



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending October 26, 2003

**Good week for Field Work:** There were 5 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 65 percent adequate and 35 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included making hay; harvesting corn silage; harvesting corn and soybeans; fall plowing; planting wheat and barley; spreading manure, lime and fertilizer; caring for livestock; harvesting, processing and canning/freezing fruit and vegetables.

**Crops:** While some areas of the Commonwealth saw snow flurries last week, a majority of the state's weather allowed for fall activities to advance. Corn acres harvested for grain advanced to 38 percent complete, 26 percent behind last year and still 13 percent behind the five year average. The corn crop condition was rated as 5 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 43 percent good and 23 percent excellent, a slight decrease as compared to the previous week as the recent wind damage became more apparent. Ninety-five percent of the corn acreage has reached the dent stage and 83 percent has reached maturity. Corn silage harvest was 92 percent complete, 7 and 6 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. Soybean acres harvested was 44 percent complete last week, up 16 percent from the week prior and 8 percent ahead of the five year average. The condition of the soybean crop was rated as 3 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 52 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Fall tillage continues to run behind the average, with only 54 percent complete, still 19 percent behind the five-year average. With 74 percent of winter wheat planted, only 4 percent less than the five-year average, 45 percent of the planted acreage has emerged. Barley planted advanced to 88 percent complete, advancing to 5 percent behind the five year average. The quality of hay made improved last week 7 percent rated as very poor, 19 percent was poor, 32 percent was fair, and 35 percent was good and 7 percent was excellent. The fourth cutting alfalfa advanced to 76 percent complete, 9 percent behind 2002 and 10 percent behind the five-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover is nearly complete, only slightly behind the five year average.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions across Pennsylvania declined slightly over the past week due largely to the cooler conditions. Six percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 14 percent was rated poor, 21 percent was rated fair, 52 percent was rated good and 7 percent was rated excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetable:** Apple harvest advanced to 86 percent complete, improving to 3 percent behind the five-year average. While the percent of grapes harvested continues to vary widely

across the Commonwealth, grape harvest for the state advanced to 74 percent complete and improved to 20 percent behind 2002 harvest and trailing the five year average by 23 percent. The potato harvest advanced slightly to 94 percent complete, 1 percent ahead of the five year average.

