



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending September 25, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

Released September 26, 2011, 4 pm

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 3 days suitable for field work. The keystone state was showered with varying levels of precipitation sporadically throughout the week. Reports from around the state ranged from less than half an inch to greater than 2 inches in some places. Primary field activities for the week were spreading fertilizer, filling silos, and chopping corn for silage as weather permitted. Fall plowing is 30% complete slightly behind the 35% this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 41%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 25, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	1	46	53

Crop Progress: Corn is 90% at the dent stage, about the same as this time last year, but ahead of the average of 88%. The corn crop is 36% mature, behind the 66% at this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 58%. Corn for Silage harvest is 53% complete, behind the previous year's 87% and the 5-year average of 74%. Barley planting is 16% complete far behind the 54% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 40%. Barley is 11% emerged slightly behind the 16% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 14%. Winter wheat planting has begun and is 7% complete compared to the 19% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 18%. The tobacco harvest is 83% complete, compared to the 96% last year and the average of 93%. The potato harvest is 32% complete, compared to 51% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 57%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 59% complete, behind the previous year's 86% and the 5-year average of 66%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 98% complete, behind last year's 97%, and about the same as the 5-year average of 96%. Apple harvesting is 53% complete, behind the 70% last year, and the average of 60%. The grape harvest is 15% complete, compared to the 28% at this time last year, and is ahead of the 5-year average of 17%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 12% poor, 38% fair, 37% good, and 8% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 21% fair, 55% good, and 21% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 4% very poor, 26% poor, 31% fair, 29% good and 10% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 18, 2011: Except in Texas, and the Northwest, temperatures during the week were below normal across the United States. Most notably, much of the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains experienced temperatures

