



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 9, 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. There were sunny and dry days throughout most of the week. However, there were many areas where the ground continued to be too soggy for field work. Also, a light frost happened in some parts of the state. Primary field activities for the week were harvesting of corn, fruit, and soybeans. Fall plowing is 38% complete, behind the 50% this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 55%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 09, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	72	28

Crop Progress: Corn is 95% at the dent stage, behind the 98% last year, and the average of 96%. The corn crop is 68% mature, behind the 90% at this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 80%. The year's corn crop is 15% harvested, well behind the 40% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 30%. Corn for Silage harvest is 74% complete, behind the previous year's 94% and the 5-year average of 90%. Barley planting is 43% complete, far behind the 72% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 66%. Barley is 23% emerged, behind the 53% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 41%. Winter wheat planting is 24% complete, compared to the 46% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 49%. Winter wheat is 8% emerged, compared to the 25% at this time last year and the average of 25%. The soybean harvest is 6% complete, compared to the 26% last year and the average of 20%. The potato harvest is 62% complete, compared to 87% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 87%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 76% complete, behind the previous year's 88% and the 5-year average of 80%. Apple harvesting is 83% complete, behind the 86% last year, but ahead of the average of 78%. The grape harvest is 70% complete, the same at this time last year, and continues to be ahead of the average of 48%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, 39% good, and 10% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 25% fair, 55% good, and 16% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 8% very poor, 10% poor, 20% fair, 51% good and 11% excellent.

