



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending September 12, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Good Week for Field Work: It was good week for field work in Pennsylvania, with 4 days available to work. Dry weather prevailed in most areas, allowing farmers time in the fields, and Hurricane Frances did less than expected last week. Soil moisture increased slightly this past week because of the dry weather. Principal farm activities included baling the 3rd and 4th cutting of hay, spreading manure, harvesting tobacco, potatoes, and corn was cut for grain and silage, as well equipment maintenance to prepare for fall seeding.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending
September 12, 2004**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	3	69	28

Crops: Corn is progressing quite well in most areas and is reported to be in very good condition. Thirty-four percent of this year's corn crop has already matured, which is well ahead of previous years' trends. This has allowed for an early corn harvest as well. Soybean conditions remained very good throughout the state. Ninety-three percent of this year's soybean crop is rated as either good or excellent. The potato harvest is progressing as expected and is 49 percent complete, which is ahead of the 5-year average. The tobacco harvest is nearly complete as 95 percent of tobacco in the state had been harvested as of last week. This is well ahead of the 5-year average of 69 percent. Many farmers were out wrapping up the third cutting of alfalfa which is 91 percent complete this last week. Many more starting on their fourth cutting, which is at 34 percent complete. The second cutting of timothy clover is nearly finished

up and is now 90 percent complete which is ahead of previous years. The overall quality of hay made diminished slightly from last week but is still looking good with 70 percent being graded as either good or excellent.

Conditions remained favorable in areas of the state growing fruits. The peach harvest slowed a bit and was 89 percent complete as of last week. This is running slightly behind the 5-year average. The apple harvest also slowed a bit and is now 40 percent complete. This is still well ahead of last year. The grape harvest is in full swing as well with 27 percent of grapes being harvested. This is well ahead of last year at the same time.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were unchanged for the most part despite the continued relief from rainfall. During the last week, the pasture condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

U.S. As of September 5, 2004: Highlights: Temperatures were above normal across the northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, promoting crop development, which remained behind normal due to the cool weather that prevailed over most of the summer. In the Southeast, temperatures were near normal, with moderate rainfall, though Tropical Storm Gaston and the leading edge of Hurricane Frances brought heavy precipitation to some coastal areas. Corn: eighty-nine percent of the crop was at the dough stage or beyond, 61 percent had completed denting, and 17 percent of the nation's corn had reached maturity. Soybeans: 15 percent of the acreage had begun dropping leaves. Winter Wheat: Growers had planted 7 percent of their acreage, 1 point ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 12, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 12, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Eric	85	53	68	3	3.60	3	22.90	2.79	77	2,380	119	3,854
Franklin	83	47	67	4	4.13	4	34.82	12.28	94	2,285	169	3,779
Meadville	81	48	66	4	5.16	3	30.31	7.87	87	2,161	221	3,625
Mercer	83	38	64	0	4.74	3	28.70	7.30	76	1,855	-240	3,306
Springboro	82	46	66	1	4.13	3	30.60	10.84	93	2,117	-119	3,570
Warren	84	48	67	5	4.62	3	37.03	14.50	98	2,151	98	3,629
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	42	64	6	3.21	1	25.89	3.33	94	1,777	276	3,220
Emporium	81	50	66	6	3.46	2	31.86	9.37	86	2,294	604	3,786
Kane	75	44	61	4	3.90	2	30.40	7.48	81	1,151	-321	2,530
Laporte	77	51	64	2	1.82	4	35.10	14.33	93	1,983	-121	3,441
Lock Haven	80	56	69	6	3.00	2	34.25	13.77	70	2,563	335	4,120
Port Allegany	80	48	65	6	3.41	3	28.44	7.14	83	1,938	285	3,382
Renovo	79	54	68	5	4.77	4	30.82	10.34	77	2,500	272	4,027
Ridgway	80	46	65	5	3.60	2	31.87	9.38	73	1,920	230	3,369
Stevenson Dam	78	51	66	6	4.63	2	32.34	9.85	79	2,367	677	3,877
Towanda	81	53	68	5	2.08	2	25.16	7.91	80	2,403	283	3,904
Wellsboro	75	53	65	6	3.85	2	32.67	15.34	78	1,912	317	3,365
Williamsport	79	55	69	5	1.62	4	26.07	5.91	87	2,698	242	4,265
Northeast												
Hawley	80	50	65	5	2.17	2	27.71	8.06	64	2,057	237	3,517
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	52	68	4	1.58	2	22.60	3.50	71	2,505	174	4,041
Susquehanna	81	54	68	9	1.72	2	28.18	7.22	77	2,446	715	3,959
West Central												
Butler	83	48	66	3	3.54	3	31.25	9.87	96	2,289	98	3,783
New Castle	87	51	68	5	8.07	3	34.42	15.01	74	2,518	326	4,023
Slippery Rock	82	48	67	5	4.88	3	32.39	11.60	94	2,361	386	3,876
Central												
Altoona/Blair	78	50	65	2	5.85	5	28.36	9.87	85	2,436	102	3,947
DuBois	78	50	65	4	3.20	3	32.21	10.73	104	2,127	101	3,609
Lewistown	78	56	68	3	3.61	2	25.93	5.98	68	2,704	146	4,261
Middletown	80	58	71	3	0.87	2	29.05	9.34	67	3,093	210	4,687
Prince Gallitzi	76	51	64	3	2.29	3	30.01	6.18	76	2,157	277	3,638
Selinsgrove	79	58	69	5	1.29	2	26.29	5.69	75	2,630	233	4,175
State College	76	56	67	3	3.21	2	28.88	10.18	71	2,519	212	4,045
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	53	68	2	1.59	2	24.80	3.20	65	2,811	171	4,387
Lehighton	81	53	66	2	1.34	3	29.54	8.10	83	2,513	-38	4,061
Matamoras	82	52	65	2	2.07	2	25.74	4.06	67	2,215	-93	3,717
Tobyhanna	80	50	65	7	4.99	4	34.39	11.38	95	2,150	559	3,631
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	53	69	4	3.28	3	23.84	4.06	77	2,713	369	4,257
Derry	78	54	67	3	2.57	3	33.79	13.16	86	2,412	197	3,934
Myersdale	77	46	63	-2	3.34	4	27.13	4.70	72	1,978	-203	3,448
Mount Pleasant	82	48	68	6	2.35	3	30.15	6.67	67	2,448	467	3,961
Pittsburgh Intl	83	51	68	3	3.64	4	29.90	11.27	80	2,746	294	4,288
Rector	83	50	68	5	2.69	4	33.77	10.29	95	2,476	495	4,001
Waynesburg	82	51	67	3	3.47	3	28.86	8.41	79	2,516	240	4,035
South Central												
Biglerville	79	56	69	1	1.02	2	29.44	10.98	73	2,823	7	4,387
Everett	77	48	63	-3	3.69	3	27.29	9.29	66	2,172	-151	3,648
Hanover	80	55	69	1	0.55	2	26.74	8.28	64	2,929	113	4,497
Shippensburg	81	54	69	2	1.40	3	30.19	12.16	70	2,964	167	4,529
South Mountain	77	52	65	0	2.22	3	26.95	8.46	59	2,392	65	3,899
York	81	55	70	3	1.12	1	23.44	3.47	59	2,916	114	4,491
Southeast												
Green Lane	85	54	71	5	1.27	3	30.65	9.72	67	3,122	599	4,721
Hamburg	82	56	69	6	0.75	2	27.74	3.63	75	2,818	506	4,393
Hopewell	82	55	69	1	1.01	3	30.36	8.52	90	2,876	-84	4,453
Lancaster	81	56	70	4	0.24	3	27.97	6.86	74	2,916	250	4,501
Neshaminy Falls	88	55	71	5	0.49	3	26.83	2.51	63	3,072	437	4,663
New Holland	82	55	70	3	0.49	2	28.53	7.42	74	2,927	261	4,498
Philadelphia	86	58	73	3	0.14	2	26.44	5.81	63	3,367	316	4,973
Philadelphia NE	85	55	72	2	0.43	3	28.47	7.84	68	3,264	213	4,867
Reading	83	56	70	4	0.84	2	28.29	5.76	67	2,965	342	4,554
Valley Forge Na	86	52	70	2	0.51	2	28.51	6.67	60	2,959	-1	4,538
Willow Grove	82	35	69	2	0.63	3	23.55	-0.77	69	3,037	402	4,635

