



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending October 7, 2007

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://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. Fifty-nine percent of fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 7 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included fall plowing; filling silos; mowing pastures; repairing equipment; making hay; chopping corn for silage; planting wheat and barley; and harvesting corn, soybeans, potatoes, tobacco, grapes, and apples.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 7, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
45	42	13	0

**Crops:** Eighty-three percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This is 6 percentage points higher than the previous week. It's also 4 and 5 points higher than this time last year and the 5-year average respectively. Corn harvest is now 30 percent complete. Corn conditions show that 45 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Ninety-five percent of the corn for silage has been harvested. This is 9 points higher than this time last year and 8 points higher than the 5-year average. Thirty-six percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Harvesting for soybeans is still ahead of schedule, as 21 percent of the crop is now harvested. This is 12 points higher than this time last year and 8 points higher than the 5-year average. Forty-two percent of the wheat crop has been planted. This is right in line with this time last year and the 5-year average. Twenty-one percent of the planted wheat has now emerged. This is 1 point higher than the 5-year average. Fifty-nine percent of the barley crop has been planted, this is 8 points higher than this time last year, but 6 points lower than the 5-year average. Twenty-eight percent of the planted barley has now emerged. This is 6 points lower than this time last year and 11 points lower than the 5-year average. Ninety-one percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 1 percentage point ahead of the 5-year average, and 2 points ahead of this time last year. Eighty-three percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 76 percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa has been completed. Ninety-eight percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Seventy-seven percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 1 point behind this time last year, but 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. The grape harvest is definitely underway as 38 percent of the crop has been harvested. The weather conditions have been wonderful for a great grape harvest!

**Livestock:** Eight percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Some farmers have reported the best pastures than in recent

years. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 39%, poor 28%, fair 25%, good 8%, and excellent 0%.

**U.S. as of September 30, 2007:** The western third of the country experienced cooler than normal temperatures. Areas in, and closely surrounding the Great Basin, dropped down to 9 degrees below normal. Precipitation, in the form of snowfall, in the northern Intermountain region aided soil moisture levels. From the eastern Rocky Mountains to the East Coast, temperatures averaged above normal during the week. Most of the eastern half of the Nation was 6-9 degrees Fahrenheit above normal with some isolated areas of the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Valleys, as well as most of New England reaching temperatures up to 12 degrees warmer than normal.

**Corn:** Ahead of normal by 10 percent, corn mature, at 91 percent, was 5 points ahead of last year's pace. In the northern Corn Belt, acreage at or beyond the mature stage was ahead of the normal pace by more than 20 points. Corn harvested, at 31 percent complete, was ahead of last year and the 5-year average by 13 and 11 points, respectively. Conditions allowed producers in the central Corn Belt, as well as in Texas, to harvest a considerable amount of the corn crop during the week. All States, except Pennsylvania, were at or ahead of the normal pace. In Illinois, acreage was being harvested well ahead of the 5-year average pace, with 60 percent harvested.

**Soybeans:** Eighty-eight percent of soybean acreage was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage, 3 points ahead of last year, and 4 points ahead of the normal pace. Conditions in Michigan and Nebraska allowed rapid development during the week, with over one-fifth of the crop entering the leaf dropping stage. Acreage in Illinois, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Wisconsin was progressing 12 points or more ahead of normal, while fields in the western Corn Belt, were lagging slightly behind the normal pace. Also, in the western Corn Belt harvest was behind the normal pace between 6 and 11 points with harvest ahead of normal elsewhere, especially in Illinois, Minnesota, and Tennessee. Nationally, 29 percent of soybean acreage had been harvested ahead of the previous year by 11 points and ahead of the normal pace by 5 points.

**Winter Wheat:** Acreage planted, at 42 percent, was 7 points behind last year's pace, and 9 points behind the 5-year average pace. Planting delays along the central and southern Plains kept the Nation's crop behind normal with producers in Texas 25 points behind and growers in Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma 13 to 15 points behind the average pace. However, conditions in Oregon allowed producers to move well ahead of their normal planting pace, advancing 35 points during the week. Delayed planting has kept emergence lagging behind normal in the central and southern Great Plains, where the crop in Oklahoma and Texas is more than 14 points behind the 5-year average pace.

