



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending September 19, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

Released September 20, 2004, 4 pm

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

Average Week for Field Work: Good weather prevailed last week until the remnants of Hurricane Ivan brought torrential rains to much of Pennsylvania. Four days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included baling the 4th cutting of hay, planting wheat and barley, spreading manure, applying herbicides and pesticides, picking fruit, harvesting corn, cutting silage, and general equipment maintenance.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 19, 2004

| Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| 0 | 0 | 21 | 79 |

Crops: Corn is still making very good progress in many parts of the Commonwealth. Early maturing corn has allowed for an early harvest, which stood at 21 percent complete as of last week. This is well ahead of historic trends. Soybean conditions remained very good throughout the state. Eighty-nine percent of this year's soybean crop is rated as either good or excellent. The potato harvest is progressing as expected and is 50 percent complete. Farmers attempting to beat the rain were out early in the week working on their 3rd and 4th cuttings of hay. The fourth cutting now stands at 43 percent complete, which is ahead of last year but behind the 5-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover is nearly finished up and is now 91 percent complete. The overall quality of hay made remained steady from the previous week with 71

percent being graded as either good or excellent.

Conditions remained favorable in areas of the state growing fruits. The peach harvest picked up a bit and is almost finished as 98 percent of the harvest is complete. The apple harvest was also in full gear last week as 66 percent of apples have now been harvested. This is up from 40 percent last week.

Livestock: Pasture conditions were hindered by the tempestuous conditions at the end of last week. Pasture conditions now stand at 7 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

U.S. As of September 12, 2004: Highlights: Hurricane Frances caused additional wind damage to the Florida's citrus crop. As it weakened to a tropical storm and moved inland, Frances dumped heavy rain and spawned numerous tornadoes across the southern and middle Atlantic Coast States. Corn: Doughing advanced to 95 percent complete, 2 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind normal. Seventy-five percent of the crop was at or beyond the dent stage, compared with 83 percent last year and 87 percent for the 5-year average. Maturity, at 27 percent, was 8 points behind last year and 14 points behind normal. Maturity was behind normal in all States, except Indiana, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Winter Wheat: Planting reached 16 percent complete, 3 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Soybeans: Thirty percent of the crop was dropping leaves, the same as last year but 3 points behind normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 19, 2004

