



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 3, 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: Much of Pennsylvania continued to dry out while scattered areas were hit with more rainfall this past week. Soybean and corn damage has been experienced in low-lying areas that were near flooded rivers and creeks. Five days were suitable for field work. Principal farm activities included plowing, harvesting corn, cutting silage, sowing barley and wheat, picking pumpkins and fruit, hauling manure, harvesting potatoes, and general equipment maintenance and other farm chores.

The apple harvest progressed little from last week and now stands at 69 percent complete. This remains well ahead of historic trends, however. The grape harvest has picked up in some areas and is now 31 percent complete.

Livestock: Pasture conditions are in tough shape as a result of the incessant rainfall of the last month and continue to decline with water unable to drain in an efficient manner. Pasture conditions now stand at 4 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending
October 3, 2004**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	0	57	43

Crops: Corn progress picked up after experiencing delays the previous week. Eighty percent of this year's corn crop is now mature, with 33 percent of the crop already harvested. These figures are both well ahead of historic trends. Corn crop condition has decreased slightly, however, with 81 percent of the crop being rated as either good or excellent. The soybean harvest is just starting and now stands at about 5 percent complete. 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 77 percent complete, slightly behind last year but ahead of the 5-year average. The 3rd cutting of alfalfa and the second cutting of timothy clover are almost completely finished for the season. Wet field conditions had a major impact on the quality of hay made last week. Only 54 percent was rated as either good or excellent, down considerably from the previous week.