### Weather Data For Week Ending October 7, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 7, 2007						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
<b>Northwest</b>													
Erie	83	58	71	14	0.13	2	18.70	-4.84	59	2,973	446	4,703	
Franklin	86	47	67	13	0.26	3	19.48	-6.03	72	2,745	415	4,497	
Meadville	82	55	69	15	0.01	1	17.55	-8.01	73	2,792	658	4,531	
Mercer	87	45	67	13	0.05	1	21.99	-2.34	68	2,710	401	4,454	
Springboro	84	47	66	11	0.11	1	21.44	-1.35	84	2,415	-69	4,128	
Warren	84	45	67	13	1.06	3	25.82	0.11	73	2,517	265	4,242	
<b>North Central</b>													
Bradford Region	81	46	63	14	0.52	2	22.20	-3.45	80	1,956	334	3,610	
Emporium	85	45	65	14	0.17	1	25.29	-0.01	69	2,552	706	4,294	
Kane	83	37	62	13	0.48	1	25.62	-0.52	71	1,964	378	3,629	
Laporte	78	44	64	10	0.02	1	19.78	-3.87	74	2,306	4	3,998	
Lock Haven	87	47	67	13	0.00	0	15.46	-7.81	55	3,021	571	4,775	
Port Allegany	84	42	64	13	0.23	1	20.53	-3.82	67	2,163	371	3,846	
Renovo	86	43	66	12	0.02	1	20.95	-2.32	61	2,880	430	4,633	
Ridgway	85	39	64	12	0.22	1	20.96	-4.34	74	2,231	385	3,939	
Stevenson Dam	88	46	67	16	0.05	1	17.67	-7.63	62	2,717	871	4,456	
Towanda	86	42	66	12	0.00	0	15.88	-3.81	67	2,549	229	4,254	
Wellsboro	82	38	63	12	0.00	0	22.95	3.14	74	2,130	396	3,807	
Williamsport	86	49	68	13	0.01	1	16.58	-6.34	59	3,228	527	5,006	
<b>Northeast</b>													
Hawley	84	45	67	15	0.04	1	21.44	-0.88	64	2,392	407	4,108	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	52	68	13	0.00	0	19.32	-2.35	56	2,959	398	4,715	
Susquehanna	83	44	65	14	0.23	1	23.68	-0.17	68	2,495	617	4,211	
<b>West Central</b>													
Butler	84	42	66	11	0.01	1	19.93	-4.11	65	2,720	302	4,470	
New Castle	90	44	69	14	0.06	2	19.19	-2.91	61	3,021	598	4,782	
Slippery Rock	89	44	69	16	0.08	1	22.39	-1.14	65	2,895	723	4,651	
<b>Central</b>													
Altoona/Blair	83	47	66	11	0.00	0	19.52	-1.50	67	2,846	277	4,595	
DuBois	84	51	68	14	0.04	1	19.35	-4.84	78	2,629	412	4,364	
Lewistown	88	45	68	11	0.00	0	21.04	-1.50	60	3,074	250	4,838	
Middletown	83	53	70	11	0.00	0	22.61	0.15	52	3,666	473	5,455	
Prince Gallitzi	83	42	64	11	0.00	0	21.51	-5.57	60	2,399	331	4,119	
Selinsgrove	86	47	67	12	0.00	0	15.31	-8.17	53	3,047	413	4,802	
State College	84	47	68	13	0.00	0	17.56	-3.67	61	3,046	516	4,804	
<b>East Central</b>													
Allentown-Bethel	86	50	68	11	0.01	1	21.63	-2.89	65	3,248	334	5,018	
Lehighton	81	46	65	9	0.00	0	26.10	1.69	70	2,840	34	4,598	
Matamoras	85	45	65	10	0.00	0	23.39	-1.28	63	2,609	80	4,351	
Mt_Pocono	80	50	65	14	0.04	2	23.23	-3.12	80	2,392	679	4,096	
<b>Southwest</b>													
Pittsburgh/Alle	86	50	71	15	0.00	0	20.75	-1.57	67	3,364	772	5,142	
Derry	87	44	67	12	0.00	0	30.37	7.11	62	2,833	389	4,583	
Myersdale	83	35	61	6	0.00	0	20.04	-5.37	66	2,199	-215	3,897	
Mount Pleasant	85	41	66	12	0.00	0	24.87	-1.63	65	2,742	556	4,500	
Pittsburgh Intl	86	50	70	13	0.00	0	20.14	-0.81	59	3,244	531	5,017	
Connellsville	88	51	71	14	0.00	0	24.78	0.14	74	3,205	440	4,978	
Waynesburg	86	41	66	12	0.55	1	22.32	-0.45	66	2,930	419	4,696	
<b>South Central</b>													
Biglerville	87	50	69	11	0.00	0	17.64	-3.65	53	3,370	249	5,152	
Everett	82	41	63	8	0.00	0	20.35	-0.17	65	2,463	-103	4,203	
Hanover	88	43	67	9	0.00	0	16.27	-5.02	52	3,313	192	5,086	
Harrisburg_AP	85	54	70	11	0.00	0	17.37	-5.09	44	3,558	357	5,350	
South Mountain	82	48	65	10	0.00	0	19.50	-1.52	57	2,688	126	4,430	
York	86	48	67	9	0.02	2	19.94	-2.70	54	3,222	110	5,002	
<b>Southeast</b>													
Green Lane	84	49	68	12	0.00	0	22.93	-0.79	59	3,303	516	5,074	
Hamburg	86	51	68	13	0.05	3	23.86	-3.54	65	3,362	829	5,139	
West_Chester	84	45	67	9	0.04	3	24.35	-1.51	56	3,224	118	4,991	
Lancaster	85	50	68	11	0.03	2	21.89	-2.03	52	3,328	378	5,107	
Neshaminy Falls	83	47	67	10	0.00	0	29.13	1.69	60	3,103	192	4,860	
New Holland	85	52	70	12	0.00	0	22.69	-1.23	56	3,442	492	5,214	
Philadelphia	83	55	72	12	0.00	0	22.75	-0.50	49	3,937	535	5,739	
Philadelphia NE	86	52	71	11	0.00	0	23.14	-0.11	60	3,869	467	5,671	
Reading	86	52	69	12	0.01	1	21.84	-3.68	62	3,496	603	5,278	
Valley Forge Na	86	44	68	9	0.03	3	23.52	-1.41	67	3,300	14	5,079	
Willow Grove	83	49	69	12	0.00	0	22.60	-4.84	65	3,476	565	5,253	