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - September 19, 2004 | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|------------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|----------|
| | Temperature | | | | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | Base 40F |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | Total |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 82 | 47 | 66 | 3 | 1.44 | 2 | 24.34 | 3.18 | 79 | 2,495 | 138 | 4,039 |
| Franklin | 84 | 42 | 65 | 5 | 2.97 | 2 | 37.79 | 14.34 | 96 | 2,395 | 199 | 3,959 |
| Meadville | 80 | 42 | 65 | 5 | 2.81 | 2 | 33.12 | 9.76 | 89 | 2,264 | 251 | 3,798 |
| Mercer | 82 | 32 | 61 | -1 | 2.79 | 2 | 31.49 | 9.17 | 78 | 1,935 | -240 | 3,455 |
| Springboro | 81 | 39 | 63 | -1 | 3.02 | 2 | 33.62 | 12.95 | 95 | 2,206 | -120 | 3,729 |
| Warren | 82 | 42 | 65 | 5 | 2.89 | 4 | 39.92 | 16.41 | 102 | 2,255 | 127 | 3,803 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 78 | 39 | 61 | 5 | 2.45 | 2 | 28.34 | 4.82 | 96 | 1,857 | 309 | 3,370 |
| Emporium | 81 | 41 | 65 | 7 | 4.80 | 4 | 36.66 | 13.33 | 90 | 2,400 | 650 | 3,962 |
| Kane | 78 | 31 | 57 | 1 | 3.40 | 2 | 33.80 | 9.90 | 83 | 1,201 | -316 | 2,645 |
| Laporte | 76 | 38 | 61 | 0 | 5.43 | 3 | 40.53 | 18.88 | 96 | 2,058 | -120 | 3,586 |
| Lock Haven | 82 | 43 | 65 | 4 | 6.65 | 3 | 40.90 | 19.58 | 73 | 2,672 | 361 | 4,299 |
| Port Allegany | 80 | 40 | 63 | 6 | 3.37 | 3 | 31.81 | 9.59 | 86 | 2,030 | 324 | 3,544 |
| Renovo | 82 | 42 | 64 | 3 | 4.56 | 5 | 35.38 | 14.06 | 82 | 2,600 | 289 | 4,197 |
| Ridgway | 81 | 36 | 62 | 5 | 3.44 | 3 | 35.31 | 11.98 | 76 | 2,008 | 258 | 3,527 |
| Stevenson Dam | 83 | 42 | 64 | 6 | 5.21 | 4 | 37.55 | 14.22 | 83 | 2,467 | 717 | 4,046 |
| Towanda | 79 | 43 | 65 | 5 | 5.42 | 2 | 30.58 | 12.57 | 82 | 2,509 | 315 | 4,080 |
| Wellsboro | 76 | 42 | 60 | 4 | 4.67 | 4 | 37.34 | 19.24 | 82 | 1,985 | 337 | 3,508 |
| Williamsport | 83 | 47 | 66 | 3 | 6.66 | 5 | 32.73 | 11.76 | 92 | 2,812 | 265 | 4,449 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 79 | 40 | 62 | 4 | 6.79 | 4 | 34.50 | 14.03 | 68 | 2,142 | 258 | 3,672 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 80 | 44 | 64 | 3 | 6.03 | 3 | 28.63 | 8.76 | 74 | 2,607 | 190 | 4,213 |
| Susquehanna | 78 | 42 | 64 | 7 | 6.51 | 2 | 34.69 | 12.89 | 79 | 2,548 | 760 | 4,131 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 82 | 40 | 64 | 2 | 4.83 | 2 | 36.08 | 13.87 | 98 | 2,386 | 110 | 3,950 |
| New Castle | 86 | 42 | 67 | 5 | 2.85 | 2 | 37.27 | 17.02 | 76 | 2,636 | 358 | 4,211 |
| Slippery Rock | 83 | 41 | 65 | 5 | 3.48 | 2 | 35.87 | 14.24 | 96 | 2,468 | 419 | 4,053 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 79 | 44 | 64 | 2 | 6.59 | 4 | 34.95 | 15.69 | 89 | 2,534 | 113 | 4,115 |
| DuBois | 80 | 43 | 64 | 4 | 4.22 | 5 | 36.43 | 14.11 | 109 | 2,223 | 125 | 3,775 |
| Lewistown | 83 | 55 | 67 | 4 | 5.51 | 3 | 31.44 | 10.72 | 71 | 2,825 | 169 | 4,452 |
