. By week's end, 17 percent of the corn crop was dented, 13 percentage points behind last year and 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 60 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 9 percentage points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 94 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 2 percentage points behind last year but on par with the 5-year average. Favorable weather conditions promoted rapid phenological development across much of the major soybean-producing region during the week. Pods were setting on 70 percent of the Nation's soybean acreage by August 14, twelve percentage points behind last year and 8 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 61 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 5 percentage points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** Nationally, 91 percent of this year's winter wheat crop was harvested by August 14, slightly ahead of last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Warmer, drier weather in the Northwest aided harvest toward week's end. **Small Grains:** Oat producers had harvested 65 percent of this year's crop, 15 percentage points behind last year and 12 percentage points behind the 5-year average. By August 14, eight percent of the barley crop was harvested, 17 percentage points behind last year and 29 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Delays of 16 points or more were evident throughout the five major producing States. With approximately 6 days suitable for fieldwork, harvest began in Montana and Minnesota during the week. Overall, 68 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 4 percentage points from ratings last week and 17 percentage points below the same time last year.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 21, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
2	19	75	4

Crop Progress: Corn in the silk stage is at 98% compared to 96% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 96%. Corn is 47% at the dough stage, behind the 58% a year ago and the 5-year average of 60%. Corn is 19% at the dent stage behind the 29% last year and the average of 29%. Corn has reached a measurable height of 86 inches, compared to 87 inches last year, and an average of 81 inches. Corn for Silage harvest has begun and is 7% complete behind the previous year's 16% and the 5-year average of 13%. Oats are 99% ripe, behind the 97% at this time last year and the average of 98%. Oat harvest is 92% complete, compared to last year's 97% and the average of 92%. Tobacco harvest is underway and is 8% complete compared to the 39% last year and the average of 27%. Potato harvest is 8% complete compared to 16% at this time last year and the 5 year average of 18%. The third cutting of alfalfa is 88% complete, compared to the 94% last year and the 5-year average of 80%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 14% behind the previous year's 22% and about the same as the 5-year average. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 90% complete, slightly behind last year's 92%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 83%. Peach harvesting is 70% complete, compared to 86% at this time last year and the average of 72%. Apple harvesting is 28% complete behind the 34% last year, and the average of 30%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 6% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 34% good, and 11% excellent. Oats conditions are; 5% very poor, 25% poor, 34% fair, 34% good, and 2% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 48% good, and 15% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 26% fair, 64% good, and 7% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 13% very poor, 28% poor, 35% fair, 23% good and 1% excellent. Peach conditions are; 0% very