U.S. As of September 26, 2004: Highlights: Hurricane Jeanne made landfall along Florida's east coast Sunday morning, causing additional damage to citrus groves and farm infrastructure. Meanwhile, the remnants of Hurricane Ivan had circled and made landfall again along the western Gulf Coast, causing heavy rainfall in Louisiana and Texas. The precipitation associated with the recent tropical activity has caused much concern for crops in the Southeast and Delta, especially cotton in the vulnerable open bolls stage. Though the eastern half of the Nation had little rainfall, many fields in the Appalachians and along the Atlantic Coast were still flooded from Ivan's heavy rainfall during the previous week. Corn: Ninety-two percent of the crop was at or beyond the dent stage, 5 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind normal. Maturation, at 58 percent, was 15 points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest advanced to 16 percent complete, the same as last year but 3 points behind normal. Winter Wheat: Growers had sown 42 percent of their acreage, 2 points behind last year but 4 points ahead of normal. Emergence reached 17 percent complete, compared with 16 percent for last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average. Soybeans: The acreage dropping leaves, at 72 percent, was 1 point behind last year and 3 points behind normal. Harvest advanced to 18 percent complete, compared with 14 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 3, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 3, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	73	42	60	2	0.17	2	24.51	1.44	81	2,668	164	4,352
Franklin	77	39	59	4	0.30	1	38.09	12.99	97	2,549	237	4,253
Meadville	72	39	57	2	0.24	1	33.36	8.27	90	2,402	283	4,076
Mercer	75	26	54	-3	0.08	2	31.57	7.65	80	2,026	-266	3,684
Springboro	73	36	56	-2	0.26	3	33.88	11.51	98	2,327	-136	3,990
Warren	75	39	58	4	0.19	2	40.11	14.84	104	2,404	168	4,092
North Central												
Bradford Region	70	29	54	3	0.02	1	28.36	3.14	97	1,960	347	3,602
Emporium	73	42	59	6	0.11	2	36.77	11.88	92	2,546	712	4,248
Kane	67	26	51	0	0.04	1	33.84	8.15	84	1,249	-328	2,818
Laporte	73	41	58	3	3.25	5	43.78	20.53	101	2,185	-101	3,852
Lock Haven	79	44	61	5	2.81	3	43.71	20.84	76	2,850	418	4,617
Port Allegany	72	37	55	3	0.18	3	31.99	8.07	89	2,140	359	3,794
Renovo	72	42	59	3	0.79	4	36.17	13.30	86	2,758	326	4,495
Ridgway	73	32	55	3	0.06	1	35.37	10.48	77	2,109	275	3,768
Stevenson Dam	75	43	60	7	0.12	2	37.67	12.78	85	2,624	790	4,343
Towanda	73	42	59	4	1.43	2	32.01	12.66	84	2,655	352	4,366
Wellsboro	72	36	55	3	0.63	3	38.00	18.53	86	2,085	363	3,746
Williamsport	74	43	62	5	2.65	5	35.39	12.88	98	2,998	317	4,775
Northeast												
Hawley	72	41	57	4	2.26	3	36.76	14.82	71	2,264	292	3,934
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	41	60	3	1.78	5	30.41	9.10	79	2,769	227	4,515
Susquehanna	75	44	59	7	2.39	4	37.08	13.67	83	2,702	836	4,425
West Central												
Butler	76	38	58	2	0.26	4	36.34	12.68	102	2,527	127	4,231
New Castle	77	41	59	3	0.00	0	37.27	15.54	76	2,797	393	4,512
Slippery Rock	76	36	58	3	0.10	1	35.97	12.85	97	2,611	455	4,336
Central												
Altoona/Blair	72	38	60	4	1.77	3	36.73	16.09	93	2,694	145	4,415
DuBois	71	33	57	3	0.05	3	36.49	12.68	113	2,359	157	4,051
Lewistown	77	44	62	4	1.70	3	33.14	10.99	74	3,014	213	4,781
Middletown	76	47	65	5	3.86	5	38.88	16.82	79	3,443	277	5,247
Prince Gallitzi	72	35	58	4	1.04	3	35.40	8.79	84	2,376	323	4,067
Selinsgrove	73	44	61	5	3.01	4	35.72	12.64	83	2,914	299	4,669
State College	70	42	59	3	1.85	3	36.06	15.20	78	2,781	269	4,517
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	76	44	63	4	3.01	4	32.77	8.65	72	3,126	235	4,912
Lehighton	72	44	60	2	2.81	4	37.41	13.40	91	2,760	-24	4,518
Matamoras	75	42	59	3	2.90	4	32.96	8.71	74	2,456	-55	4,168
Tobyhanna	76	40	58	6	3.43	5	42.09	16.22	105	2,393	689	4,084
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	75	39	61	4	0.36	4	30.24	8.29	87	3,005	435	4,759
Derry	75	40	60	4	0.32	3	39.68	16.80	91	2,701	276	4,433
Myersdale	74	38	59	3	0.71	3	31.71	6.73	79	2,199	-196	3,879
Mount Pleasant	76	37	58	3	0.07	1	34.38	8.34	70	2,679	510	4,402
Pittsburgh Intl	74	38	60	3	0.35	5	33.56	12.96	87	3,032	342	4,784
Rector	76	40	60	5	0.57	3	38.81	12.77	101	2,725	556	4,460
Waynesburg	75	42	59	3	0.10	3	33.76	11.35	84	2,782	290	4,511
South Central												
Biglerville	76	46	62	3	4.03	3	37.77	16.89	81	3,137	43	4,911
Everett	70	38	58	0	1.88	3	34.46	14.34	73	2,391	-155	4,076
Hanover	76	43	63	3	3.86	3	34.09	13.21	71	3,242	148	5,020
Shippensburg	79	45	63	3	4.02	4	40.92	20.57	79	3,286	208	5,061
South Mountain	71	43	59	3	3.62	3	35.25	14.61	66	2,633	91	4,350
York	77	43	64	4	2.68	2	28.31	6.08	65	3,233	149	5,018
Southeast												
Green Lane	80	46	64	6	3.38	4	38.17	14.83	76	3,462	697	5,271
Hamburg	77	47	63	7	4.01	5	35.45	8.52	85	3,142	627	4,927
Hopewell	77	47	63	2	3.71	5	37.44	12.93	99	3,193	-63	4,980
Lancaster	77	47	64	5	1.91	4	33.38	9.87	84	3,253	328	5,048
Neshaminy Falls	80	50	65	6	6.89	3	35.71	8.71	69	3,429	542	5,230
New Holland	79	46	64	5	2.53	5	34.99	11.48	84	3,250	325	5,031
Philadelphia	78	52	67	5	3.70	3	31.49	8.63	69	3,767	397	5,583
Philadelphia NE	78	50	65	4	5.92	3	35.15	12.29	74	3,646	276	5,459
Reading	78	45	64	6	2.81	5	35.24	10.14	77	3,302	431	5,101
Valley Forge Na	82	44	63	2	5.38	3	37.50	12.99	66	3,290	34	5,079
Willow Grove	75	50	64	6	3.34	4	29.71	2.71	78	3,389	502	5,197

