



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 14, 2007

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

Excellent week for Field Work: Warm and dry weather prevailed last week, as the soil and pasture conditions continue to suffer. Many producers took advantage of the nice weather as 65 percent of fall plowing has been completed. This is 6 points higher than the previous week. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included fall plowing; filling silos; mowing pastures; repairing equipment; making hay; baling fodder; liming fields; chopping corn for silage, and planting wheat and barley, harvesting corn, soybeans, potatoes, tobacco, grapes, and apples.

pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 24%, poor 25%, fair 40%, good 10%, and excellent 1%.

U.S. as of October 7, 2007: In the west, while cooler than average temperatures slowed emergence of winter wheat, moisture was beneficial for the crop. Along the Pacific Northwest, mild temperatures and precipitation of up to 4 inches or more were evident. Other areas, west of the Rocky Mountains also experienced cool conditions but precipitation was limited to mostly northern areas with some isolated portions of the Rockies receiving between 2 and 4 inches in the form of snowfall at higher elevations. Farther east, warmer than average temperatures aided fall field activities from the Great Plains eastward to the Atlantic with the exception of some areas that were hindered by rain showers. Significant precipitation mainly fell in the Western Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains as well as parts of the southern Great Plains. Florida also experienced significant levels of precipitation in southern and central areas as well as along the coast.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 14, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i> 28	<i>Percent</i> 29	<i>Percent</i> 42	<i>Percent</i> 1

Crops: Ninety-three percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This is 10 percentage points higher than the previous week. It's also 3 and 7 points higher than this time last year and the 5-year average respectively. Corn harvest is now 41 percent complete. Corn conditions show that 62 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Fifty-six percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Harvesting of soybeans is still ahead of schedule, as 35 percent of the crop is now harvested. This is 12 points higher than this time last year and 13 points higher than the 5-year average. Sixty-eight percent of the wheat crop has been planted. This is 2 points above this time last year and 10 points above the 5-year average. Forty-one percent of the planted wheat has now emerged. This is 5 points higher than this time last year and 7 points higher than the 5-year average. Seventy-three percent of the barley crop has been planted, this is 8 points lower than this time last year, and 9 points lower than the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the planted barley has now emerged. This is 6 points higher than this time last year and 2 points lower than the 5-year average. Ninety-four percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 1 percentage point ahead of this time last year and the 5-year average. Sixty-nine percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 81 percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa has been completed.

Corn: Ninety-six percent of acreage had matured, 2 and 5 points ahead of last year and normal, respectively. The crop developed near or ahead of last year and the normal pace in all States. Acreage in most States was nearly all at or beyond maturity with the exception of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Harvest, at 42 percent was 15 and 12 points ahead of last year and the normal pace, respectively. In Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas producers had reaped 90 percent or more of their acreage, while in North Dakota, and Ohio, harvesting was just getting into full swing. Producers in Illinois were reaping well ahead of schedule with 76 percent harvested, 34 points ahead of last year and 31 points ahead of their normal pace.

Soybeans: Acreage at or beyond the leaf-dropping stage was the same as last year, but ahead of normal by 2 points at 94 percent. Harvest was gaining momentum with half of the crop reaped, 7 and 5 points ahead of last year and the normal pace, respectively. Nearly one-fourth or more of the crop was harvested in the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, although progress in most of the central and northern portions of these regions lagged behind normal.

Eighty-two percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 4 points behind this time last year, but 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. The grape harvest is definitely underway as 55 percent of the crop has been harvested. The weather conditions have been wonderful for a great grape harvest!

Winter Wheat: Fifty-eight percent of the winter wheat crop had been planted, 7 and 8 points behind last year and the 5-year average pace, respectively. Advancing 16 points during the week, seeding was behind in nearly half of the major producing States. Planting was lagging behind the farthest in Oklahoma, where compared with the 5-year average pace of 70 percent, only half of their acreage was planted. Emergence, at 29 percent, was delayed when compared with the normal pace mostly due to the planting delays. Behind last year's pace by 5 points and behind the 5-year average by 7 points, emergence of the crop was lagging in the central and southern Great Plains. In Oklahoma, emergence 24 points behind normal.