Weather Data For Week Ending August 21, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 21, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	83	60	71	2	1.03	3	22.37	5.53	69	2,255	393	3,531
Franklin_AG	85	53	70	2	1.35	5	24.64	5.04	78	2,239	476	3,524
Meadville-Port	83	54	70	3	1.00	4	22.69	3.45	81	2,274	658	3,555
Mercer	84	54	70	2	1.44	5	24.24	5.78	91	2,215	471	3,522
Springboro	82	52	68	-2	2.75	4	24.35	7.49	81	1,967	113	3,217
Warren	84	53	69	2	2.38	5	23.25	3.86	74	2,040	324	3,312
North Central												
Bradford Region	81	47	66	3	1.35	3	25.22	5.71	81	1,755	492	2,969
Oswayo	85	49	67	3	0.75	4	21.20	2.77	70	1,747	355	2,981
Kane	82	46	65	3	1.25	4	27.45	7.74	69	1,682	438	2,909
Laporte	79	56	67	-2	2.40	4	36.31	18.28	79	1,851	87	3,093
Lock Haven	86	56	71	3	1.38	3	21.70	3.92	64	2,413	549	3,729
Port Allegany	83	52	68	4	0.68	4	24.77	6.34	75	1,871	479	3,111
Renovo	86	56	71	3	1.42	2	23.54	5.76	74	2,355	491	3,665
Ridgway	83	48	67	2	1.17	4	20.93	1.17	75	1,883	472	3,149
Stevenson Dam	86	55	71	6	1.48	1	23.59	3.83	62	2,245	834	3,536
Towanda	86	56	70	2	2.54	4	28.43	13.49	65	2,113	335	3,398
Wellsboro	83	51	67	4	1.33	3	21.94	6.88	72	1,834	495	3,062
Williamsport	87	57	72	3	0.85	3	28.52	10.84	66	2,557	502	3,897
Northeast												
Hawley	83	53	68	2	1.12	4	31.48	14.49	66	1,895	375	3,167
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	55	70	1	0.47	3	24.22	7.61	70	2,337	382	3,658
Susquehanna	83	55	69	4	0.79	4	26.70	8.52	71	1,999	543	3,274
West Central												
Butler	83	55	70	2	0.84	3	21.83	3.28	73	2,275	450	3,600
New Castle	90	55	72	4	1.84	4	24.73	7.88	75	2,484	656	3,811
Slippery Rock	87	52	70	4	1.62	4	23.10	5.09	72	2,283	632	3,601
Central												
Altoona/Blair	84	56	71	2	0.65	3	20.42	4.15	62	2,530	575	3,865
DuBois	81	53	68	2	1.52	4	23.75	5.18	73	2,130	429	3,415
Lewistown	89	59	73	2	0.54	4	25.21	7.57	62	2,580	440	3,930
Middletown	87	63	75	2	0.30	3	27.16	10.01	57	2,844	432	4,227
Prince Gallitzi	84	49	69	3	0.87	2	19.02	-1.89	65	2,141	574	3,419
Selinsgrove	89	58	71	1	0.52	3	24.13	6.32	69	2,410	404	3,740
Slate College	83	59	70	1	1.18	3	20.28	3.95	61	2,430	494	3,746
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	86	57	73	2	0.82	6	25.86	7.37	61	2,650	437	4,011
Lehighton	83	56	70	-3	1.47	4	27.67	9.27	65	2,303	164	3,643
Matamoras	83	57	69	-1	3.88	4	32.95	14.09	70	2,025	87	3,327
Mt_Pocono	82	52	67	4	1.53	5	32.53	12.71	73	1,992	653	3,268
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	58	72	3	0.54	2	18.59	1.18	75	2,660	699	4,022
Indiana_PA	82	54	69	-1	1.23	4	24.15	3.95	89	2,333	441	3,659
Myersdale	82	49	66	-4	0.82	3	20.74	0.95	72	1,831	24	3,112
Chalk_Hill	81	49	66	-5	0.55	2	31.89	12.48	78	1,894	-192	3,188
Pittsburgh Intl	85	58	72	2	0.92	3	16.71	0.30	67	2,621	570	3,979
Connellsville	87	57	72	2	0.67	3	23.90	4.49	87	2,503	417	3,858
Waynesburg	84	55	69	1	0.37	2	30.94	12.90	71	2,364	464	3,718
South Central												
Biglerville	88	59	74	2	0.40	3	22.05	6.17	54	2,721	363	4,089
Everett	86	54	70	1	1.00	3	22.86	6.99	63	2,259	324	3,595
Hanover	89	59	74	2	0.60	4	16.44	0.56	56	2,691	333	4,053
Harrisburg_AP	86	61	75	2	0.68	3	24.69	7.54	53	2,833	414	4,214
South Mountain	84	56	70	0	0.60	4	18.74	2.47	61	2,238	290	3,562
York	88	58	74	2	0.24	5	21.07	3.57	60	2,682	336	4,061
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	60	73	2	1.71	5	20.77	2.72	59	2,659	549	4,027
Hamburg	86	61	73	4	1.04	4	24.75	3.71	64	2,636	702	3,992
West_Chester	88	57	73	0	3.55	5	19.67	-0.01	49	2,695	360	4,066
Lancaster	87	59	74	2	0.32	5	20.59	2.15	61	2,758	534	4,130
Neshaminy Falls	88	61	75	3	3.90	5	28.39	7.32	50	2,798	594	4,169
New Holland	88	61	73	2	1.14	4	20.78	2.34	60	2,718	494	4,081
Philadelphia	88	65	76	1	5.91	5	25.41	7.42	49	3,187	647	4,585
Philadelphia NE	87	62	75	-1	3.71	6	23.85	5.86	54	2,981	441	4,372
Reading	87	60	75	3	0.28	4	19.88	0.35	63	2,905	718	4,291
Sellersville	86	58	72	1	1.88	4	22.79	4.74	58	2,496	386	3,844
Doylestown_AG	87	62	73	2	1.97	6	25.12	4.05	59	2,783	579	4,163

