



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending September 26, 2004

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

Good Week for Field Work: Much of the Commonwealth experienced sunshine and drier weather following the tempestuous conditions of Hurricane Ivan. Torrential rains and flooding hit hard in some areas, causing localized damage to some crops. Six days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included plowing, harvesting and shelling corn, cutting silage, sowing barley and wheat, picking pumpkins, harvesting potatoes, and general equipment maintenance.

due to last week's weather.

Livestock: Pasture conditions took a beating from rain the previous week but improved slightly this past week. Reports of flooding in several low-lying areas are still coming in. Pasture conditions now stand at 5 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 19 percent excellent.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending
September 26, 2004**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	0	72	28

Crops: Corn progress slowed a bit this past week but remains well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Harvesting of corn slowed considerably as flooding has made it difficult in many areas to get in the fields. Farmers remain quite optimistic about this year's crop, however. Ninety percent of this year's soybean crop is rated as either good or excellent, which has remained steady for some time now. The potato harvest is progressing nicely and is now 65 percent complete, slightly ahead of historic trends. Very little hay was made last week as both the 3rd and 4th cuttings held relatively steady from last week. The second cutting of timothy clover was also hindered by field conditions and is now 92 percent complete. The overall quality of hay made remained steady from the previous week with 75 percent being graded as either good or excellent.

U.S. As of September 19, 2004: Highlights: Hurricane Ivan came ashore along the central Gulf Coast Thursday, causing significant damage to cotton and peanut crops in southern Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. As it moved further inland, Ivan brought heavy rains to the Southeast, Ohio Valley, and middle Atlantic Coast, causing some flooding and fieldwork delays. Corn: Denting reached 85 percent complete, 8 percentage points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Forty-three percent of the crop was mature, 11 points behind last year and 17 points behind normal. Growers had harvested 9 percent of their acreage, compared with 10 percent last year and 12 percent for the average. Denting remained well behind normal across the northern Great Plains and northern Corn Belt, despite steady progress under warm conditions. Maturation was over a week behind the normal pace in 9 of the 18 major corn-producing States, and was over 3 weeks behind in North Dakota and Minnesota. Harvest was 17 points ahead of normal in North Carolina and 12 points ahead in Pennsylvania but was at or behind the normal pace elsewhere. Winter Wheat: Planting advanced to 29 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. Emergence, at 7 percent complete, was 1 point ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Soybeans: Fifty-two percent of the crop had dropped leaves, compared with 53 percent last year and 56 percent for the average. Producers had harvested 8 percent of the crop, 3 points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of normal.

Conditions were not favorable to areas of the state picking fruit. The apple harvest slowed and stands at 67 percent complete. This remains well ahead of historic trends, however. The grape harvest was delayed as well