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.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Harvesting of potatoes and corn silage continue. There was some frost in the county over the last week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Some nice early fall days to get field work completed. Two days of rain for an additional 2.25" in my gauge. Silo filling, fall grain seeding, and some corn combining were completed during the week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Many soybeans in the area still need some time to mature. Frost warnings are starting so we may have some problems with the crop.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Another excellent week for field work. Corn silage harvesting is in full swing with excellent field conditions. Farmers are making good time without worrying about getting stuck in the fields. Plenty of hay was also made due to good weather conditions.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Corn harvest is progressing rapidly. Excellent yields reported. Moisture's in the 19% range on the driest crops. Heavy rains early in week with 3+ inches held harvest off for a few days, but producers were back in the fields towards the end of the week.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - Another wet week. Rainfall reports of 3 to 5 inches were common. Corn is maturing rapidly. Silage harvest is completed, and high moisture grain harvest is at mid season. Soybean harvesting has begun and yields are mostly average. This week's rain has halted any late hay harvest. Apples are nearly all harvested. Yields have varied according to variety and locations. Quality will be affected by this week's rains.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - Combine yield monitors are showing some very nice numbers.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - More rain this week of 3 to 6+ inches.

Southern parts of the county received over 10 inches. Harvest continues to be slowed because of very wet field conditions. Corn silage harvest is nearly complete, with excellent yields being reported. Some soybeans will be ready for harvest in the next week with good weather in the forecast. No small grains planted yet.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The rainfall from Jeanne ranged from 1 to 2.5 inches; that caused some minor flooding and opened winter springs that were dormant since early in the growing season. On Saturday a cold front produced 0.5 to 1 inch of rainfall. There were limited field activities due to the wet soil conditions; however, there was some corn silage and haylage cut as well as limited corn harvest in the well-drained areas. The soybeans are maturing, while many fields have dropped nearly all the leaves and the drying process is taking place.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - The sunshine is helping move the harvest along. Hay still needs to be mowed. There's not enough warm weather to do much baling. Grain harvest is wrapping up; corn is well under way with corn silage making decent yields. Some fields appear to have frost damage. Soybean fields and corn near flooded rivers have been lost. The hope is for warm weather to continue for harvest.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - A second consecutive excellent harvest week. Good harvest progress with corn silage, high-moisture corn, and some last-cutting hay. A few producers were able to begin dry corn and soybean harvests. Mostly excellent yields are being reported. However, some poorly-drained fields are not yielding as well because of the season's wet conditions.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) - Heavy rain last weekend slowed field work until the middle of the week. Corn harvest is progressing well with yields exceeding 180 bu/acre. Silage yields are reported to be up to 30 tons per acre.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 3, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	50	27	43
Corn, dent	94	79	87
Corn, mature	80	39	56
Corn, harvested	33	9	20
Corn silage, harvested	87	59	78
Barley, planted	65	27	46
Barley, emerged	39	13	27
Wheat, planted	46	12	23
Wheat, emerged	13	7	12
Soybeans, harvested	5	2	5
Potatoes, harvested	77	81	73
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	97	93	93
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	52	41	61
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	98	88	93
Apples, harvested	69	53	57
Grapes, harvested	31	19	52

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 3, 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	4	14	38	43
Soybeans	0	2	8	58	32
Quality of hay made	2	12	32	43	11
Pasture	4	6	27	52	11

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