



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending October 5, 2003

Fair week for Field Work: There were 3 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 51 percent adequate and 49 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included making hay; harvesting corn silage; harvesting corn and soybeans; spreading manure, lime and fertilizer; caring for livestock; harvesting, processing and canning/freezing fruit and vegetables.

Crops: The first frost covered most of the Commonwealth last week with only 10 percent of the corn acres harvested for grain, 35 percent behind last year. The corn crop condition was rated as 5 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 38 percent good and 30 percent excellent, a slight decline as compared to last week. Ninety-six percent of corn has reached the dough stage, 82 percent has reached the dent stage and 44 percent has reached maturity. Corn silage harvest was 66 percent complete, 24 and 17 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. The condition of the soybean crop was rated as 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 42 percent good and 34 percent excellent. Fall plowing and planting of winter crops continue to be hindered by wet conditions, 29 percent of fall plowing has been completed, 21 percent behind the five-year average. With 13 percent of winter wheat planted, 16 percent less than the five-year average, 8 percent of the planted acreage has emerged. Barley planted advanced to 28 percent complete, considerably lower than the 71 percent pace set last fall. The rain continues to reduce the quality of hay made; 15 percent was rated as very poor, 15 percent was poor, 38 percent was fair, 27 percent was good and 5 percent was excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa reached 94 percent complete, on pace with last year and the five-year average. The fourth cutting advanced to 42 percent complete, 20 percent behind 2002 and 24 percent behind the five-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover reached 89 percent complete, 6 percent behind the previous year and the five year average. The tobacco harvest is near complete, however still slightly behind the five year average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions across Pennsylvania declined slightly over the past week due the cool wet conditions. Five percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 12 percent was rated poor, 21 percent was rated fair, 43 percent was rated good and 19 percent was rated excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Apple harvest advanced to 55 percent complete, 8 percent behind the five-year average. The apple crop condition was rated as 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 67 percent good and 10 percent excellent. The percent of grapes harvested continues to vary widely across the Commonwealth. However, grape harvest for the state advanced to 22 percent complete, significantly behind 2002 harvest and the five-year average. The potato harvest advanced to 86 percent complete, on pace with last year.

U.S. As of September 28, 2003: Below-normal temperatures were experienced throughout the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains, with temperatures as low as 32 degrees reaching as far south as central Nebraska. Temperatures in the rest of the Nation were above normal, with hot, dry conditions returning to the Pacific Northwest after a short respite the previous week. Winter wheat seedings advanced rapidly on the Great Plains due to mild, mostly dry conditions. Early in the week, locally heavy showers occurred in most areas east of the Mississippi River, slowing field work and harvest activities. Corn: Seventy-nine percent of the crop was mature, 1 percentage point behind last year at this time and 5 points behind the normal pace. Eighteen percent of the crop had been harvested, compared with 19 percent last year and 23 percent for the 5-year average. In most of the Nation, the crop has been slow to mature, with Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania over 1 week behind normal. However, Colorado and Minnesota had progressed to 1 week ahead of normal. Harvest progressed slowly in the Corn Belt and the Great Plains, as producers continued to focus on planting winter wheat or switched to harvesting early soybeans. Harvest lagged the furthest behind normal in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, where progress was 1 week or more behind normal. Soybeans: Seventy-eight percent of the crop was dropping leaves, 2 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind normal. Seventeen percent of the crop had been harvested, 2 points ahead of last year but 3 points behind the 5-year average. In Kentucky, 40 percent of the acreage dropped leaves during the week, pushing progress slightly ahead of normal. However, the rest of the Ohio Valley remained 1 week behind normal. The crop also advanced steadily through the dropping leaves stage in the Corn Belt. Harvest progressed rapidly in the northern Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt but slowly in the Ohio Valley, where all States were 1 week or more behind the normal pace. Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee were also 1 week or more behind their normal harvest pace. Winter Wheat: Seeding advanced to 49 percent complete, 2 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of the 40-percent average for this date. Twenty percent of the expected acreage had emerged, 1 point behind last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Dry weather throughout the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains allowed planting to progress rapidly. Oklahoma and Texas growers were 1 week ahead of their normal planting progress, and Kansas was slightly ahead of the normal planting pace. Cooler-than-normal weather and soil moisture shortages from the High Plains northward slowed emergence. In Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, and Washington, emergence was 8 percentage points or more behind normal. However, most of the Great Plains crop had emerged ahead of the normal pace, while emergence in the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley was at or near normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 5, 2003