Livestock: Eleven percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. This is 3 points higher than the previous week, and farmers are hoping the conditions will continue to improve. Overall

Weather Data For Week Ending October 14, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 14, 2007						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	84	44	60	6	0.22	3	18.92	-5.46	62	3,046	475	4,845	
Franklin	87	35	57	6	0.28	4	19.76	-6.45	76	2,808	446	4,618	
Meadville	83	40	57	6	0.19	3	17.74	-8.59	76	2,855	692	4,652	
Mercer	88	36	57	6	0.41	4	22.40	-2.56	72	2,773	433	4,577	
Springboro	86	38	57	4	0.45	3	21.89	-1.67	87	2,474	-49	4,249	
Warren	84	37	57	6	0.11	3	25.93	-0.55	76	2,576	294	4,362	
North Central													
Bradford Region	80	31	53	6	0.08	3	22.28	-4.07	83	2,001	363	3,703	
Emporium	86	35	59	10	0.07	2	25.36	-0.64	71	2,621	756	4,428	
Kane	82	30	54	7	0.08	2	25.70	-1.21	73	2,012	412	3,726	
Laporte	81	34	55	5	1.84	4	21.62	-2.73	78	2,364	31	4,109	
Lock Haven	91	36	61	9	0.29	2	15.75	-8.17	57	3,102	620	4,923	
Port Allegany	83	35	55	7	0.18	3	20.71	-4.35	70	2,216	404	3,955	
Renovo	88	35	59	7	0.10	2	21.05	-2.87	63	2,952	470	4,766	
Ridgway	85	34	55	7	0.07	1	21.03	-4.97	75	2,283	418	4,048	
Stevenson Dam	89	37	59	11	0.12	3	17.79	-8.21	65	2,790	925	4,594	
Towanda	88	34	58	7	2.02	3	17.90	-2.35	70	2,614	263	4,380	
Wellsboro	85	35	56	8	0.24	3	23.19	2.78	77	2,186	432	3,920	
Williamsport	90	36	61	8	0.40	3	16.98	-6.64	62	3,311	574	5,157	
Northeast													
Hawley	80	33	52	2	4.67	4	26.23	3.28	69	2,414	406	4,182	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	87	34	60	8	4.20	3	23.52	1.22	59	3,040	445	4,858	
Susquehanna	83	35	58	9	2.35	5	26.03	1.45	73	2,559	661	4,336	
West Central													
Butler	85	35	57	5	0.21	3	20.14	-4.53	68	2,780	328	4,592	
New Castle	91	38	59	8	0.20	3	19.35	-3.35	63	3,094	637	4,920	
Slippery Rock	86	38	59	8	0.34	4	22.73	-1.44	69	2,962	761	4,785	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	84	36	59	6	0.48	2	20.00	-1.65	69	2,918	311	4,729	
DuBois	85	35	57	6	0.15	4	19.50	-5.32	82	2,691	447	4,483	
Lewistown	89	38	62	8	0.18	3	21.22	-1.96	63	3,161	296	4,995	
Middletown	89	41	64	8	0.54	3	23.15	0.06	55	3,767	525	5,626	
Prince Gallitzi	83	33	56	6	0.63	3	22.14	-5.66	63	2,453	358	4,231	
Selinsgrove	92	34	61	9	0.25	3	15.56	-8.62	56	3,130	462	4,952	
State College	86	40	60	8	0.47	2	18.03	-3.83	63	3,121	559	4,947	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	90	37	64	10	2.03	3	23.66	-1.49	68	3,348	390	5,186	
Lehighton	83	36	60	6	2.99	3	29.09	3.98	73	2,920	72	4,741	
Matamoras	86	33	58	6	3.64	4	27.03	1.70	67	2,675	112	4,480	
Mt_Pocono	82	33	58	10	5.26	4	28.49	1.36	84	2,464	735	4,225	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	87	39	60	7	0.08	1	20.83	-2.11	68	3,437	807	5,280	
Derry	88	36	59	6	0.35	2	30.72	6.86	64	2,903	423	4,714	
Myersdale	83	29	55	3	0.46	2	20.50	-5.61	68	2,253	-195	4,001	
Mount Pleasant	86	32	57	7	0.34	2	25.21	-2.00	67	2,807	591	4,623	
Pittsburgh Intl	87	37	59	6	0.13	2	20.27	-1.20	61	3,316	563	5,152	
Connellsville	88	38	60	7	0.97	3	25.75	0.48	77	3,279	472	5,120	
Waynesburg	88	34	58	7	0.58	3	22.90	-0.43	69	2,997	452	4,825	
South Central													
Biglerville	90	38	63	8	0.57	2	18.21	-3.78	55	3,461	291	5,313	
Everett	83	31	57	4	0.06	2	20.41	-0.76	67	2,521	-82	4,322	
Hanover	91	35	63	8	0.07	1	16.34	-5.65	53	3,406	236	5,249	
Harrisburg_AP	91	39	64	8	0.55	3	17.92	-5.17	47	3,657	405	5,519	
South Mountain	84	37	59	7	0.45	2	19.95	-1.70	59	2,758	160	4,566	
York	90	33	62	6	0.45	3	20.39	-2.92	57	3,310	147	5,157	
Southeast													
Green Lane	88	38	64	10	1.63	3	24.56	0.22	62	3,402	575	5,243	
Hamburg	89	38	63	11	1.68	4	25.54	-2.65	69	3,454	890	5,301	
West_Chester	90	34	64	8	2.31	3	26.66	0.10	59	3,322	167	5,157	
Lancaster	90	38	63	9	1.64	3	23.53	-1.07	55	3,425	431	5,273	
Neshaminy Falls	88	36	65	10	1.65	3	30.78	2.64	63	3,206	253	5,033	
New Holland	90	41	64	9	2.47	3	25.16	0.56	59	3,541	547	5,383	
Philadelphia	89	44	67	10	1.37	3	24.12	0.31	52	4,057	595	5,929	
Philadelphia NE	91	41	67	10	1.70	3	24.84	1.03	63	3,991	529	5,863	
Reading	91	38	64	10	1.65	3	23.49	-2.69	65	3,596	662	5,448	
Valley Forge Na	90	34	64	8	2.10	3	25.62	0.06	70	3,403	61	5,248	
Willow Grove	89	41	65	11	2.12	3	24.72	-3.42	68	3,583	630	5,430	

