



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending September 30, 2007

Issued weekly, April-November

Released October 1, 2007, 4 pm

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

Excellent week for Field Work: Hot and dry weather prevailed last week, as the soil and pasture conditions continue to suffer. Temperatures ranged from a high of 92 to 36 degrees. Forty-nine percent of fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included fall plowing, filling silos, mowing pastures, sowing wheat, repairing equipment, spreading lime and fertilizer, making hay, chopping corn for silage, and planting wheat and barley, harvesting corn, soybeans, potatoes, tobacco, grapes, and apples.

areas than in recent years. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 28%, poor 24%, fair 26%, good 21%, and excellent 1%.

U.S. as of September 23, 2007: Light precipitation and cool temperatures were evident in the west during the week, with a few isolated heavy showers. From the Rocky Mountains eastward to the Appalachian Mountains, temperatures averaged above normal with the largest deviation from normal, 6 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit, experienced from the central Corn Belt to the southern Great Plains. Significant rainfall was limited to the central Great Plains and the northwestern Corn Belt with isolated areas of the Dakotas and Minnesota experiencing soggy soil conditions. Along the eastern Gulf Coast and southern Atlantic Coast, mild temperatures and moderate to heavy showers delayed harvest activities in southern Alabama, Florida, and southern Georgia.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 30, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
30	46	24	0

Crops: Ninety-eight percent of the corn has now entered the dent stage. This is 5 percentage points higher than this time last year and 8 points higher than the 5-year average. Seventy-seven percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This is 9 percentage points higher than the previous week. It's also 1 point and 10 points higher than this time last year and the 5-year average respectively. Corn harvest is now 23 percent complete. Corn conditions show that 59 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Eighty-seven percent of the corn for silage has been harvested. This is 4 points higher than this time last year and 9 points higher than the 5-year average. Sixty-one percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Harvesting for soybeans is still ahead of schedule, as 8 percent of the crop is now harvested. This is 3 points higher than this time last year and 2 points higher than the 5-year average. Thirty-one percent of the wheat crop has been planted. This is higher than this time last year and the five year average. Ten percent of the planted wheat has now emerged. This 3 points and 1 point higher than the previous year and 5-year average respectively. Fifty-two percent of the barley crop has been planted, just slightly above the 5-year average. Sixty-one percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 16 percentage points behind the 5-year average, and 9 points behind this time last year. Ninety-five percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 2 percentage points higher than the previous year and 1 point lower than the 5-year average. Eighty-five percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 54 percent of the fourth cuttings of alfalfa have been completed. Ninety-two percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Corn: Eighty percent of acreage had matured nationwide, 8 percent ahead of last year's pace and 15 percent ahead of normal. Producers have reaped 22 percent of their crop, ahead of last year and the normal pace by 10 and 8 points, respectively. The crop rapidly advanced in Michigan, Nebraska, and South Dakota, where one-fourth or more of the crop matured during the week. All States' acreage had matured ahead of the normal pace, with progress in the central and northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains ranging from 12 to 33 points ahead of average. Harvest activity was ahead of normal in all States except Kansas, where progress lagged slightly behind normal. In Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina, harvest progress was at least 19 points or more ahead of normal.

Soybeans: Nationwide, 76 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage, 8 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. In the Corn Belt, warm and mostly dry conditions allowed rapid development as nearly 20 percent or more of the acreage began dropping leaves during the week. Progress was well ahead of normal in Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee but lagged behind normal in Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Twelve percent of soybeans had been harvested, ahead of last year and normal by 3 points and 1 point, respectively, with harvest underway in all States within 12 points of the normal pace across the country.

Winter Wheat: Planting, at 27 percent complete, was behind last year by 5 points, and behind the normal pace by 8 points. Planting gained momentum nationwide with about one-fourth of the acreage sown during the week in Colorado, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, and South Dakota. However, progress continued to lag in the central and southern Great Plains where producers were 9 to 23 points behind normal. Emergence of the crop was also delayed by, 2 and 5 points from last year and normal, respectively.

Seventy percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 1 point higher than this time last year and 12 points higher than the 5-year average. The grape harvest is definitely underway as 15 percent of the crop has been harvested. The weather conditions have been wonderful for a great grape harvest!