| Middletown | 83 | 50 | 68 | 3 | 5.96 | 6 | 35.01 | 14.46 | 73 | 3,223 | 228 | 4,887 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 81 | 42 | 63 | 4 | 4.35 | 5 | 34.36 | 9.55 | 81 | 2,249 | 298 | 3,800 |
| Selinsgrove | 80 | 48 | 66 | 4 | 6.42 | 4 | 32.71 | 11.23 | 79 | 2,740 | 254 | 4,355 |
| State College | 77 | 47 | 65 | 3 | 5.33 | 4 | 34.21 | 14.74 | 75 | 2,622 | 232 | 4,218 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 85 | 44 | 67 | 3 | 4.96 | 3 | 29.76 | 7.24 | 68 | 2,930 | 190 | 4,576 |
| Lehighton | 77 | 47 | 64 | 1 | 5.06 | 4 | 34.60 | 12.25 | 87 | 2,610 | -34 | 4,228 |
| Matamoras | 80 | 46 | 63 | 2 | 4.32 | 3 | 30.06 | 7.47 | 70 | 2,308 | -83 | 3,880 |
| Tobyhanna | 79 | 45 | 64 | 7 | 4.23 | 4 | 38.62 | 14.59 | 99 | 2,246 | 607 | 3,797 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 82 | 45 | 66 | 4 | 6.01 | 3 | 29.85 | 9.30 | 80 | 2,828 | 394 | 4,442 |
| Derry | 83 | 42 | 66 | 4 | 5.57 | 2 | 39.36 | 17.92 | 88 | 2,523 | 223 | 4,115 |
| Myersdale | 80 | 37 | 62 | 0 | 3.87 | 4 | 31.00 | 7.66 | 76 | 2,066 | -201 | 3,606 |
| Mount Pleasant | 82 | 39 | 64 | 3 | 4.16 | 2 | 34.31 | 9.92 | 69 | 2,543 | 486 | 4,126 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 81 | 45 | 66 | 4 | 3.31 | 2 | 33.21 | 13.88 | 82 | 2,861 | 313 | 4,473 |
| Rector | 84 | 40 | 64 | 3 | 4.47 | 3 | 38.24 | 13.85 | 98 | 2,571 | 514 | 4,166 |
| Waynesburg | 80 | 43 | 65 | 3 | 4.80 | 2 | 33.66 | 12.51 | 81 | 2,622 | 258 | 4,211 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 82 | 46 | 66 | 1 | 4.30 | 5 | 33.74 | 14.44 | 78 | 2,938 | 11 | 4,572 |
| Everett | 82 | 40 | 63 | 1 | 5.29 | 4 | 32.58 | 13.86 | 70 | 2,264 | -149 | 3,810 |
| Hanover | 83 | 47 | 66 | 2 | 3.49 | 4 | 30.23 | 10.93 | 68 | 3,046 | 119 | 4,684 |
| Shippensburg | 82 | 57 | 67 | 2 | 6.71 | 5 | 36.90 | 18.04 | 75 | 3,088 | 180 | 4,723 |
| South Mountain | 80 | 41 | 63 | 1 | 4.68 | 4 | 31.63 | 12.37 | 63 | 2,487 | 73 | 4,064 |
| York | 83 | 47 | 67 | 2 | 2.18 | 3 | 25.62 | 4.88 | 62 | 3,036 | 123 | 4,681 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 87 | 46 | 68 | 5 | 4.14 | 5 | 34.79 | 12.97 | 72 | 3,253 | 632 | 4,922 |
| Hamburg | 84 | 49 | 67 | 5 | 3.70 | 5 | 31.44 | 6.35 | 80 | 2,935 | 539 | 4,580 |
| Hopewell | 84 | 47 | 67 | 2 | 3.37 | 4 | 33.73 | 10.91 | 94 | 2,999 | -78 | 4,646 |
| Lancaster | 84 | 45 | 68 | 3 | 3.49 | 5 | 31.46 | 9.51 | 79 | 3,041 | 271 | 4,696 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 89 | 50 | 70 | 6 | 1.99 | 3 | 28.82 | 3.52 | 66 | 3,212 | 475 | 4,873 |
| New Holland | 85 | 44 | 66 | 2 | 3.93 | 5 | 32.46 | 10.51 | 79 | 3,044 | 274 | 4,685 |
| Philadelphia | 87 | 50 | 72 | 4 | 1.35 | 3 | 27.79 | 6.35 | 66 | 3,518 | 341 | 5,194 |
| Philadelphia NE | 85 | 49 | 71 | 4 | 0.76 | 3 | 29.23 | 7.79 | 71 | 3,409 | 232 | 5,082 |
| Reading | 84 | 45 | 67 | 4 | 4.14 | 5 | 32.43 | 8.97 | 72 | 3,088 | 365 | 4,747 |
| Valley Forge Na | 90 | 44 | 68 | 2 | 3.61 | 3 | 32.12 | 9.30 | 63 | 3,086 | 9 | 4,735 |
| Willow Grove | 82 | 46 | 68 | 5 | 2.82 | 5 | 26.37 | 1.07 | 74 | 3,177 | 440 | 4,845 |

