



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 5, 2008

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Good week for Field Work: Cool, fall weather has arrived in Pennsylvania. A total of 5 days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included making hay, spreading manure and lime, planting barley and wheat, picking apples, as well as harvesting grapes, soybeans, corn, tobacco, and potatoes. Fall plowing continued and is 51 percent complete. Farmers also took some time off from their busy schedules to attend the National Apple Harvest Festival in Adams County over the weekend.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October, 5 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
10	20	64	6

Crops: Corn condition improved throughout last week and is now 73 percent good or excellent, compared to 67% last week. Nine percent of the corn is poor or very poor. The state's corn is 97% dented, 78% mature, and 28% harvested, compared with the five year average of 94%, 75% and 30% respectively. Soybean condition also improved, as 70% of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. This is compared with last week's 65 percent. The soybean harvest is 10% complete, compared to the 11% average. Winter wheat planting is 34% completed, compared with a 37% average. Winter wheat is 15% emerged, which is the same as average. The corn silage harvest is 88% completed, compared to the 86% average. Barley planting is 49% complete, compared with the average of 58%. Twenty-nine percent of the barley has emerged, which is 2 points behind the average. The potato harvest is 81% complete, which is 5 points less than average. The tobacco harvest is 95% completed, which is 3 points below the five year average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 87% complete, which is 23 points ahead of the average. Hay quality declined last week, as 67% of the hay made was of good or excellent quality. Four percent was rated as poor or very poor. The apple condition is 73 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest is 57% complete, compared with last year's 75% and the average of 67%. The grape harvest is estimated as 45% complete, which is 13 points above the average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions improved slightly as 28% of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition. This is 3 points better than last week. Forty-three percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 46 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 29% very poor, 14% poor, 29% fair, 25% good, and 3% excellent.

U.S. as of September 28, 2008: Warmth expanded across the Midwest, promoting the maturation of late-developing corn and soybeans. Midwestern weekly temperatures generally averaged 5 to 10 degrees F above normal. In addition, showers in the upper Midwest boosted topsoil moisture, following more than 2 months of unfavorably dry weather. Meanwhile on the Plains, warm, mostly dry weather favored winter wheat planting, albeit at a slower-than-normal pace in most areas. On the central and southern Plains, conditions also aided the maturation and

harvesting of various summer crops. Mostly dry weather also prevailed west of the Rockies, allowing early-autumn fieldwork. Despite near to below-normal temperatures, Northwestern winter wheat planting also advanced. Elsewhere, heavy rain fell in the middle and northern Atlantic States and southern portions of Texas and Florida. Producers in the southern Mid-Atlantic region monitored the effects of wind and rain on unharvested crops. The harsh weather conditions resulted from the combined effects of a high-pressure system over the Northeast and a low-pressure system east of the Carolinas. The storm system drifted toward the coast and made landfall on the night of September 25-26 near Myrtle Beach, SC, but continued to produce locally heavy showers through week's end in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States. Early in the week, showers dotted the Northwest, while a low pressure system that would eventually become Hurricane Kyle soaked Puerto Rico. Later, Kyle accelerated northward and made landfall as a minimal hurricane (maximum sustained winds near 75 M.P.H.) during the evening hours of September 28 on the western tip of Nova Scotia near Yarmout. By September 23, chilly air settled across the Northeast. During the second half of the week, wind and rain increased along the Atlantic Seaboard, while heat built across the western half of the nation. Meanwhile, heavy rain arrived in the southern Mid-Atlantic region on September 25. Some of the heaviest rain fell in coastal New England,

Corn: Rain fell in the northeast Corn Belt, accumulating up to 3 inches for the week in some areas. Elsewhere, conditions remained dry and favorable for harvest activities. Temperatures across the region ranged from up to 75 degrees Fahrenheit in the southwestern areas down to 60 degrees elsewhere. Ninety-six percent of the acreage reached or exceeded the dent stage by week's end, 3 points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Meanwhile, 52 percent of the corn acreage developed to maturity by week's end, 36 points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Acreage in the central Corn Belt was lagging between 30 and 40 points behind in most States. Nine percent of the crop was harvested, 20 points behind last year and 12 points behind the 5-year average. Condition of the crop was rated 61 percent good to excellent, a 2-point improvement from the previous week's rating.

Soybeans: Harvest was delayed in all States, except Ohio, where harvest was 1 point ahead of the average. Soybean condition was rated 57 percent good to excellent, unchanged from last week.