| STATION | LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY | | | | | | | April 1, 03 - October 5, 03 | | | | | GDD BASE 40F TOT |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----|-----|-----|---------------|------|-------|-----------------------------|------|-------|--------------|------|---------------------------|
| | TEMPERATURE | | | | PRECIPITATION | | | PRECIPITATION | | | GDD BASE 50F | | |
| | HI | LO | AVG | DFN | TOTAL | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | | |
| NORTHWEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 62 | 37 | 50 | -10 | 2.20 | 7 | 23.69 | +0.39 | 85 | 2488 | -24 | 4180 | |
| Franklin_AG | 61 | 30 | 45 | -11 | 0.89 | 6 | 33.49 | +8.18 | 123 | 2223 | -95 | 3938 | |
| Meadville | 59 | 33 | 45 | -10 | 1.05 | 7 | 31.86 | +6.54 | 105 | 2227 | +103 | 3929 | |
| Mercer | 61 | 21 | 42 | -14 | 0.56 | 3 | 36.75 | +12.61 | 89 | 1871 | -427 | 3548 | |
| Springboro | 62 | 32 | 46 | -12 | 1.47 | 7 | 30.17 | +7.60 | 95 | 2077 | -393 | 3745 | |
| Warren | 63 | 31 | 47 | -9 | 1.16 | 6 | 34.66 | +9.17 | 98 | 2210 | -32 | 3899 | |
| NORTH CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford_Region | 58 | 26 | 43 | -9 | 1.27 | 6 | 31.76 | +6.32 | 108 | 1722 | +106 | 3345 | |
| Emporium | 67 | 32 | 48 | -6 | 0.87 | 6 | 37.09 | +11.99 | 102 | 2274 | +436 | 4000 | |
| Kane | 57 | 22 | 39 | -13 | 0.78 | 4 | 29.32 | +3.40 | 89 | 1220 | -360 | 2730 | |
| Laporte | 72 | 28 | 44 | -12 | 1.06 | 5 | 34.49 | +11.04 | 96 | 1984 | -308 | 3613 | |
| Lock_Haven | 71 | 31 | 49 | -8 | 0.40 | 5 | 29.72 | +6.65 | 91 | 2620 | +182 | 4372 | |
| Port_Allegany | 63 | 29 | 44 | -9 | 0.92 | 6 | 34.60 | +10.47 | 94 | 1895 | +110 | 3530 | |
| Renovo | 68 | 35 | 49 | -8 | 0.59 | 4 | 29.94 | +6.87 | 99 | 2480 | +42 | 4231 | |
| Ridgway | 62 | 27 | 45 | -9 | 1.17 | 6 | 28.86 | +3.76 | 89 | 1887 | +49 | 3562 | |
| Stevenson_Dam | 67 | 32 | 47 | -6 | 0.85 | 7 | 31.44 | +6.34 | 107 | 2279 | +441 | 4003 | |
| Towanda | 65 | 31 | 48 | -7 | 0.35 | 6 | 30.99 | +11.46 | 111 | 2287 | -22 | 3981 | |
| Wellsboro | 65 | 28 | 45 | -9 | 0.70 | 6 | 30.25 | +10.62 | 92 | 1887 | +161 | 3520 | |
| Williamsport_AP | 70 | 31 | 50 | -8 | 0.48 | 5 | 32.55 | +9.83 | 94 | 2730 | +42 | 4488 | |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 60 | 28 | 45 | -9 | 0.55 | 5 | 29.19 | +7.05 | 83 | 2046 | +69 | 3724 | |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 61 | 30 | 48 | -9 | 0.55 | 6 | 32.06 | +10.57 | 88 | 2603 | +54 | 4327 | |
| Susquehanna | 63 | 29 | 48 | -6 | 0.84 | 7 | 34.27 | +10.64 | 87 | 2502 | +632 | 4200 | |
| WEST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 61 | 27 | 45 | -12 | 0.54 | 6 | 29.83 | +5.97 | 100 | 2364 | -42 | 4109 | |
| New_Castle | 64 | 30 | 47 | -11 | 0.58 | 4 | 35.48 | +13.56 | 88 | 2561 | +150 | 4320 | |
| Slippery_Rock | 63 | 30 | 46 | -9 | 0.56 | 7 | 37.78 | +14.45 | 100 | 2440 | +278 | 4192 | |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair_C | 66 | 29 | 48 | -10 | 0.37 | 5 | 27.39 | +6.55 | 108 | 2470 | -86 | 4198 | |
| Du_Bois | 60 | 27 | 45 | -10 | 0.97 | 6 | 32.35 | +8.34 | 117 | 2136 | -71 | 3834 | |