more than 6°F below normal, with portions of Nebraska and North Dakota as much as 10°F below normal. A mid-week freeze left producers in the northern Corn Belt monitoring immature corn and soybeans for damage. Elsewhere, dry weather continued to promote summer crop maturation and harvesting across much of the South; however, many producers were waiting for improved soil moisture levels before seeding their winter wheat crop. Precipitation was scattered during the week, with much of the country receiving below-normal amounts of rainfall. Conversely, monsoon showers in the Southwest brought much-needed moisture to the Four Corners region and portions of Nevada. **Corn:** Nationally, 92 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the dent stage by September 18, five percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Despite cooler than-normal weather, double-digit progress was evident in estimating states where denting was complete or nearly complete. By week's end, 46 percent of the corn crop was mature, 21 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was underway across a good portion of the major corn-producing region of the U.S. by September 18. By week's end, producers had harvested 10 percent of this year's crop, 8 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Overall, 51 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 17 points below the same time last year. The first autumn frosts negatively impacted portions of the corn crop in the northern Corn Belt and Great Plains. **Soybeans:** By September 18, one-third of the nation's soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage, 23 percentage points behind last year and 14 points—or 5 days—behind the 5-year average. The most significant delays were evident in Iowa and Ohio, where progress was 24 percentage points or more behind normal. Overall, 53 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week and 10 points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** By week's end, 14 percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop was seeded, 5 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Some of the most significant delays were evident in Oklahoma and Texas, where unusually dry soils left many producers waiting for improved conditions before seeding their crop. **Small Grains:** Barley producers had harvested 94 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 9 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Favorable weather conditions allowed producers in Idaho and Montana ample time to harvest at least 11 percent of their crop during the week.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 25, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 25, 2011					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	77	53	63	2	1.10	3	27.21	5.24	82	2,864	447	4,490
Franklin_AG	79	47	63	4	1.47	5	31.46	7.27	99	2,781	537	4,415
Meadville-Port	77	50	62	5	1.40	4	28.11	3.99	98	2,814	757	4,445
Mercer	78	46	62	3	1.06	4	30.10	7.04	113	2,752	529	4,408
Springboro	78	45	61	0	1.61	3	30.72	9.32	98	2,453	71	4,053
Warren	78	44	63	5	1.24	2	28.11	3.83	90	2,577	404	4,199
North Central												
Bradford Region	71	41	61	7	1.19	4	29.70	5.42	102	2,192	616	3,750
Oswayo	76	35	60	5	0.66	5	27.45	4.48	91	2,169	431	3,747
Kane	73	39	60	6	1.70	5	33.68	8.99	88	2,087	544	3,652
Laporte	70	39	59	0	1.70	5	54.62	32.27	99	2,263	40	3,846
Lock Haven	78	45	64	5	1.19	4	31.43	9.42	83	2,974	613	4,639
Port Allegany	75	41	61	6	0.85	4	29.30	6.33	97	2,337	599	3,924
Renovo	77	45	64	4	1.13	5	30.08	8.07	94	2,921	560	4,581
Ridgway	75	39	60	4	0.92	5	27.74	3.70	95	2,342	556	3,950
Stevenson Dam	78	43	63	7	0.99	3	30.26	6.22	79	2,794	1,008	4,435
Towanda	77	44	63	5	0.63	3	41.09	22.49	80	2,621	382	4,254
Wellsboro	74	38	59	4	1.54	5	30.43	11.76	91	2,249	570	3,818
Williamsport	75	43	65	5	1.27	4	42.50	20.88	85	3,172	569	4,862
Northeast												
Hawley	77	37	61	4	1.76	5	44.32	23.20	83	2,357	436	3,975
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	76	45	65	5	2.18	3	36.85	16.34	86	2,903	434	4,573
Susquehanna	76	40	61	6	1.85	4	41.57	19.06	88	2,481	660	4,105
West Central												
Butler	79	44	62	2	1.24	4	28.01	5.14	93	2,809	481	4,482
New Castle	84	43	65	5	0.51	2	31.06	10.15	90	3,117	787	4,794
Slippery Rock	82	45	64	6	1.04	3	29.86	7.57	92	2,855	762	4,522
Central												
Altoona/Blair	77	52	64	4	0.40	3	28.79	8.91	79	3,110	636	4,795
DuBois	75	46	63	5	1.86	4	30.98	7.99	93	2,645	504	4,277
Lewistown	80	45	66	4	2.07	4	37.41	16.07	83	3,196	479	4,896
Middletown	80	49	67	4	2.68	2	49.03	27.81	76	3,517	451	5,250
Prince Gallitzi	74	40	61	3	0.36	5	29.54	3.90	84	2,637	644	4,260
Selinsgrove	77	45	64	3	1.90	5	41.94	19.76	89	2,972	432	4,652
State College	79	49	64	5	0.74	3	31.31	11.22	81	2,986	546	4,652
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	80	46	67	5	1.96	3	42.28	19.03	78	3,302	500	5,013
Lehighnton	77	44	63	2	1.66	5	38.83	15.75	85	2,835	134	4,525
Matamoras	79	42	63	3	1.83	5	48.35	25.00	88	2,538	97	4,190
Mt_Pocono	75	40	62	7	4.38	4	49.07	24.22	92	2,474	807	4,097
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	51	65	5	0.97	3	23.68	2.50	88	3,284	794	4,996
Indiana_PA	75	52	64	3	0.65	4	31.50	6.64	108	2,885	475	4,561
Myersdale	73	41	59	-3	0.33	4	28.80	4.72	89	2,250	-70	3,872
Chalk_Hill	76	41	58	-5	0.84	5	38.54	15.06	95	2,311	-344	3,942
Pittsburgh Intl	80	51	65	3	0.61	3	19.77	-0.16	80	3,254	647	4,962
Connellsville	81	55	65	4	0.89	6	31.23	7.75	105	3,128	473	4,832
Waynesburg	80	47	62	2	2.02	4	40.00	18.24	87	2,912	495	4,615
South Central												
Biglerville	79	50	66	3	1.62	3	34.58	14.57	69	3,357	361	5,075
Everett	78	49	63	2	0.28	3	35.55	16.23	80	2,796	328	4,482
Hanover	79	48	66	3	1.46	5	32.55	12.54	78	3,312	316	5,024
Harrisburg_AP	80	49	68	5	2.08	3	46.31	25.09	69	3,523	450	5,254
South Mountain	75	45	63	3	0.92	3	30.49	10.61	80	2,745	278	4,419
York	80	52	67	4	1.42	4	37.55	16.15	80	3,326	342	5,055
Southeast												
Green Lane	79	47	66	4	2.05	4	36.64	14.12	78	3,307	626	5,025
Hamburg	79	46	65	5	2.32	5	41.13	15.23	84	3,240	794	4,946
West_Chester	78	44	66	3	2.50	4	37.42	12.96	66	3,336	357	5,057
Lancaster	79	46	67	5	1.00	4	37.15	14.49	81	3,415	581	5,137
Neshaminy Falls	82	46	68	6	1.45	5	43.95	17.87	65	3,472	672	5,193
New Holland	79	45	66	4	2.30	4	37.62	14.96	79	3,373	539	5,086
Philadelphia	80	53	69	4	2.42	3	41.22	19.11	61	3,972	716	5,720
Philadelphia NE	81	49	68	2	1.80	3	40.50	18.39	68	3,705	449	5,446
Reading	82	47	68	6	1.52	2	34.61	10.40	81	3,597	813	5,333
Sellersville	77	46	64	3	1.48	3	38.97	16.45	72	3,096	415	4,794
Doylestown_AG	79	48	66	4	1.78	5	44.28	18.20	78	3,446	646	5,176

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.