Winter Wheat: Most winter wheat areas remained dry throughout the week, and temperatures were mostly within 4 degrees of normal, other than in Kansas and Nebraska, where they were up to 10 degrees warmer than normal. Producers had seeded 42 percent of the acreage by week's end, 4 points ahead of last year's planting pace but 3 points behind the 5-year average. A quarter of the acreage or more was planted in Kansas and Nebraska during the week. Fourteen percent of the crop was emerged, 1 point ahead of last year but 4 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence was most delayed in Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Oregon, but was within 14 points of the 5-year average across the Nation.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 5, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 5, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	72	40	56	-2	3.13	5	21.74	-1.58	80	2,913	393	4,679
Franklin	71	34	54	-2	0.69	5	22.63	-2.67	89	2,473	149	4,232
Meadville	68	33	53	-3	1.40	6	22.02	-3.31	85	2,465	336	4,222
Mercer	74	31	54	-2	0.71	6	23.42	-0.70	92	2,444	140	4,212
Springboro	70	33	53	-5	1.89	6	28.18	5.59	88	2,244	-233	3,975
Warren	71	33	53	-2	1.53	4	24.50	-0.99	86	2,346	99	4,072
North Central												
Bradford Region	65	24	48	-3	1.09	6	22.04	-3.40	103	1,747	128	3,378
Emporium	69	34	52	0	1.09	6	20.18	-4.78	93	2,342	500	4,082
Kane	68	27	50	-1	1.13	5	22.70	-3.21	88	1,728	145	3,367
Laporte	64	35	50	-5	1.05	5	27.18	3.73	93	2,045	-252	3,742
Lock Haven	75	37	56	1	0.37	4	19.13	-3.94	79	2,701	257	4,496
Port Allegany	68	33	51	-2	1.35	5	18.19	-5.95	89	1,935	146	3,613
Renovo	78	36	56	2	0.44	4	19.18	-3.89	76	2,623	179	4,408
Ridgway	71	31	52	-1	0.57	5	20.88	-4.21	87	1,950	108	3,644
Stevenson Dam	76	36	55	3	0.35	6	18.02	-7.07	80	2,455	613	4,205
Towanda	69	33	54	-2	0.83	5	23.18	3.66	82	2,415	100	4,161
Wellsboro	66	30	50	-3	1.04	5	20.31	0.66	89	1,894	164	3,566
Williamsport	73	36	56	-2	0.36	4	24.05	1.33	80	2,945	250	4,763
Northeast												
Hawley	68	30	53	-1	1.44	4	24.13	2.00	75	2,219	238	3,929
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	34	56	-1	1.44	2	20.56	-0.93	75	2,747	192	4,517
Susquehanna	68	34	54	2	0.37	3	23.85	0.22	88	2,305	431	4,045
West Central												
Butler	74	33	55	-2	0.85	6	18.42	-5.42	97	2,401	-11	4,183
New Castle	77	37	58	3	0.61	5	20.77	-1.14	87	2,824	407	4,630
Slippery Rock	75	35	56	2	1.17	5	23.83	0.51	79	2,453	286	4,260
Central												
Altoona/Blair	72	40	54	-3	0.16	5	19.96	-0.86	88	2,622	59	4,402
DuBois	72	33	52	-3	0.29	4	21.48	-2.51	94	2,312	100	4,038
Lewistown	75	40	57	-2	0.62	3	24.39	2.04	76	2,834	18	4,624
Middletown	74	47	60	0	0.68	3	23.33	1.07	65	3,398	214	5,232
Prince Gallitzi	70	39	54	0	0.46	5	23.39	-3.44	81	2,174	111	3,916
Selinsgrove	70	35	56	-1	0.91	5	22.51	-0.77	74	2,743	115	4,532
State College	72	41	55	-1	0.60	3	21.81	0.77	73	2,777	253	4,570
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	71	40	57	-2	3.93	4	25.72	1.40	65	2,983	76	4,783
Lehighton	70	37	56	-3	3.02	3	23.40	-0.81	75	2,676	-123	4,459
Matamoras	71	37	57	1	1.22	5	23.31	-1.14	82	2,492	-31	4,235
Mt_Pocono	66	31	52	1	2.65	4	24.13	-1.98	85	2,099	389	3,793
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	40	57	0	0.24	4	19.34	-2.79	79	2,993	409	4,817
Derry	71	40	55	-2	0.51	5	26.27	3.21	92	2,552	114	4,347
Myersdale	71	43	54	-3	0.11	2	26.79	1.61	83	1,920	-488	3,636
Mount Pleasant	73	38	55	1	0.42	5	24.18	-2.08	82	2,522	341	4,331
Pittsburgh Intl	73	37	56	-2	0.19	4	20.74	-0.02	77	2,929	224	4,750
Connellsville	72	46	57	-1	0.63	5	27.43	3.00	89	2,890	133	4,713
Waynesburg	73	40	57	2	0.11	4	24.46	1.89	75	2,597	92	4,407
South Central												
Biglerville	73	42	58	-2	0.05	2	28.25	7.17	67	3,076	-36	4,889
Everett	74	42	56	-2	0.21	2	24.75	4.43	74	2,429	-131	4,201
Hanover	73	43	58	-2	0.14	3	28.00	6.92	72	3,036	-76	4,844
Harrisburg_AP	73	45	59	-2	0.78	3	20.20	-2.06	55	3,308	117	5,145
South Mountain	73	41	56	-1	0.08	2	32.56	11.74	83	2,422	-134	4,182
York	74	43	58	-3	0.80	2	30.36	7.93	73	3,064	-38	4,893
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	43	59	2	0.75	4	27.51	3.99	73	3,120	340	4,940
Hamburg	73	41	58	3	0.69	4	20.40	-6.77	71	3,130	603	4,950
West_Chester	78	40	59	0	0.68	3	23.36	-2.28	59	3,032	-65	4,839
Lancaster	74	43	59	0	0.42	2	23.67	-0.04	64	3,036	95	4,849
Neshaminy Falls	72	44	58	-1	0.67	3	23.23	-3.98	60	3,110	207	4,932
New Holland	74	47	59	2	0.32	2	24.50	0.79	64	3,200	259	5,020
Philadelphia	77	50	63	2	0.30	3	19.55	-3.49	57	3,763	372	5,618
Philadelphia NE	77	48	63	3	2.07	3	19.86	-3.18	62	3,876	485	5,734
Reading	76	44	59	2	0.75	2	20.02	-5.28	69	3,274	388	5,096
Valley Forge Na	73	44	59	-2	1.18	4	26.97	2.26	67	3,032	-244	4,860
Willow Grove	72	47	60	3	2.06	3	23.07	-4.14	67	3,346	443	5,180

