



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending October 12, 2003

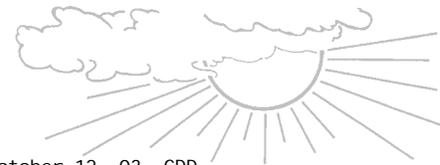
Good week for Field Work: There were 6 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 84 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included making hay; harvesting corn silage; harvesting corn and soybeans; planting wheat and barley; spreading manure, lime and fertilizer; caring for livestock; harvesting, processing and canning/freezing fruit and vegetables.

Crops: Last week went without rain across the Commonwealth which allowed for corn acres to be harvested for grain to advance to 24 percent complete, 28 percent behind last year but only 8 percent behind the five year average. The corn crop condition was rated as 4 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 48 percent good and 26 percent excellent, a slight increase as compared to last week. Eighty-seven percent of the corn acreage has reached the dent stage and 58 percent has reached maturity. Corn silage harvest was 73 percent complete, 20 and 16 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. Soybean acres harvested was seventeen percent complete last week, on pace with last season and 4 percent above the five year average. The condition of the soybean crop was rated as 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 47 percent good and 31 percent excellent. Fall plowing and planting of winter crops accelerated last week, 43 percent of fall plowing has been completed, still 18 percent behind the five-year average. With 31 percent of winter wheat planted, 16 percent less than the five-year average, 13 percent of the planted acreage has emerged. Barley planted advanced to 60 percent complete, considerably lower than the 78 percent pace set last fall. Last week allowed for the quality of hay made to improve significantly; 3 percent was rated as very poor, 13 percent was poor, 30 percent was fair, 43 percent was good and 11 percent was excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa is near complete, on pace with last year and the five-year average. The fourth cutting advanced to 55 percent complete, 16 percent behind 2002 and 17 percent behind the five-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover reached 92 percent complete, slightly behind the previous year and the five year average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions across Pennsylvania improved slightly over the past week due the drier conditions. Two percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 8 percent was rated poor, 14 percent was rated fair, 62 percent was rated good and 14 percent was rated excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Apple harvest advanced to 71 percent complete, improving to only 3 percent behind the five-year average. The percent of grapes harvested continues to vary widely across the Commonwealth. However, grape harvest for the state advanced to 35 percent complete, significantly behind 2002 harvest and the five-year average. The potato harvest advanced to 87 percent complete, slightly behind last year but slightly ahead of the five year average.

U.S. as of October 5, 2003: From the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast, temperatures were above normal, with record highs along the West Coast. All areas east of the Rockies were cooler than normal, and widespread freezes across most areas of the northern Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Ohio Valley terminated crop growth, with mature crops mostly unaffected. Most of the Nation was very dry, promoting harvest of summer crops and planting of winter wheat. However, New England and southern Florida had moderate to heavy rainfall. Corn: Ninety percent of the crop was mature, 1 percentage point behind last year at this time and 3 points behind the normal pace. Twenty-seven percent of the crop had been harvested, the same as last year but 6 points below the 5-year average. Freezing temperatures ended crop growth across the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, accelerating maturation. During the week, over one-fourth of the crop reached maturity in Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Despite the dry weather, growers made little harvest progress, focusing instead on harvesting soybeans and planting winter wheat. The Ohio Valley had still not recovered from slow progress earlier in the season, and maturation and harvest were 1 week or more behind normal. Soybeans: Eighty-nine percent of the crop was dropping leaves, 1 percentage point behind last year and the 5-year average. Thirty-seven percent of the crop had been harvested, 8 points ahead of last year but 2 points behind the normal pace. Freezing temperatures in the northern Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Ohio Valley accelerated development through the dropping leaves stage. Over one-fourth of the crop dropped leaves in Kentucky during the week, pushing development well ahead of normal. Harvest progressed rapidly across the Nation, aided by dry weather. Corn Belt and northern Great Plains producers made good harvest progress, with one-third or more of the crop harvested during the week in Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota. The harvest pace was only slightly slower in Illinois and South Dakota, where nearly one-fourth of the crop was threshed. Winter Wheat: Seeding advanced to 63 percent complete, 1 percentage point ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-one percent of the expected acreage had emerged, 5 points behind last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Planting progressed rapidly in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest, encouraged by warm, dry weather. Planting progressed steadily across the Great Plains but was slow in the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley. Emergence of the crop was hindered in the Corn Belt by low temperatures but progressed steadily in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. Emergence remained over 1 week behind the normal pace in Montana and Washington. normal.



STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - October 12, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	76	37	57	+3	0.00	0	23.69	-0.45	85	2551	-9	4303
Franklin_AG	77	31	54	+1	0.02	2	33.51	+7.50	125	2265	-89	4035
Meadville	74	31	55	+4	0.00	0	31.86	+5.75	105	2281	+125	4039
Mercer	77	24	52	-2	0.00	0	36.75	+11.97	89	1905	-427	3633
Springboro	77	30	55	-1	0.03	1	30.20	+6.86	96	2127	-386	3849
Warren	77	32	54	+2	0.02	1	34.68	+8.42	99	2254	-20	3998
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	75	26	50	+2	0.05	1	31.81	+5.66	109	1750	+116	3420
Emporium	76	32	53	+4	0.00	0	37.09	+11.29	102	2310	+449	4093
Kane	73	21	46	-3	0.00	0	29.32	+2.63	89	1229	-367	2780
Laporte	74	30	52	-1	0.00	0	34.49	+10.34	96	2021	-304	3700
Lock_Haven	77	34	56	+3	0.00	0	29.72	+5.98	91	2669	+195	4484
Port_Alegany	77	29	51	+2	0.02	1	34.62	+9.76	95	1928	+121	3612
Renovo	78	35	55	+3	0.00	0	29.94	+6.20	99	2525	+51	4339
Ridgway	76	27	50	+1	0.00	0	28.86	+3.06	89	1914	+53	3637
Stevenson_Dam	76	33	53	+4	0.02	1	31.46	+5.66	108	2314	+453	4098
Towanda	77	32	54	+1	0.01	1	31.00	+10.91	112	2328	-15	4078
Well_sboro	76	27	51	+1	0.00	0	30.25	+10.00	92	1918	+169	3597
Williamsport_AP	77	34	56	+2	0.00	0	32.55	+9.13	94	2779	+51	4598
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	75	29	51	-1	0.00	0	29.19	+6.42	83	2071	+69	3799
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	32	55	+2	0.00	0	32.06	+9.94	88	2650	+63	4432
Susquehanna	77	30	52	+3	0.00	0	34.27	+9.89	87	2538	+645	4287
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	76	31	54	+1	0.01	1	29.84	+5.35	101	2402	-42	4207
New_Castle	80	32	56	+3	0.00	0	35.48	+12.94	88	2611	+162	4434
Slippery_Rock	78	32	56	+4	0.00	0	37.78	+13.79	100	2489	+295	4302
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blairstown	73	32	55	+1	0.09	1	27.48	+6.01	109	2513	-84	4301
DuBois	74	29	54	+2	0.01	1	32.36	+7.72	118	2181	-57	3931
Lewistown	76	34	56	+0	0.00	0	29.90	+6.90	86	2840	-15	4674
Middletown	75	37	57	+0	0.02	2	32.78	+9.87	105	3151	-79	4998
Prince_Gallitz	76	28	51	-2	0.06	2	29.59	+1.99	109	2267	+178	4008
Selinsgrove	75	32	54	+0	0.00	0	28.60	+4.62	93	2684	+24	4493
State_College_P	73	34	54	+1	0.00	0	34.84	+13.16	98	2593	+39	4395
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	78	34	56	+0	0.00	0	34.72	+9.75	89	2996	+49	4814
Lehighton	72	31	50	-6	0.00	0	39.17	+14.26	106	2540	-298	4316
Matamoras	74	33	53	-2	0.00	0	29.86	+4.71	90	2261	-294	4003
Tobyhanna	74	26	50	+2	0.00	0	42.84	+15.93	97	2707	+982	4468
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	75	37	58	+5	0.00	0	25.09	+2.32	104	2939	+319	4796
Derry	77	34	56	+2	0.00	0	35.51	+11.81	92	2591	+120	4393
Meyersdale	75	29	52	-2	0.00	0	31.09	+5.18	100	1946	-494	3668
Mount_Pleasant	76	30	53	+2	0.00	0	31.84	+4.83	104	2516	+308	4330
Pittsburgh_Intl	75	33	57	+3	0.00	0	25.10	+3.77	96	2883	+140	4728
Rector	79	29	55	+3	0.02	2	31.29	+4.28	94	2554	+346	4366
Waynesburg	77	33	56	+3	0.00	0	36.04	+12.87	101	2656	+119	4492
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	76	37	57	-1	0.00	0	35.48	+13.69	109	2931	-227	4772
Everett	72	25	50	-5	0.00	0	30.57	+9.58	101	2514	-80	4294
Hanover	75	35	56	-2	0.00	0	36.98	+15.19	87	2950	-208	4786
Shippensburg	78	35	57	-1	0.05	1	30.27	+9.07	85	3078	-66	4927
South_Mountain	71	32	53	-2	0.00	0	37.01	+15.54	92	2341	-248	4097
York_AP	76	34	55	-3	0.01	1	29.25	+6.12	98	2997	-153	4834
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	77	34	56	+2	0.00	0	38.75	+14.58	90	3169	+352	5011
Hamburg	77	35	55	+2	0.00	0	34.78	+6.81	97	2889	+333	4704
Hopewell	74	35	55	-4	0.04	1	35.68	+10.30	92	2839	-489	4642
Lancaster_AP	74	36	56	+1	0.00	0	28.09	+3.67	90	3006	+23	4840
Neshaminy_Falls	82	33	59	+4	0.00	0	27.50	-0.44	83	3257	+314	5097
New_Holland	76	39	58	+2	0.00	0	35.45	+11.03	94	2998	+15	4830
Philadelphia	79	43	61	+3	0.00	0	24.36	+0.71	79	3690	+243	5563
Philadelphia_NE	80	39	59	+2	0.01	1	26.28	+2.63	88	3362	-85	5216
Reading_AP	75	34	56	+1	0.00	0	29.68	+3.68	92	3085	+161	4909
Valley_Forge_Na	80	33	57	-2	0.00	0	33.48	+8.10	91	2968	-360	4786
Willow_Grove	76	37	58	+3	0.09	1	23.82	-4.12	81	3132	+189	4972