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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# 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.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney** - Adams County had another dry week. No rainfall was received. We are now dryer than we were this summer. Soil moisture levels are extremely low in the county. Daytime temperatures were in the 70-80 degrees and nighttime temps in the 50-60's.

Corn silage is still being harvested and will be finished in the next week. Early planted corn is the hardest hit crop from the drought this summer. Later planted corn is still pretty green and not looking too bad, but that also depends on what stage it is in whether or not it will make any corn for grain and if we get an early frost. Early soybeans are being harvested with lower yields due to drought. Later planted soybeans are starting to turn colors but could be affected if we get an early frost. Wheat and barley continue to be seeded. Producers are concerned whether it will germinate or not due to lack of soil moisture. Hay is still being baled to get what crop they can since they had to feed some of their winter supplies this summer when pastures dried up.

Apples continue to be harvested. Some of the apples are smaller in size this year due to drought. 2008 crop could be affected due to the drought this summer during bud set for 2008 crop. Time will tell on this condition. The Upper Adams area of the county is gearing up for the next two weekends National Apple Harvest Festival held in Arendtsville for the celebration of the apples grown in the county where many people come to enjoy apple products, crafts, food and entertainment.

Overall the producers are very busy in the fields putting in long hours doing various field work. Adams County really needs rainfall to replenish the soil moisture level and to give the crops/trees a boost.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - There was no rain again this week. Apple harvest is going well. Tonnage seems to be better than expected, but size still suffering due to lack of moisture. Corn harvest has slowed down since it is now too dry for silage and high moisture corn and just waiting for maturity for harvesting as dry shelled. Cattle are now getting hay that was intended for winter. Some producers now expect to have to purchase hay and this may have an effect on their cull rate.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little** - This was another good week for field work. Corn Silage is just about finished. The potatoes should all be harvested.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It continues very dry. Fall field work continued all week. No Rain.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum** - Very dry again!

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig** - Continuing hot and dry conditions are rapidly advancing crop maturities. The soybeans are rapidly drying down. Frequently find ripe beans under 14% moistures on plants still retaining leaves. Looks can be deceiving. Corn still standing but weaker stalks can be found due to stressful growing season. Producers are being pushed to complete so many tasks at one time.

Many growers taking advantage of weather to take a final forage harvest. So far the haylage is looking excellent, but long drying time affects hay appearance and leaf retention. Small grains look good. The no till small grains are maximizing the availability of limited soil moisture.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner** - Clarion, Venango, Forest, Warren Counties did get traces of rain fall on Sunday morning. That's the first rain in 13 days. There are farmers reporting from Warren and Clarion Counties of farm water wells not providing enough water for their operations. Many farmers made fourth cutting legume hays which out yield the 2nd and 3rd crops of hay. Potato crop is the best its ever been. Corn yields are better than projected. Some farmers are taking off shelled corn with moisture levels around 20 percent. High moisture and corn silage harvesting for the most part done. The hay crop is less than last year yields.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter** - Corn and bean are drying at a very rapid pace due to the high temperatures and low humidity.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill** - Need rain!

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr** - Good harvesting weather. Corn is drying down and so are the soybeans. Lots of the small grains are emerging, which could use some rain. Harvesting crops, liming fields, mowing pastures, installing conservation practices are a few of the activities farmers were doing last week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - Corn silage, haymaking, and corn and soybean harvesting was the main activities for the week. With no rain during the week, many farmers are taking advantage of the weather. The fourth cutting of hay is all but none, due to the lack of rainfall. Hopefully, things will get better.

**UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker** - We finished soybeans on Friday with yields at 45 per acre, that was more than I was expecting with only about 6" of rain from planting to harvest. Still very dry-it is very dusty planting cover crop rye.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - Continued dry, hot conditions are making for excellent hay, corn, and soybean harvests. Early reports indicate that corn and soybeans are yielding very well. A few livestock producers are reporting water supply problems.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 7, 2007**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	59	50	52
Corn, mature	83	79	78
Corn, harvested	30	25	36
Corn silage, harvested	95	86	87
Barley, planted	59	51	65
Barley, emerged	28	34	39
Wheat, planted	42	42	42
Wheat, emerged	21	21	20
Soybeans, harvested	21	9	13
Potatoes, harvested	91	89	90
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	76	64	65
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	98	100	97
Apples, harvested	77	78	73
Grapes, harvested	38	28	48

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 7, 2007**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	19	14	22	33	12
Wheat	0	0	78	22	0
Soybeans	14	16	34	27	9
Quality of hay made	0	4	13	34	49
Pasture	39	28	25	8	0



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