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.

CENTRE COUNTY, DICK DECKER --Mid week was very wet 3.85 inches in my gauge. Corn silage harvest well underway.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, THOMAS KERR (FSA) – The heavy rains of Frances missed the county, however, there were a few areas in excess of 2 inches. This rain was generally beneficial in that we were without rain for 14 days prior. Harvest of corn for silage has mostly come to a halt. Corn is maturing rapidly and now past silage stage in most areas. Yields still seem to be quite variable. Some barley being planted this week ahead of the rains.

FULTON COUNTY, RUSS MCLUCAS – Some silage coming off, but in all actuality it is too wet to run on our soils. Compaction damage will be evident for the next few years.

LANCASTER COUNTY, AXEL LINDE – Another good week for harvesting. Only 0.2 inches of rain from Frances. Next week, time to enjoy and work at the Solanco Fair.

PERRY COUNTY, DAVID L. SWARTZ (EXT) – Corn silage harvest was brought to a halt by the 2.5 inches of rain we received on Wednesday.

SNYDER COUNTY, WILLIAM C. SHEAFFER – The hurricane winds and rain from Francis were not as bad as they could have been. The rainfall was in the 1-1.5 inch range, with very little wind. The corn and soybeans made further strides toward maturity with both crops looking very good. The third cutting of hay is nearly complete with the production level above average. The main activities were fall plowing, making hay, spreading lime and manure.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, JOHN LOHR (FSA) – Most of the county had 2 to 3 inches of rain from the tropical storm. Almost no flooding or damage because the rain fell steadily over a 24-hour period with only light winds. Many fields were dry enough by the week's end to continue with activities like corn silage harvesting and hay mowing.

YORK COUNTY, WAYNE KURTZ (FSA) – Weather conditions continue as excellent for harvest and ground preparation for fall seeding.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 12, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	28	15	23
Corn, dough	97	80	88
Corn, dent	83	48	64
Corn, mature	34	10	21
Corn, harvested	10	1	6
Corn silage, harvested	56	10	34
Barley, planted	9	4	11
Tobacco, harvested	95	61	69
Potatoes, harvested	49	32	39
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	91	74	82
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	34	20	40
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	90	79	83
Peaches, harvested	89	95	96
Apples, harvested	40	34	33
Grapes, harvested	27	9	9

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 12, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	3	5	40	51
Soybeans	0	2	5	45	48
Quality of hay made	2	4	24	59	11
Pasture	3	2	19	61	15
Apples	0	9	26	59	6

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