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 started the week off with light showers and then turned sunny. Some areas of the county around New Oxford had severe thunderstorms with lightning, heavy rains and some hail last evening until midnight. Other areas of the county received nothing. Storms and rainfall are still very sporadic throughout the county. Corn and soybeans continue to grow and are using every drop of rainfall they can get. They are looking a little better but some corn is well past done for any kind of improvement till harvest. Crop insurance adjusters are getting info for corn and soybean appraisals. Some producers will be starting to chop silage soon. The producers are finished with harvesting dry hay unless some re-growth occurs. Some alfalfa will be getting some additional cuttings if showers continue. New seedings are being seeded for forage crops and soil preparation is occurring for wheat, barley and rye seedings. Peaches continue to be harvested in the county. They are pretty juicy and sweet this year. Earlier varieties of apples continue to be harvested also. Vegetables are being harvested throughout the county and some sweet corn where it was irrigated is being harvested. Overall the county crops are in fairly decent shape considering how dry it was in June/July. Producers will welcome some additional rainfall to help all crops.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Harvesting oats and hay, conditions vary across the county depending on where the rains hit. Oats harvesting about complete, yields are low and test weight is down.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Good week for field work, rainfall has made things green again. Crops are looking much better.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Good hay and straw making weather for most of the week. Much needed rains have arrived in the area over the weekend which should get the grass growing again. The place to be for most of the producers this week is the Crawford County Fair. It is always quite the event and should not be missed.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Showers have put some green back in the pastures, but not enough to give any food value for grazing. Third and fourth cutting alfalfa very short. Have seen some of the poorest corn crops in many years in some of the areas of the county while others seem to be near normal. The question is still whether or not the grain has filled out in the center of the fields.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Well this past Tuesday we got another .6" of rain. That makes it close to 7"-8" of rain in the last 5 weeks. The corn and soybeans are growing very well with the rain and warm days and nights. Will be keeping a watch on the last corn and soybeans planted to see if they will mature and make ears and pods. Will be watching the weather this week to see if it will be nice enough to make about 6 acres of Alfalfa remaining. Well everyone have a safe and productive farming week.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler

The random rainstorms of the past week caught farmers in Lebanon County off guard. Alfalfa was cut and rained on and lost its quality. Fields were too wet to go in to cut other alfalfa or start to chop corn silage.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Friday, August 19, 2011 in the afternoon we had a severe hailstorm. We had 2-3 inches of hail covering the lawn, sidewalks, driveways and flower beds. The hail severely damaged our crop of tomatoes to the point of 50% of the plants are beaten down to the ground and the tomatoes are damaged with pit marks. Green beans split, pumpkins marked up, corn plants with most upper leaves gone and most every plant riddled by the hail. On Saturday at noon we still had piles of hail close to the house that had not melted. Most growers are concerned that the plants are damaged and will be open for more disease problems this season.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr

Most of the county received much needed rainfall on the 21st. Silage harvest is underway in some areas with reports stating that there is little grain present in the harvested crop.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The corn on the shaley soils didn't develop ears while some on the better soils has only short ears with a significant amount of barren cob. The soybeans are beginning to look good. The main activities for the week were seeding alfalfa and cover crops, spreading fertilizer and manure, haymaking and harvesting.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Some areas of the county received severe thunderstorms on Friday. These storms included hail. There are reports of pumpkins and corn having the leaves stripped. Other areas of the county received little rain over the weekend.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 21, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	98	96	96
Corn, dough	47	58	60
Corn, dent	19	29	29
Corn average height, inches	86	87	81
Corn silage, harvested	7	16	13
Oats, ripe	99	97	98
Oats, harvested	92	97	92
Tobacco, harvested	8	39	27
Potatoes, harvested	8	16	18
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	88	94	80
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	90	92	83
Peaches, harvested	70	86	72
Apples, harvested	28	34	30

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 21, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	6	15	34	34	11
Oats	5	25	34	34	2
Soybeans	1	6	30	48	15
Quality of hay made	0	3	26	64	7
Pasture	13	28	35	23	1
Peaches	0	0	2	49	49
Apples	0	13	17	51	19

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