Livestock: Twenty-two percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Farmers have reported the best pastures in certain

Weather Data For Week Ending September 30, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 30, 2007						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	88	49	67	7	0.40	3	18.57	-4.08	57	2,826	357	4,486	
Franklin	90	43	64	6	0.72	3	19.22	-5.56	69	2,622	337	4,304	
Meadville	86	46	64	7	0.75	4	17.54	-7.18	72	2,659	565	4,328	
Mercer	91	44	65	8	1.33	4	21.94	-1.69	67	2,588	323	4,262	
Springboro	86	40	62	4	1.56	4	21.33	-0.67	83	2,298	-132	3,941	
Warren	89	44	63	7	1.90	4	24.76	-0.15	70	2,399	188	4,054	
North Central													
Bradford Region	83	36	59	7	1.04	4	21.68	-3.20	78	1,860	262	3,444	
Emporium	86	44	63	9	0.46	3	25.12	0.53	68	2,444	629	4,116	
Kane	86	36	59	7	1.09	3	25.14	-0.19	70	1,878	314	3,473	
Laporte	82	45	62	6	1.18	3	19.76	-3.16	73	2,209	-52	3,831	
Lock Haven	89	44	66	8	0.61	3	15.46	-7.10	55	2,898	494	4,582	
Port Allegany	87	40	61	7	1.10	3	20.30	-3.27	66	2,064	300	3,677	
Renovo	92	44	65	8	0.40	3	20.93	-1.63	60	2,764	360	4,447	
Ridgway	87	39	61	7	1.18	3	20.74	-3.85	73	2,131	316	3,769	
Stevenson Dam	91	44	65	11	0.37	3	17.62	-6.97	61	2,597	782	4,266	
Towanda	89	40	64	8	0.57	3	15.88	-3.20	67	2,439	162	4,074	
Wellsboro	84	40	61	7	0.45	3	22.95	3.78	74	2,039	334	3,646	
Williamsport	90	43	67	9	0.49	2	16.57	-5.60	58	3,098	448	4,806	
Northeast													
Hawley	83	41	62	7	0.71	4	21.40	-0.24	63	2,272	320	3,918	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	46	67	9	0.29	2	19.32	-1.70	56	2,828	315	4,514	
Susquehanna	86	44	64	11	0.48	2	23.45	0.37	67	2,389	541	4,035	
West Central													
Butler	89	42	64	6	1.19	2	19.92	-3.46	64	2,607	236	4,287	
New Castle	92	44	66	8	0.85	1	19.13	-2.31	59	2,887	512	4,578	
Slippery Rock	91	43	65	9	1.39	2	22.31	-0.52	64	2,762	631	4,448	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	86	41	64	6	0.42	2	19.52	-0.86	67	2,730	211	4,409	
DuBois	87	41	64	8	0.36	4	19.31	-4.21	77	2,504	326	4,169	
Lewistown	90	45	67	7	0.70	2	21.04	-0.80	60	2,950	182	4,644	
Middletown	89	50	71	9	2.90	2	22.61	0.85	52	3,525	399	5,244	
Prince Gallitzi	87	38	61	5	0.94	3	21.51	-4.77	60	2,302	273	3,952	
Selinsgrove	94	46	67	9	0.45	2	15.31	-7.44	53	2,924	339	4,609	
State College	88	46	65	8	0.42	3	17.56	-3.03	61	2,919	436	4,607	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	90	43	69	9	0.04	1	21.62	-2.20	64	3,120	265	4,820	
Lehighton	89	46	68	8	0.58	3	26.10	2.43	70	2,732	-18	4,420	
Matamoras	88	45	65	7	0.20	3	23.39	-0.55	63	2,502	19	4,174	
Mt_Pocono	85	41	65	12	1.33	4	23.19	-2.31	78	2,288	598	3,922	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	49	67	9	0.76	2	20.75	-0.93	67	3,219	681	4,927	
Derry	90	43	66	9	0.71	2	30.37	7.76	62	2,713	318	4,393	
Myersdale	85	36	61	3	0.45	2	20.04	-4.63	66	2,120	-245	3,748	
Mount Pleasant	88	40	63	6	0.98	2	24.87	-0.86	65	2,629	486	4,317	
Pittsburgh Intl	88	44	66	6	0.81	2	20.14	-0.24	59	3,105	448	4,808	
Connellsville	90	45	67	8	1.90	2	24.78	0.79	74	3,060	353	4,763	
Waynesburg	89	41	64	6	0.59	2	21.77	-0.44	65	2,813	351	4,509	
South Central													
Biglerville	92	46	69	7	0.90	2	17.64	-2.93	53	3,238	183	4,950	
Everett	86	42	62	4	0.49	2	20.35	0.53	65	2,370	-145	4,040	
Hanover	91	43	68	7	0.41	2	16.27	-4.30	52	3,189	134	4,892	
Harrisburg_AP	90	47	70	8	0.61	1	17.37	-4.39	44	3,415	282	5,137	
South Mountain	86	43	65	7	0.26	2	19.50	-0.88	57	2,578	66	4,250	
York	90	41	67	6	0.08	1	19.92	-2.02	52	3,099	55	4,809	
Southeast													
Green Lane	90	48	69	9	0.00	0	22.93	-0.13	59	3,174	443	4,875	
Hamburg	90	47	69	11	1.34	3	23.81	-2.74	62	3,237	749	4,944	
West_Chester	92	44	68	7	0.01	1	24.31	-0.78	53	3,102	63	4,799	
Lancaster	89	48	69	8	0.01	1	21.86	-1.35	50	3,197	308	4,906	
Neshaminy Falls	89	47	68	8	0.05	1	29.13	2.44	60	2,985	132	4,672	
New Holland	91	51	70	9	0.05	1	22.69	-0.52	56	3,302	413	5,004	
Philadelphia	91	56	73	10	0.00	0	22.75	0.14	49	3,782	458	5,514	
Philadelphia NE	92	53	73	10	0.03	1	23.14	0.53	60	3,717	393	5,449	
Reading	90	47	70	10	0.02	1	21.83	-2.96	61	3,361	525	5,073	
Valley Forge Na	91	42	70	8	0.02	1	23.49	-0.71	64	3,173	-41	4,882	
Willow Grove	89	51	71	11	0.01	1	22.60	-4.09	65	3,341	488	5,048	