| Lewistown | 71 | 33 | 50 | -9 | 0.37 | 5 | 29.90 | +7.56 | 86 | 2793 | -17 | 4562 | |
| Middletown | 69 | 36 | 52 | -9 | 0.62 | 6 | 32.76 | +10.50 | 103 | 3097 | -79 | 4875 | |
| Prince_Gallitzi | 63 | 27 | 45 | -10 | 0.85 | 6 | 29.53 | +2.67 | 107 | 2239 | +181 | 3929 | |
| Selinsgrove | 68 | 33 | 49 | -8 | 0.45 | 5 | 28.60 | +5.32 | 93 | 2646 | +24 | 4394 | |
| State_College_P | 63 | 34 | 48 | -9 | 0.49 | 5 | 34.84 | +13.79 | 98 | 2554 | +36 | 4297 | |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethl | 67 | 32 | 50 | -9 | 0.20 | 3 | 34.72 | +10.39 | 89 | 2948 | +49 | 4702 | |
| Lehighnton | 62 | 32 | 48 | -11 | 0.50 | 6 | 39.17 | +14.96 | 106 | 2517 | -275 | 4242 | |
| Matamoras | 65 | 29 | 47 | -10 | 0.36 | 4 | 29.86 | +5.39 | 90 | 2229 | -288 | 3913 | |
| Tobyhanna | 62 | 26 | 45 | -8 | 0.55 | 4 | 42.84 | +16.73 | 97 | 2679 | +972 | 4391 | |
| SOUTHWEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 62 | 29 | 48 | -10 | 0.56 | 5 | 25.09 | +2.95 | 104 | 2876 | +298 | 4667 | |
| Derry | 65 | 28 | 47 | -10 | 0.86 | 3 | 35.51 | +12.43 | 92 | 2542 | +110 | 4282 | |
| Meyersdale | 62 | 24 | 43 | -14 | 0.39 | 5 | 31.09 | +5.88 | 100 | 1920 | -482 | 3582 | |
| Mount_Pleasant | 62 | 26 | 46 | -10 | 0.77 | 5 | 31.84 | +5.56 | 104 | 2480 | +305 | 4235 | |
| Pittsburgh_Intl | 60 | 29 | 47 | -11 | 0.47 | 6 | 25.10 | +4.31 | 96 | 2824 | +125 | 4607 | |
| Rector | 63 | 25 | 47 | -9 | 0.86 | 4 | 31.27 | +4.99 | 92 | 2512 | +337 | 4264 | |
| Waynesburg | 63 | 27 | 46 | -11 | 0.58 | 4 | 36.04 | +13.43 | 101 | 2610 | +111 | 4379 | |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 70 | 33 | 50 | -10 | 0.53 | 5 | 35.48 | +14.39 | 109 | 2881 | -223 | 4653 | |
| Everett | 67 | 21 | 43 | -15 | 0.44 | 5 | 30.57 | +10.25 | 101 | 2496 | -57 | 4223 | |
| Hanover | 69 | 31 | 50 | -10 | 0.44 | 5 | 36.98 | +15.89 | 87 | 2905 | -199 | 4674 | |
| Shippensburg | 67 | 33 | 50 | -10 | 0.50 | 4 | 30.22 | +9.67 | 84 | 3026 | -62 | 4805 | |
| South_Mountain | 66 | 29 | 46 | -12 | 0.73 | 5 | 37.01 | +16.17 | 92 | 2308 | -241 | 4005 | |
| York_AP | 69 | 30 | 51 | -10 | 0.40 | 5 | 29.24 | +6.80 | 97 | 2953 | -141 | 4725 | |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green_Lane | 70 | 33 | 52 | -7 | 0.25 | 4 | 38.75 | +15.21 | 90 | 3122 | +349 | 4897 | |
| Hamburg | 69 | 33 | 50 | -7 | 0.46 | 6 | 34.78 | +7.62 | 97 | 2850 | +329 | 4600 | |
| Hopewell | 69 | 32 | 50 | -12 | 0.26 | 3 | 35.64 | +10.91 | 91 | 2797 | -470 | 4535 | |
| Lancaster_AP | 69 | 33 | 51 | -9 | 0.37 | 5 | 28.09 | +4.37 | 90 | 2956 | +22 | 4724 | |
| Neshaminy_Falls | 72 | 37 | 54 | -6 | 0.15 | 2 | 27.50 | +0.26 | 83 | 3196 | +300 | 4966 | |
| New_Holland | 69 | 34 | 51 | -8 | 0.42 | 5 | 35.45 | +11.73 | 94 | 2942 | +8 | 4704 | |
| Philadelphia | 70 | 38 | 56 | -7 | 0.08 | 2 | 24.36 | +1.29 | 79 | 3608 | +226 | 5411 | |
| Philadelphia_NE | 71 | 36 | 54 | -9 | 0.33 | 2 | 26.27 | +3.20 | 87 | 3294 | -88 | 5078 | |
| Reading_AP | 68 | 33 | 51 | -8 | 0.19 | 5 | 29.68 | +4.36 | 92 | 3037 | +158 | 4797 | |
| Valley_Forge_Na | 68 | 31 | 51 | -11 | 0.15 | 3 | 33.48 | +8.75 | 91 | 2915 | -352 | 4666 | |
| Willow_Grove | 72 | 41 | 54 | -5 | 0.07 | 2 | 23.73 | -3.51 | 80 | 3069 | +173 | 4841 | |