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normal's 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.

"A great week for field work. Most of the silage corn has been taken off and combines have been rolling through the soybean fields. Some farmers were wrapping the remaining hay crops for baleage.

... Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

Nice weather but fields are water-logged. Farmers are getting into corn silage harvest even though they are rutting fields since there is a strong concern weather will only get worse in the northern tier. Killing frosts first of this week.

... Sherri Butters, Tioga County

Very good week for fall field work. No Rain.

... Dick Decker, Centre County

Got a couple of bales of hay made this week. Starting to get ready for winter.

... M. K., Huntington County

Corn silage, haylage, and wrapped bales all are being harvested this week. Some fields still too wet to get equipment into.

... Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

Probably the best week for harvesting this year. Some corn and soybeans are being harvested as dry grain. Timely planted soybeans are at almost ideal moisture. Finally dry enough to get wheat planted and a last cutting of hay baled. A substantial acreage of corn was not mature when frosted last week and should be chopped for silage. Some producers will try harvesting the immature

corn as high moisture if they can get it through the combine.

... John Lorr, Westmoreland County

Excellent week to get caught up on field work and finish corn silage harvest. Early beans are coming off and looking good. Yield is about average. Corn yield is not as high as expected, but above average.

... Thomas A, Kerr, Franklin County

We have started to combine some corn. It is not making what it was "showing" prior to harvest. Yields so far have been disappointing. Moistures are not dropping, and test weights are off.

... Russ McLucas, Fulton County

Finally a dry week for field work. Silage harvesting, making hay, tillage, seeding wheat, and some corn harvesting were the main activities this week. It took a while for the fields to dry but by late in the week things were picking up.

... Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery County



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 12, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
		<i>Percent</i>	
Fall plowing	43	61	61
Corn, dent	87	97	95
Corn, mature	58	87	75
Corn, harvested	24	52	32
Corn silage, harvested	73	93	89
Barley, planted	60	78	72
Barley, emerged	28	66	49
Winter wheat, planted	31	59	47
Winter wheat, emerged	13	48	30
Soybeans, harvested	17	17	13
Potatoes, harvested	87	89	83
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	97	97	96
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	55	71	72
Timothy clover, 2 nd cutting	92	95	97
Apples, harvested	71	83	74
Grapes, harvested	35	85	79

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 12, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	4	5	17	48	26
Soybeans	1	5	16	47	31
Quality of hay made	3	13	30	43	11
Pasture conditions	2	8	14	62	14
Apples	0	2	16	43	39

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