Weather Data For Week Ending September 26, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 26, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	81	46	64	4	0.00	0	24.34	2.19	79	2,597	158	4,211
Franklin	82	42	62	4	0.00	0	37.79	13.47	96	2,483	222	4,117
Meadville	81	41	62	5	0.00	0	33.12	8.87	89	2,352	279	3,956
Mercer	84	32	58	-2	0.00	0	31.49	8.31	78	1,996	-245	3,586
Springboro	81	40	61	0	0.00	0	33.62	12.07	95	2,283	-119	3,876
Warren	82	40	63	5	0.00	0	39.92	15.49	102	2,345	156	3,963
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	32	58	5	0.00	0	28.34	3.93	96	1,921	335	3,501
Emporium	81	39	62	7	0.00	0	36.66	12.51	90	2,484	686	4,116
Kane	74	28	54	-1	0.00	0	33.80	8.97	83	1,235	-317	2,742
Laporte	76	39	60	2	0.00	0	40.53	18.04	96	2,130	-109	3,727
Lock Haven	83	41	64	5	0.00	0	40.90	18.77	73	2,773	394	4,470
Port Allegany	80	38	60	6	0.00	0	31.81	8.70	86	2,102	353	3,686
Renovo	82	38	63	4	0.00	0	35.38	13.25	82	2,690	311	4,357
Ridgway	80	36	60	4	0.00	0	35.31	11.16	76	2,076	278	3,665
Stevenson Dam	82	39	62	7	0.00	0	37.55	13.40	83	2,555	757	4,204
Towanda	81	41	62	4	0.00	0	30.58	11.87	82	2,593	338	4,234
Wellsboro	78	35	59	4	0.03	1	37.37	18.57	83	2,049	359	3,640
Williamsport	85	42	65	5	0.01	1	32.74	11.00	93	2,916	293	4,623
Northeast												
Hawley	78	39	60	4	0.00	0	34.50	13.26	68	2,211	277	3,811
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	40	63	4	0.00	0	28.63	8.00	74	2,698	211	4,374
Susquehanna	80	41	62	7	0.00	0	34.69	12.05	79	2,634	801	4,287
West Central												
Butler	83	41	62	3	0.00	0	36.08	13.11	98	2,473	127	4,107
New Castle	87	42	64	5	0.00	0	37.27	16.24	76	2,736	387	4,381
Slippery Rock	83	41	63	6	0.00	0	35.87	13.47	96	2,559	450	4,214
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	40	63	3	0.01	1	34.96	14.99	90	2,623	130	4,274
DuBois	79	38	62	4	0.01	1	36.44	13.34	110	2,306	149	3,928
Lewistown	85	42	65	4	0.00	0	31.44	9.99	71	2,929	191	4,626
Middletown	83	47	66	3	0.01	1	35.02	13.68	74	3,337	247	5,071
Prince Gallitzi	80	38	60	3	0.00	0	34.36	8.60	81	2,319	311	3,940
Selinsgrove	82	43	63	4	0.00	0	32.71	10.39	79	2,835	276	4,520
State College	79	43	63	5	0.00	0	34.21	14.02	75	2,717	259	4,383
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	83	43	65	4	0.00	0	29.76	6.38	68	3,037	213	4,753
Lehighton	79	43	61	1	0.00	0	34.60	11.38	87	2,691	-30	4,379
Matamoras	81	40	61	3	0.00	0	30.06	6.59	70	2,390	-69	4,032
Tobyhanna	81	38	63	9	0.04	1	38.66	13.67	100	2,338	661	3,959
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	44	64	4	0.03	2	29.88	8.60	83	2,926	417	4,610
Derry	84	42	65	6	0.00	0	39.36	17.16	88	2,629	259	4,291
Myersdale	80	36	60	-1	0.00	0	31.00	6.81	76	2,135	-204	3,745
Mount Pleasant	82	38	61	3	0.00	0	34.31	9.06	69	2,622	502	4,275
Pittsburgh Intl	81	46	64	3	0.00	0	33.21	13.21	82	2,958	331	4,640
Rector	81	38	62	4	0.00	0	38.24	12.99	98	2,657	537	4,322
Waynesburg	82	42	63	3	0.00	0	33.66	11.84	81	2,715	279	4,374
South Central												
Biglerville	82	45	66	3	0.00	0	33.74	13.61	78	3,048	28	4,752
Everett	82	36	60	-1	0.00	0	32.58	13.16	70	2,337	-151	3,952
Hanover	83	41	64	2	0.00	0	30.23	10.10	68	3,148	128	4,856
Shippensburg	85	42	65	3	0.00	0	36.90	17.27	75	3,193	191	4,898
South Mountain	81	40	61	2	0.00	0	31.63	11.66	63	2,567	81	4,214
York	85	41	64	1	0.01	1	25.63	4.12	63	3,135	127	4,850
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	43	66	5	0.00	0	34.79	12.16	72	3,365	663	5,104
Hamburg	84	45	66	7	0.00	0	31.44	5.39	80	3,051	587	4,766
Hopewell	84	44	65	1	0.00	0	33.73	10.00	94	3,103	-73	4,820
Lancaster	84	44	66	4	0.01	1	31.47	8.70	80	3,152	296	4,877
Neshaminy Falls	86	45	66	4	0.00	0	28.82	2.62	66	3,324	503	5,055
New Holland	84	44	65	4	0.00	0	32.46	9.69	79	3,154	298	4,865
Philadelphia	86	50	68	4	0.00	0	27.79	5.60	66	3,649	366	5,395
Philadelphia NE	85	48	68	4	0.00	0	29.23	7.04	71	3,536	253	5,279
Reading	84	44	66	5	0.00	0	32.43	8.10	72	3,203	397	4,932
Valley Forge Na	88	40	66	3	0.00	0	32.12	8.39	63	3,200	24	4,919
Willow Grove	82	46	66	5	0.00	0	26.37	0.17	74	3,290	469	5,028

