

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

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 · <u>www.nass.usda.gov</u>

Week Ending October 23, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

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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. Cooler temperatures and spotty precipitation were the themes for this week's weather episode. Many PA farmers took advantage of the breaks in weather to try and finish their fall harvesting, as it has become apparent the rain will only stay away for so long. Primary field activities for the week were harvesting of corn, fruit, and soybeans. Fall plowing is 44% complete, behind the 57% this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 65%.

	PA	Topsoil Moisture	for	Week Ending	Oct 23, 2011
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Very Short	Short	Adequate Surplu		
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
0	0	48	52	

Crop Progress: The corn crop is 92% mature, behind the 97% at this time last year, and slightly behind the 5-year average of 93%. The year's corn crop is 31% harvested, well behind the 62% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 49%. Corn for Silage harvest is 95% complete, behind the previous year's 99% and the 5-year average of 97%. Barley planting is 79% complete, behind the 96% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 91%. Barley is 52% emerged, behind the 76% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 68%. Winter wheat planting is 53% complete, compared to the 79% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 75%. Winter wheat is 32% emerged, compared to the 56% at this time last year and the average of 49%. The soybean harvest is 22% complete, compared to the 61% last year and the average of 47%. The potato harvest is 91% complete, compared to 98% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 97%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 83% compete, behind the previous year's 94% and the 5-year average of 92%. Apple harvesting is 93% complete, behind the 95% last year, but ahead of the average of 91%.

<u>Crop Condition:</u> State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 13% poor, 29% fair, 42% good, and 11% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 3% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 51% good, and 20% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 6% very poor, 10% poor, 24% fair, 36% good and 24% excellent.

Nationwide as of October 16, 2011: Temperatures were near normal in many areas during the week, but readings averaged more than 10°F above normal in portions of the Great Lakes region and the Northeast. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather favored summer crop harvesting and small grain seeding throughout the Plains. Conversely, rainfall in the Ohio Valley limited not only corn and soybean harvesting, but winter wheat seeding as well.

Corn: By October 16, ninety-four percent of the corn was at or beyond the mature stage, 6 percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Crop maturity advanced quickly in areas where progress was not already complete or nearly complete. By week's end, 47 percent of the corn crop was harvested, 19 percentage points behind last year but 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. Despite lingering rainfall in portions of the Midwest, fieldwork continued at a rapid pace in many of the major producing states. Conversely, delays of 17 percentage points or more were evident in Ohio and Pennsylvania, where adverse weather conditions limited fieldwork. Overall, 53 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week. Soybeans: By week's end, 95 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage. This was 3 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Producers had harvested 69 percent of this year's soybean crop by October 16, twelve percentage points behind last year but 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest was 15 percentage points or more ahead of normal in three of the four largest soybean-producing states. Winter Wheat: Aided by improved weather conditions throughout much of the Great Plains, winter wheat seeding advanced quickly during the week. By week's end, 73 percent of the 2012 crop was in the ground, 7 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 44 percent complete by October 16, six percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Recent rainfall coupled with late-season warmth promoted increased crop emergence in Oklahoma and Texas; however, significant delays persisted in both states.

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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 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 with cool temperatures and a few showers; however, some producers were able to work in the fields during the early part of the week through Wednesday afternoon. The evening had heavy rains amounting to at least 1-1.5 inches for the county. Corn silage continues to be harvested and also dry corn, as well as soybeans. Not enough good days to harvest any hay. Apple harvest continues with some smaller growers finishing but others are awaiting for additional pickers and will have another 2-3 weeks of harvest. Overall, the producers are trying to harvest what they can and when the field conditions permit. They are frustrated with not being able to get to the fields due to the weather conditions.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Wet conditions continue - 1.5 inches of rain fall. Dry days needed to complete fall harvest.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Harvesting of corn for grain and some soybean.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

Bean and corn harvest progressing slowly, limited by weather conditions and availability of custom harvesters who have completed their own harvest. Yields are variable but definitely not bin busters. Corn and beans going down in many areas. Final harvest of alfalfa and grasses taking place when weather permits. Summer seeded oats for forages look good. Need good weather to allow harvests. A busy time between rains for field work.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Light frost but not a killing frost, so could make some hay yet if weather would cooperate. Some corn and beans harvested. Apple harvest is winding down with most of the small operations done and many expected to finish this week. Yields in general were less than normal and fresh quality fruit was difficult to come by. Western and northern Franklin County was especially hard hit due to hail and other quality problems.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

I did about 12 acres of soybeans last week. The rest of them are not quite ready and the fields are still a little bit too muddy and wet. Got over .40" of rain last week too. Had a good frost on the 22^{nd} - was down to 25 degrees. That should get the corn to dry down more and the rest of the soybeans to mature and dry down too. Hope to do more beans this week. Hope everyone has a safe farming week.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

There was an on and off drizzle last week which limited field work and harvest. Some soybeans and corn were combined and cover crop seeded. The ground is still very wet in areas. Some locations have fields that are "ponded".

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Most pumpkin growers have removed all pumpkins from the fields to avoid volunteer plants in 2012. Several local growers had considerable hail damage from the August 19th hail storm - the green pumpkins at that time had many sizeable pit marks from the hail storm. Those damaged pumpkins are being fed to cattle by dumping them in the pastures. We saw very little soybean harvesting done this week as it rained most of the week. Many fields of 3rd and 4th cutting hay have not been harvested also because of the rain, and with short daylight hours the cuttings are probably lost for 2011.

SNYDER COUNTY, William c. Sheaffer

Rainfall in the range of .5 to 2.0 inches, slowed the field activities for the week. Soybean harvest is beginning and there is concern of the quality, discolored and moldy beans; however, the yields are respectful. The winter grain has emerged and is looking good. The field activities for the week were silo filling, harvesting and sowing grain.

Department of Agriculture **Setes** States

St171 A9 prudeimsH 4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 Pennsylvania Field Office National Agricultural Statistics Service

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FA Crop Progress for week Ending October 25, 2011								
Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average					
	Percent	Percent	Percent					
Fall plowing	44	57	65					
Corn, mature	92	97	93					
Corn, harvested	31	62	49					
Corn silage, harvested	95	99	97					
Barley, planted	79	96	91					
Barley, emerged	52	76	68					
Wheat, planted	53	79	75					
Wheat, emerged	32	56	49					
Soybeans, harvested	22	61	47					
Potatoes, harvested	91	98	97					
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	83	94	92					
Apples, harvested	93	95	91					

PA Crop Condition for	Week Ending October 23, 2011
I'll Crop Condition for	Week Ending October 20, 2011

The top condition for week Ending betaber 25, 2011							
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent		
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent		
Corn	5	13	29	42	11		
Soybeans	3	4	22	51	20		
Pasture	6	10	24	36	24		

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PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 23, 2011opCurrent WeekLast Year