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

"Another rainy week keep farmers out of the fields. Frost, cold weather, and mud made working outside miserable."
- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Finally got our first frost (of the year) of several this past week. Some hilltop farmers are concerned that their corn hasn't had enough growing degree days to mature. Most fields are showing the frost has stopped growth."
- Wes Ramsey, Warren County

"A weird weather week. First frost of the fall hit corn fields hard. Stalks are drying down quickly. Rain during the week stalled field work. Corn for silage is really dry after the frost. Corn for grain might be ready a little earlier than expected. Snow flurries, rain, sleet, sunshine all on the same day. Fall is definitely here and winter feels real close. Hay is done for the year."
- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"Excessive moisture throughout the season continues to be evident in the increased amount of diseased pumpkins, winter squash, tomatoes, and other fruit that has had contact with the soil. Shelf life is compromised. Potato yields are good. Wet fields have slowed harvest."
- John Esslinger, Lackawanna County

"The wet weather pattern continues, only now sometimes it is snow. Snow squalls were seen around the area last week. Corn harvest is quite the challenge. Some farmers are choosing to wait for the ground to freeze, and yet others are either pulling wagons with a second tractor or pulling the chopper with two tractors."
- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"We had a Killing freeze Friday morning ending the growing season about two weeks early. Some crops lost to the freeze."
- Andrew Kimmel, Armstrong County