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) - Adams County had a nice week of weather. The week started off cloudy, with temperatures in the 70's during the day. Towards the end of the week, temperatures were in the 60's. The weekend warmed back into the 70's. Morning temperatures at the beginning of the week were in the 50's, and by the end of week they were in the 40's. During Tuesday and Wednesday we received some showers, but no accumulation. There were foggy conditions on Wednesday morning. A frost advisory is out for our area Monday night (October 6th). Corn silage continues to be chopped. Corn harvested for grain is getting underway. Moisture levels are still a little high. A lot of corn is still green, but a frost can change that soon. The harvest had started for early planted soybeans. Barley seeding is about complete, but wheat continues to be seeded. Most fall grains are now emerging. Newly seeded hay is looking good. Apples continue to be harvested with some quality issues due to the wet spring and the hailstorms throughout the summer. Pumpkins are about all harvested with nice crops being reported. Overall the crops are looking fairly decent. Crop insurance adjusters were out surveying peaches, apples, soybeans and corn. Upper Adams area is gearing up for the 2nd weekend of the National Apple Harvest Festival in Arendtsville, (RT 234) this coming Saturday and Sunday.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Last week was a cool and wet week.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - After some rain last weekend, the apple harvest continued without interruption.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Soil moisture is good throughout the county because of the rains during the past 2 weeks. Corn harvest continues, with yields highly variable. More beans are turning yellow and dropping leaves, but the major portion of the soybean harvest is still a couple of weeks down the road. Some wheat has been planted. The geese have already found the newly planted wheat. Deer continue to ravage those bean fields that are still green.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Most days were good for field work. We had 1/2 inch of rainfall for the week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Corn silage harvest was in full swing until the rains showers arrived. On Saturday, harvest resumed without major issues. Pastures are starting to show some good fall growth.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Corn silage yields are above normal comparing to last year. Farmers will be soon shelling corn. The moisture level has dropped significantly in the past week. Soybeans will soon be ready for harvest. Many farmers are working on emptying manure storage systems.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Harvesting corn for silage is nearly finished, except for topping off the silo. Harvesting of dry grain and high moisture grain is now well under way. Yields are generally less than average, with a few pockets of exceptional yields. The soybean harvest is beginning, but it is still too early to estimate yields. The apple harvest is nearing the mid point. Some wheat and barley was planted following corn harvested for silage.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - The silage harvest is winding down. The corn for grain and soybean harvests picked up after the ground became fit later in the week. Other activities included installing conservation practices, planting cover crops and small grains, liming fields, and making hay. Pastures are looking good.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger - We received 4 1/2" of rain last week in Upper Northumberland County.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The rainfall over the past weekend ranged from three and one-half to over six inches. That amount of rain put a halt to many of the planned field activities. The early seeded barley and wheat have emerged and are looking good. The activities for the week were spreading manure, seeding, and preparing for the fall harvest season.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - It has been a damp, cool week with several days of light rain showers. The wet weather slowed corn and soybean harvest, but was just what the newly-planted wheat needed. Early reports have both corn and soybean yields lower than last season.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - The very dry conditions continue. Corn is drying down rapidly. We could use some more rain.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 5, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	51	56	49
Corn, dent	97	99	94
Corn, mature	78	81	75
Corn, harvested	28	28	30
Corn silage, harvested	88	93	86
Barley, planted	49	57	58
Barley, emerged	29	26	31
Wheat, planted	34	39	37
Wheat, emerged	15	18	15
Soybeans, harvested	10	17	11
Tobacco, harvested	95	98	98
Potatoes, harvested	81	82	86
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	87	70	64
Apples, harvested	57	75	67
Grapes, harvested	45	31	32

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 5, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	9	18	55	18
Soybeans	1	5	24	57	13
Quality of hay made	3	1	29	55	12
Pasture	29	14	29	25	3
Apples	0	2	25	50	23

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