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.

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 another hot and dry week. Last evening (Thurs) a thunderstorm came through the northern part of Adams County with some areas getting 1.25 inches of rainfall and other parts of county only receiving 0.2 inch of rainfall only 5 miles or less away from where the 1.25 inches was received and closer to Gettysburg some areas received 0.6 inch of rainfall with no storm. The moisture will surely help the soil moisture level which is very dry.

Corn silage and high moisture corn continue to be harvested. Corn continues to be the most affected crop from the drought this summer. Some stalks look like they have ears, but when you husk the ear there are no kernels of corn on the ear. Later planted corn is still growing and green but if we get an early frost that could change conditions quickly. Early soybeans are starting to be harvested with yields being affected due to drought. Later soybeans some are still pretty green and then some are starting to turn colors and again an early frost could affect them also. Hay continues to be made since the producers had to feed some of their supply of hay this summer when pastures were brown they are trying to get all of the forage they can to take them into the winter months. Barley and wheat continue to be seeded and producers are concerned due to the lack of soil moisture for germination of these small grain crops.

Dr. Tara Baugher said apples continue to be harvested with a good crop but smaller in size. 2008 apple crop may be affected due to this years drought due to the bud set during July 2007. The Upper Adams area are getting ready for the big event of the National Apple Harvest Festival which is held in Arendtsville at the South Mountain Fairgrounds October 6-7, 13-14 for the celebration of Apples.

Overall producers are very busy in the fields doing various tasks and putting in long days. Any future rainfall will help the soil moisture level and future crops in Adams County.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - What can you say when you only get 0.35 inches of rain for the month? There is not any soil moisture reserve for the new fall seeding, hay, pasture and fruit trees. It was a good week for all field activities. Most corn silage harvest is completed.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Early corn is yielding well. The first 5 acre Corn Club results were over 190 bushels on 102 day corn planted in early May. Not much wheat is being planted as producers are waiting for some moisture. Soybeans have lost leaves and are drying down.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It was a good week to work in the fields. The days are warm and the nights have been cool. Corn silage and potato harvesting continued. The harvesting of potatoes is just about complete.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - The weather continues to be dry, and this is good weather for fall field work. We got 1/2" of rainfall during the week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Some rain came in this week but only slowed silage harvest for about a day. Producers are making good progress on all crops and enjoying not getting stuck in the mud.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The fall weather has been excellent for harvesting crops. Many farmers are worried about water. Some dairy operations have been reporting water problems. Many water wells throughout the four county areas no longer have the capacity to supply enough water to the operations. Corn silage yields have been reported around 12 to 14 tons per acre.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Scattered showers hit a few places in the county last week. Some areas received over an inch and a half in a short period of time while some areas did not receive enough to make you go inside.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Showers are badly needed to germinate fall grains and get late summer seedlings up and growing.

MONTGOMERY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Extremely dry, less than a half inch of rain in the past month. Corn grain moisture is dry (teens and low 20's). Yields have been reported around 2/3 average. Soybean harvest will likely start this week. Barley, wheat and rye seedlings are slow to emerge if at all.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Some rain received this week but not enough to slow down corn harvest. Water table is still very low. Yields are hurt some due to the drought.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Light rain during the week didn't help much; except, for the fall seeded grain. Silo filling and haymaking continue. Harvesting of soybeans will begin soon as the leaves have fallen from many of the fields and the beans are drying down. Main activities for the week were haymaking, silo filling, spreading lime and manure, and seeding wheat and barley.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 30, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	49	47	42
Corn, dent	98	93	90
Corn, mature	77	76	67
Corn, harvested	23	22	27
Corn silage, harvested	87	83	78
Barley, planted	52	43	51
Barley, emerged	20	23	27
Wheat, planted	31	26	26
Wheat, emerged	10	7	9
Soybeans, harvested	8	5	6
Tobacco, harvested	95	93	96
Potatoes, harvested	61	70	77
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	54	63	59
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	92	99	95
Apples, harvested	70	69	58
Grapes, harvested	15	16	29

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 30, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	10	26	44	15
Soybeans	2	10	27	38	23
Quality of hay made	0	1	14	46	39
Pasture	28	24	26	21	1

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

United States
Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

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