Copyright 2004: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

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's field conditions are very wet. No field work could be done this week due to midweek 1.5" rainfall. Not much sun at all in the county this week. Friday a little before lunch the clouds broke loose with 5" of rain in Gettysburg, 3.5" in York Springs, 3" in Biglerville which caused flooding because it came in a short amount of time and 1.5" in Arendtsville/Bendersville area. The Bonneville area received rain which caused flooding also. Over the weekend the county was drying out and was into the 80's and humid. Gettysburg received a shower again Monday morning. At this point the producers are getting tired of the excessive moisture because they would like to get their crops harvested. Corn is starting to dry down but isn't the normal dry down as we've had more rain. No corn silage has been chopped this week and overall the county is very behind in corn silage harvest. Soybeans are starting to change colors but still a lot of late soybeans that are really green and still growing. No additional barley, wheat, rye have been seeded as field conditions not fit. No hay was made either as fields were too wet to get in and mow fields. Apples continue to be harvested. Stink bugs, rust and scab are affecting the quality of the apples. Rain is making field conditions interesting for getting bulk bins in and out of orchards to the loading areas to be loaded on the trucks. Overall the farmers are ready to harvest their crops if they could only get into the fields. Quality of crops that will be harvested will be affected from weather conditions. The Upper Adams area is preparing for The National Apple Harvest Festival held Oct 1-2, 8-9 at the South Mountain fairgrounds near Arendtsville to celebrate the apple harvest.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Excessive moisture this past week is slowing apple harvest.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Corn silage harvest is complete on some farms, but not yet started on others, depending on planting date and weather patterns. The first shelled corn was harvested last week, moisture ranged from 24% to 31% and yields were variable. There was quite a bit more lodged corn in field interiors than expected. Beans are rapidly turning yellow and losing their leaves. We need a couple of weeks of dry weather.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Fields are still too wet to do much field work. Potatoes are rotting in the fields.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Rains and wet conditions continue. The area received 1.25 inches for the week. Field work is slow due to wet conditions.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Farmers are taking off corn silage. It appears that some soybeans are ready for harvest. Most farmers are finishing up planting of winter wheat.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Pasture conditions have improved tremendously with the recent

rains and cool weather. Corn silage harvesting has been going steady with only a few weather delay days.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Showers again this week, but some of the soil is drying out enough to get some field work done. Area farmers are working on finishing up silage harvest. Most yields in the 10 to 14 ton per acre range, which is below average. High moisture grain harvest is now beginning. Apple harvest was delayed due to the rain. Fresh quality fruit is hard to find due to hail, scab and now cracking.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Had some more rain this past week. All of the corn is dented. The moisture is between 37%-40%. The leaves on the soybeans are turning yellow and falling off. Nothing much else to say. Have a save farming week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Christopher Burkhardt

Continued wet and cool weather has made it difficult to harvest dry corn or make dry hay. We're starting to see corn kernels sprouting on corn even in standing corn and tobacco is rotting in the barn from excessively moist conditions. The pumpkin crop has also been devastated by the excessive moisture and is rotting in the fields. Soybeans especially those planted after wheat seem to be one crop that so far has enjoyed the moisture and is doing fairly well.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler

During the couple dry days this week, farmers chopped corn for silage. At times it was between rain showers. The end of the week brought heavier rain to the still saturated fields. Pastures and fences damaged from the flood are being evaluated. Decisions must be made regarding crops that were under floodwater.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleeger

Soil is so saturated, afraid to take the tractors on the fields. Received rain almost every day this week.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

A small amount of 4th cutting alfalfa and corn silage were harvested on Monday. Some crop producers attempted to harvest crops in fields, but pulled out after realizing that soil conditions were too wet to support equipment. The balance of the week saw daily rain that prevented field work. Friday and the weekend brought heavy rain which will prevent field work for most of the next week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Very little field activities for the week. The few activities undertaken were silo filling, spreading fertilizer and manure. The rain for the week has put us over 14 inches for the month so far.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 25, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dent	90	90	88
Corn, mature	36	66	58
Corn silage, harvested	53	87	74
Barley, planted	16	54	40
Barley, emerged	11	16	14
Wheat, planted	7	19	18
Tobacco, harvested	83	96	93
Potatoes, harvested	32	51	57
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	59	86	66
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	98	97	96
Apples, harvested	53	70	60
Grapes, harvested	15	28	17

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 25, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	12	38	37	8
Soybeans	1	2	21	55	21
Pasture	4	26	31	29	10

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United States
 Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
 Harrisburg PA 17112

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 USDA
 PERMIT NO. G-38