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.

BEAVER COUNTY, J. Lee Miller (EXT) - Farmers are still recovering from the excessive rain and floods of a week ago. Producers in the flood plain of local streams and rivers had record high water, and a few were devastated by the flood waters. Some corn, soybeans, forage crops, and vegetables were completely lost to the flood waters. Other farmers had major losses due to erosion and soil loss. Those able to harvest hay during the dry days following the rain were able to obtain some very high quality forage. Pastures under high fertility are producing excellent forage for livestock this fall.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Silage and potato harvesting are the main activities for the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Great week for field work and fall chores. Sunshine without rain.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Field conditions are much improved after the recent flooding. Corn silage harvest should soon be in full swing.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - As a result of the recent flooding, many low lying fields are still too wet for activities. Corn is rapidly drying down. Some is now too dry for silage. Sunny days helped some farmers harvest dry hay, although heavy dew and fog still made the process challenging. There are many concerns about what to do with corn fields that had flood waters on them.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Randy Ranck - Great to have a year that corn silage is consistently in the 25-28 ton range and also pleasantly surprised with yields of 200 - 215 bushel corn being expected and not the exception. Having a great time checking corn yields this year!!!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Longest sunny dry period of the year; however, it took most of the week for the ground to dry out. Hay making, chopping corn, pumpkin picking and some corn shelling were the main activities this week. Reports of 160 bushel corn harvested this week at 22% moisture. However, just when things are drying out the next tropical system is heading our way with heavy rain in the forecast (1-3+ inches).

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Saturday, Sunday and Monday were spent cleaning up and assessing the damage from Ivan. The remainder of the week was ideal for many field activities such as making hay, cutting silage, picking and shelling corn, plowing, and sowing barley and wheat. With the warm sunshine after the hurricane, the corn and soybeans have made significant progress. Several farmers have begun harvesting the corn crop with the moisture at unbelievable levels for this early in the season. Hopefully this pattern will continue and Jeanne will not impact us.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - A decent week for field work. Harvesting of corn is starting in a few early planted fields. Flooding occurred around the county from heavy rains and rising creeks. Hay was mowed; much is being chopped instead of baled. Oat harvest continues with decent yields. Warm weather will help bring corn harvest to full swing.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Dry conditions all week allowed for continued corn silage and hay harvesting. Getting difficult to get hay dry enough to bale because of the short days. Some wind damage to corn from Hurricane Ivan. Not much other crop damage from the storm's rain or flooding.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 26, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	30	21	36
Corn, dent	93	69	81
Corn, mature	59	24	41
Corn, harvested	22	4	13
Corn silage, harvested	74	40	63
Barley, planted	44	23	34
Barley, emerged	14	7	16
Wheat, planted	16	10	14
Potatoes, harvested	65	64	61
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	93	91	91
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	44	39	56
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	92	85	91
Apples, harvested	67	47	44
Grapes, harvested	28	12	30

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 26, 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	2	7	36	54
Soybeans	1	2	7	58	32
Quality of hay made	1	5	19	55	20
Pasture	5	4	14	58	19

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