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.

ADAMS, Judy Behney (FSA) - Adams County had another pretty dry week. Some rainfall was received on Tuesday evening. The York Springs area had ½" of rainfall where other areas of the county had maybe up to an inch. Daytime temperatures this past week were in the 80's during the day and nighttime temps were 60. Thursday the temperatures were only in the lower 60's during the day and was overcast and cloudy with some raindrops every now and then but no accumulation.

Corn silage has been all harvested. Early planted corn is the hardest hit drought crop along with soybeans and hay being affected a great deal. Early corn is being harvested if there is any grain now and later corn is starting to dry down but an early frost could affect this corn also. Early soybeans are being harvested with lower yields being reported. Later soybeans are drying down but some are still pretty green and an early frost could affect them also. Wheat and barley continue to be seeded. Some will start to emerge since we got a little rainfall on Tuesday. Producers are concerned that the soil moisture levels are very low in the county and a concern for small grains for 2008 crop. Some hay is still being made to get whatever is available to help get some for winter feeding. Most producers' hay crop was short this summer and they also were feeding hay this summer that would have normally been for winter feeding.

Apples continue to be harvested with a nice crop, however the drought has affected the size which is causing lower prices. Pumpkins continue to be harvested for the Halloween holiday, however some areas that did not have rainfall at the right times, so they have no pumpkin crop due to drought.

Overall, Adams County producers are still busy with field work and harvesting what crops there are since drought has really affected our county this year. Any rainfall is greatly appreciated in the county.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - We didn't get any rain again this week. It was a good week for harvesting soybeans and planting wheat. Some producers will finish their apple harvest this week. Yields vary. Most are pleased with the crop even though the number of bushels of larger fruit was less than hoped for. Dry weather has made for clean fruit and a fast harvest season.

BUCKS COUNTY, Mike Fournier (Penn State) - Corn harvest is moving ahead rapidly with surprisingly good yields. There have been several reports of 200+ bushel yields. Wheat will get planted in earnest this week since we got 3 inches of rain last week. Soybean harvest is starting slowly as most will concentrate on getting wheat into the ground.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - 1/8" rain for the week, remains very dry. Fall field work continues.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - We finally got some rain!

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Field conditions are still good to continue harvest. Corn silage is wrapping up and combines have started rolling into soybean fields. Some producers have started to shell corn for high moisture feed. Pastures are still in good shape for this time of year.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burrell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Now that rain has come, maybe more cover crops or small grain will be planted to help protect the soil over the winter. Making silage is almost over, bailing hay, bailing fodder, liming fields, harvesting corn and soybeans were some of the activities farmers were doing this past week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Light showers during the week, did little to improve the drought conditions. Due to the heat and very dry conditions, some of the winter wheat and barley fields are streaked with very poor emergence in spots. Corn and soybean harvest is taking place with very poor yields in some areas and surprising yields in others. The quality of corn in the heavily drought stressed fields is very poor. The main activities for the week were fall seeding, and fall harvesting of crops.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Both soybean and corn for grain harvests have begun earlier than normal with excellent yields being reported. Before the mid-week rain, soybean moisture levels were low enough to not require any drying. The much-needed rain was enough to help fall plantings yet not heavy enough to slow harvest progress. The warm fall has also provided the opportunity for some growers to still have summer vegetables like sweet corn available in early October.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 14, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	65	65	62
Corn, mature	93	90	86
Corn, harvested	41	41	46
Barley, planted	73	81	82
Barley, emerged	53	47	55
Wheat, planted	68	66	58
Wheat, emerged	41	36	34
Soybeans, harvested	35	23	22
Potatoes, harvested	94	93	93
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	81	77	76
Apples, harvested	82	86	81
Grapes, harvested	55	45	64

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 14, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	10	11	17	46	16
Wheat	0	8	48	44	0
Soybeans	9	8	27	33	23
Quality of hay made	0	3	28	50	19
Pasture	24	25	40	10	1



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