"We had our first frost and a few snow flakes during the past week. Winter is coming."
- D. Decker, Centre County

"We had 1 frost this week and 1 freeze. The temp got down to 24 for about 3 hours here today 10/3/2003. Yesterday, Oct 2, it snowed for the first time (only flurries) but that is really early for us. The neighbors that tried to plant corn are busy cutting what they got (not much - no ears) and it is so muddy we saw people with two tractors hooked together and they are still getting stuck. We really needed to plant corn this year for our cows, but it was so late we knew this was going to happen."
- M. K., Huntington County

"Frost has damaged, not killed much of the corn in our area. Silage harvest is progressing rapidly."
- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

"Killing frost on October 3 caught late planted corn in milk stage."
- Don Fretts, Fayette County

"Frost on Thursday."
- Leonard Cottom, Fayette County

"First killing frost on Friday morning with temperature of 23 degrees. Killing frost was widespread and covered pretty much the entire county. Cool, damp conditions still hampering all phases of harvest operations and fall planting."
- Tom Sierzega, Washington County

"Freeze and heavy killing frost Friday morning ended the growing season for corn and soybeans. Most later-planted corn and soybeans did not reach maturity before this earlier than normal first frost. Some grain quality will be adversely affected. Most fields are still too wet for wheat planting."
- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"This week we had our first frost, no reports of a widespread killing frost, but some low areas of immature corn were definitely affected. The cool weather has slowed any hay making. Finished up on cutting corn for silage except for some late planted corn that may never mature. High moisture corn is now being harvested and silos and bags are getting full. Corn now left standing will be going for grain. Soybeans are a disappointment. Yields are low and beans are small; need some drying weather to bring down moisture level in the beans."
- Thomas A. Kerr, Adams County

"Spent a little time in the field with producers trying to harvest corn both as silage and grain. Going is very slow taking from twice the amount of time to 10 times. Some fields are down so close to the ground I am being told the only harvest method is by hand. One Amish farmer reported what took 5 minutes with the binder is taking several hours by hand. Mennonite Disaster Committee has set up a harvest aid office for persons who have equipment and will come to the area to help with the harvest. The phone number is 717-768-4670."
- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"Soil conditions still too wet to get wheat planted. Frost Friday morning left the soybeans brown across the top. Very little field work was accomplished this week, hopefully next week will allow for some wheat to be planted and corn to be chopped. There is some good looking corn and some late corn out there that still is very green."
- Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery County



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 5, 2003

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | <i>Percent</i> | |
| Fall plowing | 29 | 54 | 50 |
| Corn, dough | 96 | 97 | 98 |
| Corn, dent | 82 | 96 | 91 |
| Corn, mature | 44 | 82 | 63 |
| Corn, harvested | 10 | 45 | 23 |
| Corn silage, harvested | 66 | 90 | 83 |
| Barley, planted | 28 | 71 | 54 |
| Barley, emerged | 15 | 52 | 33 |
| Winter wheat, planted | 13 | 43 | 29 |
| Winter wheat, emerged | 8 | 24 | 14 |
| Soybeans, harvested | 3 | 13 | 7 |
| Tobacco, harvested | 98 | 100 | 99 |
| Potatoes, harvested | 86 | 87 | 74 |
| Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting | 94 | 96 | 94 |
| Alfalfa, 4 th cutting | 42 | 62 | 66 |
| Timothy clover, 2 nd cutting | 89 | 95 | 95 |
| Apples, harvested | 55 | 78 | 63 |
| Grapes, harvested | 22 | 80 | 64 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 5, 2003

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | | | | |
| Corn | 5 | 7 | 20 | 38 | 30 |
| Soybeans | 1 | 4 | 19 | 42 | 34 |
| Quality of hay made | 15 | 15 | 38 | 27 | 5 |
| Pasture conditions | 5 | 12 | 21 | 43 | 19 |
| Apples | 0 | 2 | 21 | 67 | 10 |

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