Nationwide as of October 02, 2011: Cooler-than-normal weather blanketed much of the Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and portions of the Delta and Southeast, while record-setting warmth and dry conditions continued to promote autumn fieldwork throughout much of the West. Most notably, weekly temperatures in parts of the northern Rocky Mountains were more than 12°F above normal. Conversely, lingering showers limited fieldwork in the lower Great Lakes region. Elsewhere, more than 4 inches of rain fell in portions of the Northeast during the week. Corn: By October 2, seventy-nine percent of the corn was at or beyond the mature stage. This was 13 percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. The most significant delays were evident in Michigan and the Ohio Valley, where overall progress was 24 percentage points or more behind normal. Nationally, producers had harvested 21 percent of this year's crop, 16 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. In eastern portions of the major producing region, harvest was limited by cool weather and lingering rainfall. Overall, 52 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 14 percentage points below the same time last year. Soybeans: Nationwide, 76 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf-dropping stage by week's end, 11 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. While leaf drop was rapid in many states during the week, overall progress remained at or behind normal in 14 of the 18 estimating states. By October 2, 19 percent of this year's crop was harvested, 15 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Steady rainfall in portions of the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley slowed harvest during the week. Overall, 54 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but 10 percentage points below the same time last year. Winter Wheat: Producers had seeded 42 percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop by October 2, ten percentage points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. Although a significant delay was evident in Texas, progress was made during the week as producers on the Northern High Plains seeded wheat behind the harvest of silage crops and producers on the Northern Low Plains seeded wheat ahead of expected moisture. Nationwide, 16 percent of the winter wheat crop was emerged by week's end, 5 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 9, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 9, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	76	46	58	2	0.66	2	30.03	6.25	89	3,009	468	4,772
Franklin_AG	79	40	55	2	0.69	3	33.30	7.59	108	2,907	567	4,670
Meadville-Port	76	42	57	5	0.55	2	30.08	4.30	105	2,939	795	4,700
Mercer	78	39	55	2	0.50	2	31.98	7.47	120	2,866	547	4,651
Springboro	77	40	55	-1	0.77	2	34.37	11.36	106	2,569	73	4,299
Warren	79	37	54	0	0.70	3	29.32	3.39	98	2,694	432	4,444
North Central												
Bradford Region	77	29	50	1	0.41	3	31.51	5.66	111	2,272	644	3,948
Oswayo	78	29	51	0	0.60	3	31.26	6.70	100	2,250	452	3,949
Kane	78	33	52	4	0.70	2	36.71	10.35	96	2,175	585	3,860
Laporte	71	34	49	-5	1.06	3	59.06	35.21	106	2,345	33	4,044
Lock Haven	76	38	53	-3	0.49	2	34.77	11.30	90	3,097	637	4,891
Port Allegany	78	35	52	2	1.05	3	31.31	6.75	104	2,405	607	4,114
Renovo	76	39	53	-2	0.49	3	35.02	11.55	103	3,049	589	4,839
Ridgway	79	32	51	-1	0.52	3	30.74	5.24	104	2,428	576	4,158
Stevenson Dam	76	38	53	3	0.48	3	34.76	9.26	87	2,910	1,058	4,681
Towanda	77	35	52	-2	0.21	3	43.97	24.12	87	2,732	402	4,499
Wellsboro	76	30	50	-2	0.53	2	34.51	14.52	99	2,330	590	4,015
Williamsport	75	38	55	-1	0.56	2	47.08	23.96	93	3,319	606	5,146
Northeast												
Hawley	78	33	51	-1	0.16	2	48.15	25.65	90	2,462	469	4,217
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	75	36	53	-3	0.08	1	40.41	18.56	91	3,026	454	4,834
Susquehanna	77	34	52	2	0.16	3	45.43	21.36	95	2,586	702	4,347
West Central												
Butler	79	40	56	2	0.69	3	30.08	5.86	101	2,928	499	4,731
New Castle	86	42	58	4	0.51	3	32.79	10.51	98	3,259	825	5,067
Slippery Rock	84	41	57	4	0.60	3	33.11	9.39	101	2,985	803	4,784
Central												
Altoona/Blair	76	40	54	-2	0.22	3	32.75	11.55	85	3,237	656	5,048
DuBois	77	37	53	0	0.33	2	32.86	8.49	101	2,749	523	4,504
Lewistown	79	39	54	-3	0.26	2	40.94	18.21	90	3,338	501	5,167
Middletown	73	43	55	-4	0.07	2	51.60	28.96	83	3,672	463	5,540
Prince Gallitzi	77	34	52	-2	0.39	2	33.24	5.94	92	2,731	654	4,477
Selinsgrove	72	37	53	-3	0.24	2	48.04	24.36	95	3,099	454	4,910
State College	73	36	52	-4	0.25	2	34.43	13.02	88	3,103	563	4,890
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	78	37	55	-2	0.23	1	46.13	21.43	83	3,461	533	5,312
Lehighton	76	38	53	-4	0.26	2	40.32	15.71	92	2,968	148	4,796
Matamoras	78	35	54	-2	0.42	3	52.63	27.76	96	2,662	122	4,454
Mt_Pocono	78	33	51	1	0.32	3	51.88	25.30	99	2,588	869	4,338
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	41	58	3	0.56	3	25.36	2.86	96	3,424	820	5,265
Indiana_PA	79	39	55	-2	0.90	2	34.50	8.09	116	3,012	492	4,811
Myersdale	74	35	50	-5	0.52	3	29.99	4.38	97	2,338	-87	4,071
Chalk_Hill	76	36	51	-6	1.18	3	42.02	17.20	104	2,398	-381	4,140
Pittsburgh Intl	79	41	57	2	0.74	3	22.14	1.03	88	3,386	660	5,224
Connellsville	77	42	56	-1	1.03	4	33.76	8.94	115	3,265	486	5,094
Waynesburg	79	41	55	1	0.65	2	42.04	19.11	94	3,034	512	4,863
South Central												
Biglerville	74	42	55	-4	0.03	1	37.90	16.41	75	3,506	369	5,358
Everett	76	39	53	-3	0.33	2	34.79	14.07	86	2,919	341	4,731
Hanover	74	38	53	-6	0.06	2	34.82	13.33	86	3,450	313	5,291
Harrisburg_AP	75	40	55	-4	0.08	2	49.75	27.11	76	3,681	464	5,547
South Mountain	72	36	50	-6	0.18	1	34.53	13.33	86	2,854	280	4,643
York	75	37	53	-7	0.07	2	39.81	16.97	87	3,467	339	5,327
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	41	55	-2	0.12	2	39.50	15.60	84	3,466	666	5,324
Hamburg	77	41	54	-1	0.17	2	42.84	15.20	90	3,386	843	5,228
West_Chester	77	38	53	-5	0.15	1	40.44	14.38	72	3,492	370	5,348
Lancaster	75	42	54	-4	0.05	2	37.90	13.78	87	3,569	605	5,426
Neshaminy Falls	83	40	58	1	0.07	2	46.20	18.56	73	3,646	721	5,507
New Holland	78	41	55	-4	0.07	2	38.77	14.65	83	3,534	570	5,382
Philadelphia	76	47	58	-2	0.01	1	42.62	19.21	67	4,180	759	6,068
Philadelphia NE	77	45	57	-3	0.03	2	43.02	19.61	75	3,895	474	5,776
Reading	77	41	55	-2	0.12	2	36.76	11.04	86	3,766	860	5,641
Sellersville	75	36	54	-3	0.21	2	40.65	16.75	79	3,241	441	5,078
Doylestown_AG	76	42	56	-2	0.07	2	46.38	18.74	85	3,620	695	5,490

