

2011 Crop & Weather Summary: The average monthly temperature for the Harrisburg area for January was 26.3 degrees, which was 3.6 degrees below normal. There were 1.78 inches of precipitation in January. February temperatures were slightly warmer than usual, as the monthly average was 33.6 degrees. There was an average of 3.22 inches of precipitation. March had highly variable temperatures. The average monthly temperature was 40.8 degrees, which is 0.9 degrees less than normal. Average rainfall for the month was at 5.99 inches, which was mostly rainfall.

In April, the average temperature for the month was 54.5 degrees, which was 2.2 degrees above normal. The reported precipitation average for Harrisburg was 9.46 inches. Due to all of this rain, corn planting had not yet begun, and producers were only able to get 14 percent of the plowing finished by April's end. Temperatures during the month of May averaged 65.0 degrees, with an average of 5.34 inches of rainfall. This is 2.9 degrees above normal. Roughly 61 percent of corn acreage and 28 percent of the soybean acreage had been planted by the end of May. Producers were well into the first cutting of alfalfa hay and started timothy clover. June temperatures averaged was 72.8, which is 1.3 degrees above normal. An average of 5.17 inches of rain fell in the Harrisburg area during June. Transplanting tobacco was completed during June. Most producers finished planting their corn acreage during the month, while others were almost done with the harvest for barley. Some farmers were completing the first cutting of alfalfa; others already had a good start on the second cutting.

The temperature in July averaged 79.9 degrees, which is 4.0 degrees above the average. There was 3.78 inches of precipitation. Crop conditions continued to decline during the month of July due to the extremely hot temperatures. The barley harvest was completed, and nearly all of the wheat acreage was harvested during the month. The average corn stalk height was at 70 inches tall. The average August temperature was 74.1 degrees, which was 0.1 degrees above normal. The average precipitation for August was 8.65 inches. Tobacco harvest was advancing slower than the previous year and the 5 year average. Potatoes were behind the previous year and 5 year average. Peach and apple harvests continued steadily, but were also behind. Most producers were well on their way to completing their third cutting of alfalfa and second cutting of timothy clover. September was cooler than August, with an average temperature of 67.6 degrees, which is 1.7 above normal. September, however, had significantly more rain than August. The precipitation total for the month was 18.43 inches. Corn harvesting for silage and planting wheat were the main activities for the month. Operators were behind in these tasks as compared to historic trends. The tobacco and potato harvests remained behind at the end of the month, while the grape harvest was just beginning. October average temperatures were 53.9 degrees, which is 0.5 degrees less than normal. The precipitation total for the month was 4.15 inches.

Producers continued harvesting corn for grain, with 39 percent of the state's acreage harvested by month's end. The potato harvest was 92% complete by the end of the month, and the soybean harvest was 33 percent complete. November had an average temperature of 47.5 degrees, which was 3.4 degrees above normal. The precipitation total for the month was 4.50 inches. Producers continued to harvest corn and soybeans. Farmers also were preparing equipment for the next growing season and completing fall plowing. December had an average temperature of 39.0 degrees, which was 5.1 degrees above normal. The precipitation total for the month was 3.26 inches.

Small Grains: Production of winter wheat was 8,670,000 bushels, 2.0 percent less than 2010. There were 170,000 acres harvested in 2011, 20,000 acres more than in 2010. Yield was 51 bushels per acre in 2011, down 8 bushels per acre from 2010. There were 2,760,000 bushels of oats produced in 2011 down 41.5 percent from 2010. Harvested acreage was at 60,000 in 2011, down 20,000 acres from 2010. Yield was 46 bushels per acre in 2011, a decrease of 13 bushels per acre from 2010. Barley production for 2011 was 3,575,000 bushels, 5.9 percent more than 2010. Harvested acreage was at 55,000, up 10,000 acres from 2010. Average yield was 65 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels per acre from 2010.

Hay: Production of all dry hay in 2011 was 3,499,000 tons, up 99,000 tons from 2010. Total acres harvested were 1,450,000 in 2011, down 50,000 acres from 2010. Yield was 2.41 tons per acre, up 6.2 percent from 2010. Alfalfa hay production was 1,107,000 tons, down 14.8 percent from 2010's production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 410,000, down 90,000 acres from 2010. Yield was 2.70 tons per acre, up 3.8 percent from 2010. Other hay production was 2,392,000 tons, up 13.9 percent from 2010. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,040,000, up 40,000 acres from 2010. Yield was at 2.30 tons per acre, up 9.5 percent from the previous year.

Row Crops: Corn for grain production was 106,560,000 bushels, down 8.5 percent from 2010. Harvested acres amounted to 960,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from 2010. Yield was 111 bushels per acre, down 17 bushels from 2010. Corn for silage production was 6,510,000 tons, down 9.6 percent from 2010. Acres harvested totaled 420,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2010. Yield was 15.5 tons per acre, down 2.5 ton per acre from 2010. Soybean production for 2011 was 21,560,000 bushels, up 3.7 percent from 2010. Harvested soybean acreage was at 490,000, down 5,000 acres from 2010. Yield was 44 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from 2010. Potato production was at 2,028,000 cwt., down 8.0 percent from 2010. Acres harvested were down at 7,800 acres. Yield increased to 260 cwt per acre, up 15 cwt from 2010. Total production of tobacco was 20,655,000 pounds, up 3.5 percent from 2010. There were 9,700 acres harvested in 2011, up 1,200 acres from 2010. The all tobacco yield was 2,129 pounds per acre, down 220 pounds from 2010.