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.

BUTLER COUNTY, Luke Fritz (FSA) - Wide spread flooding.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Potato fields are so saturated with water it is impossible to harvest. Potatoes are rotting in the fields. Harvesting corn silage is just beginning.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Early part of the week was good for field work. Rain on Friday and Friday night resulted in 7.5 inches of rainfall. Water is ponding in our level fields and streams are high. Sunshine needed to dry things back to normal.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Flooding of the Susquehanna River over the weekend caused some crop damage. Corn silage should be chopped soon, but farmers may not be able to get in the fields most of this week. Many soybeans locally have not filled out so there's a need for more degree days before a frost.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)- Weather was good early in the week to finish up silage harvest and to start harvesting high moisture corn. Soybeans are not yet ready. Corn is coming on fast. Effects of Ivan were felt throughout the county. No major damage overall, but several barns were destroyed. Flooding was not serious county-wide, but some areas did receive over 5 inches of rain. Wind damage is spotty.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - It is wet here again.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, Susan Alexander (EXT) - Jefferson County, like so many others, experienced the aftermath of Ivan - lots of flooding.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - We are very fortunate to receive only 2.7 inches of rain from Ivan. Our thoughts and prayers go to those are suffering from flood, wind, or tornado damage.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - More heavy rain Saturday. Anywhere from 3 to 6+ inches reported across the county. This will significantly impact silage harvesting. Many were

planning to chop this week. Very little good hay made this week because of clouds and showers moving in earlier in the week than expected. Early soybeans are dropping leaves while later beans are still green. Some farmers are starting to shell early corn, and much of mid-season corn is nearing black layer. Looks like a sunny week for a change.

PERRY COUNTY, Jeremiah Trout - Friday's rain caused severe flooding along Sherman's Creek and its tributaries. The flood waters began to recede around noon on Saturday in Shermansdale but not before damaging corn in low-lying areas and along streams in the county. Very little noticeable lodging from wind. Field work may resume toward the latter half of the week.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT) - Fieldwork (chopping corn silage, harvesting 4th haylage cutting, planting barley, spreading manure) happened at an accelerated pace through Thursday as producers tried to complete work before the heavy rains came at the end of the week. Corn silage harvest occurred around the clock on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Ivan has finally arrived and left a significant amount of rainfall, ranging from 5 to 7.5 inches. Prior to Saturday, there were lots of activities: plowing, cutting silage and haylage, spreading lime and manure. With the soybeans beginning to drop leaves, it appears that the crop is not as productive as once hoped. The number of bean pods is less than it should be; therefore, the harvest may not be as significant as once thought to be.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - A little dry hay made this week. Some haylage being put up. It rained somewhere between 5.5 and 6 inches. Very cold this morning at about 38 degrees.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - An excellent week for field work until the rain from the tropical storm began on Friday. Producers made excellent progress before the rain with both corn silage and hay harvests. The corn and soybeans are maturing quickly after the past several weeks of warmth and sunshine.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 19, 2004

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Fall plowing | 28 | 17 | 29 |
| Corn, dent | 87 | 57 | 74 |
| Corn, mature | 55 | 18 | 29 |
| Corn, harvested | 21 | 1 | 9 |
| Corn silage, harvested | 68 | 29 | 50 |
| Barley, planted | 22 | 15 | 20 |
| Barley, emerged | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Wheat, planted | 5 | 9 | 9 |
| Potatoes, harvested | 50 | 48 | 49 |
| Alfalfa, 3rd cutting | 92 | 86 | 88 |
| Alfalfa, 4th cutting | 43 | 32 | 49 |
| Timothy clover, 2nd cutting | 91 | 83 | 87 |
| Peaches, harvested | 98 | 99 | 98 |
| Apples, harvested | 66 | 41 | 38 |
| Grapes, harvested | 27 | 11 | 15 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 19, 2004

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Corn | 0 | 1 | 15 | 47 | 37 |
| Soybeans | 0 | 1 | 10 | 51 | 38 |
| Quality of hay made | 0 | 6 | 23 | 53 | 18 |
| Pasture | 7 | 11 | 14 | 53 | 15 |
| Apples | 0 | 1 | 26 | 51 | 22 |

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