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

Tuesday through Sunday was great for drying the county out for producers to get on fields again. Corn silage was being harvested starting Tuesday last week, not with the best field conditions but producers needed to get going on harvesting since it had already been delayed. Some dry corn was also being combined throughout the county. Some soybeans also harvested. Field conditions are still not ideal but more rain coming Wednesday so producers are pushing to get done what they can before more rain in the county comes. Producers will have ruts in the fields to fix before next year due to wet conditions. Some haylage was mowed and will be baled before the rains come. Hopefully some additional wheat will get planted since not much has been planted. Apples continue to be harvested, but quality issues due to rains in September, stink bugs, rust, and scab are affecting the apple crop this year causing apples to go for processing instead of fresh. Producers are still having some problems getting apple bins from orchard to their truck loading areas and will have some ruts to fix. Pumpkins aren't that good this year due to the September rains and rotting quicker. Other vegetables are about done being harvested. The county had a lot of visitors this past weekend to the National Apple Harvest Festival with about 28,000 on Saturday and about 25,000 on Sunday. The folks enjoyed all kinds of apple products on site and also carried a lot home to enjoy at a later time. Producers are hoping the rains hold off some this week so they can get additional field work and harvesting done.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Excellent weekend for field work. A good deal of hay was made. Combines were harvesting corn on most farms and silage was still being chopped. Corn yields are highly variable as is the grain quality. Some fields have a high percentage of moldy ears and/or grain sprouting in the ear. Not much wheat planted yet.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

The county was harvesting corn, soybeans, and potatoes this past week. Finally got some sunshine this week - three continuous days worth.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Great week for field work. Catch up week following rainy September.

CENTRE COUNTY, Tim Craul

Corn silage harvesting has been delayed due to wet weather. The condition of the corn has remained highly variable due to the extent and severity of drought conditions this past summer. Early planted corn had sufficient root depth to weather most of the drought conditions, and has bounced back when the rains started again. On average most corn in the central portion of the Ridge and Valley have had weak pollination, stunted growth, and smaller ears due to drought with increasing occurrences of mold. Soybeans have also bounced back from the rain, but pods have set low on the plant and overall plant height is smaller. The yields for soybeans will most likely be lower than average this year.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Many acres of 3rd and 4th cutting hay harvested. Many acres of corn silage harvested. Fall green manure crops being planted.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

It has been a beautiful end of the week and weekend to be in the field after the previous week of rain. Farmers are out on their combines, choppers and balers harvesting crops during this good weather. Pasture conditions are still in fair to good condition for this time of year.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

Combines out in full force late in the week after soils dried off. Yields of corn grain are 1/3rd to 50% reduced. Some fields saw even greater losses. Wide variability across fields in yields. Barley planting delayed. Soybeans ready for harvest, manure needs hauled, last cutting of alfalfa is ready. A busy time when weather and soils allow field work.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Good week for field work. Started high moisture corn harvest and soybean harvest, and finished up silage. Barley and wheat were planted and a lot of manure was hauled. Apple harvest is going strong with some of the smaller operations finishing up. Most will be done in two weeks. Size has improved due to late rains and color is beginning to improve with the cooler nights and sunny days.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

Sunshine and dry weather prevailed last week allowing farmers to start various activities. Some corn was shelled, some chopped for silage. Hay was cut for baling. Cover crops were planted. Manure was hauled. There are reports of sinkholes in the fields in the southern end of the county. A lot of fields are still soggy from the rainy weather.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Farmers mowed hay Wednesday and Thursday around the clock. Many fields were too wet and ruts are present and will be present for years to come. Apple and grape harvesting is being completed at a fast pace now with the break in the weather. Apple scab is still the big problem with the apple crop and many varieties are not being picked. Some growers are still harvesting sweet corn because of the frost free days, and it sure does taste good in the middle of October.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Finally, a week where a number of field activities were undertaken. Chopping silage, making hay, and seeding fall grains were some of the many field activities. The alfalfa in the poorly drained areas is yellow. The corn and soybeans are near ready to be harvested and the crop looks promising in many fields. Light frost was common in some areas during mid week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 9, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	38	50	55
Corn, dent	95	98	96
Corn, mature	68	90	80
Corn, harvested	15	40	30
Corn silage, harvested	74	94	90
Barley, planted	43	72	66
Barley, emerged	23	53	41
Wheat, planted	24	46	49
Wheat, emerged	8	25	25
Soybeans, harvested	6	26	20
Potatoes, harvested	62	87	87
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	76	88	80
Apples, harvested	83	86	78
Grapes, harvested	70	70	48

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 9, 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	34	39	10
Soybeans	1	3	25	55	16
Pasture	8	10	20	51	11

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