**U.S. As of October 19, 2003:** From the Pacific Coast to the middle of the Great Plains, temperatures were above normal, with little to no rainfall. Temperatures were well above normal in the Southwest, where record highs were set in Arizona. This warm, dry weather also extended into the northern Corn Belt, encouraging summer grain harvest and winter wheat planting. Moderate rainfall and below-normal temperatures only slightly delayed fieldwork in the southern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley. Despite the dry weather and near-normal temperatures in the Mississippi Delta and Southeast, crop development and fieldwork progressed slowly. In the Northeast, temperatures were near normal, but moderate to heavy rainfall caused pasture and range conditions to decline. Corn: Harvest was 56 percent complete, 7 percentage points above last year at this time but 2 points below the 5-year average. Harvest progressed rapidly in the western Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains, with producers in Minnesota and North Dakota harvesting over 30 percent of their crop during the week. However, harvest progress in the rest of the Great Plains was slow, despite similar conditions. In the eastern Corn Belt, harvest progressed well, but growers in the Ohio Valley focused on harvesting soybeans and planting winter wheat, and remained over 1 week behind normal. Soybeans: Seventy-four percent of the crop had been harvested, 3 percentage points ahead of last year but even with the normal pace. Harvest progressed well in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, where growers were not deterred by moderate rainfall. Progress was steady in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains, but Kansas producers fell behind their normal pace by over 2 weeks. Harvest progressed slowly across the Mississippi Delta and Southeast. Winter Wheat: Seeding advanced to 82 percent complete, the same as last year but 3 percentage points ahead of normal. Sixty-one percent of the expected acreage had emerged, 2 points below last year but 6 points above the 5-year average. Planting progress was most rapid in the Corn Belt, where Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio growers planted 20 percent or more of their expected acreage. In the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States, planting neared completion, with Colorado growers reaching 100 percent. Emergence progressed well across most States, with Montana leading the way as 32 percent of its crop emerged during the week. Across the Great Plains, emergence was slowed by the lack of rainfall.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 26, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - October 26, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
<b>NORTHWEST</b>												
Erie	68	37	49	-3	0.79	2	25.75	-0.07	89	2595	-24	4455
Franklin_AG	67	32	46	-4	0.23	3	35.40	+7.99	132	2284	-110	4141
Meadville	65	32	46	-3	0.48	4	34.09	+6.36	111	2299	+107	4145
Mercer	69	24	44	-5	0.20	3	38.62	+12.58	94	1913	-458	3715
Springboro	66	29	45	-5	1.33	5	34.01	+9.13	106	2142	-422	3951
Warren	66	34	45	-3	0.33	5	36.61	+8.82	107	2270	-41	4095
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>												
Bradford_Region	61	27	42	-2	0.22	3	33.42	+5.87	116	1763	+110	3494
Emporium	67	29	45	-1	0.08	2	38.70	+11.53	110	2328	+446	4193
Kane	59	25	38	-6	0.05	2	30.72	+2.50	93	1229	-384	2813
Laporte	66	27	40	-8	0.06	1	36.33	+10.79	100	2035	-328	3771
Lock_Haven	73	30	46	-3	0.01	1	30.62	+5.60	95	2698	+183	4612
Port_Allegany	65	29	42	-4	0.02	2	36.00	+9.74	101	1934	+104	3686
Renovo	70	31	46	-3	0.01	1	31.28	+6.26	103	2551	+36	4456
Ridgway	65	29	44	-2	0.08	2	30.17	+3.00	95	1919	+37	3711
Stevenson_Dam	67	29	44	-2	0.10	2	32.95	+5.78	113	2337	+455	4203
Towanda	71	29	44	-5	0.02	1	32.37	+11.16	117	2350	-33	4175
Wellsboro	65	28	41	-5	0.07	2	31.22	+9.85	97	1930	+157	3664
Williamsport_AP	72	29	48	-3	0.06	2	33.83	+8.93	98	2821	+48	4740
<b>NORTHEAST</b>												
Hawley	69	23	40	-7	0.01	1	30.89	+6.84	86	2090	+60	3881
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	30	46	-4	0.03	2	33.70	+10.34	93	2689	+60	4560
Susquehanna	68	27	42	-4	0.06	2	36.09	+10.19	93	2557	+640	4375
<b>WEST CENTRAL</b>												
Butler	71	32	47	-2	0.14	3	31.30	+5.55	107	2428	-57	4319
New_Castle	72	32	48	-1	0.34	3	37.44	+13.77	93	2648	+158	4572
Slippery_Rock	71	33	48	+2	0.10	2	39.35	+14.07	105	2520	+290	4432
<b>CENTRAL</b>												
Altoona/Blair_C	68	32	47	-3	0.06	2	28.67	+5.94	114	2550	-95	4434
Du_Bois	64	30	47	-1	0.05	2	33.88	+7.98	124	2214	-55	4049
Lewistown	74	32	49	-3	0.03	1	31.64	+7.32	91	2888	-19	4831
Middletown	74	33	50	-3	0.01	1	34.59	+10.40	109	3215	-81	5181
Prince_Gallitzi	67	29	44	-3	0.27	3	31.21	+2.19	118	2281	+160	4100
Selinsgrove	73	30	46	-4	0.05	1	30.42	+5.07	96	2718	+16	4622
State_College_P	66	34	46	-3	0.00	0	35.96	+13.02	101	2622	+27	4525
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>												
Allentown-Bethl	73	27	49	-3	0.04	1	36.25	+10.01	92	3060	+55	4991
Lehighton	69	28	44	-8	0.06	4	42.33	+16.02	113	2565	-330	4433
Matamoras	71	24	42	-8	0.03	2	31.60	+5.12	95	2286	-311	4098
Tobyhanna	66	24	39	-7	0.05	1	44.51	+16.01	102	2725	+982	4545
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	33	51	+3	0.08	2	26.93	+2.96	109	3001	+332	4967
Derry	70	32	48	-1	0.17	1	36.96	+12.10	97	2628	+113	4535
Meyersdale	67	27	43	-6	0.29	2	32.47	+5.23	105	1962	-519	3761
Mount_Pleasant	73	30	47	-1	0.14	2	33.87	+5.46	109	2549	+304	4462
Pittsburgh_Intl	71	31	50	+1	0.15	3	26.35	+4.01	103	2938	+143	4885
Rector	73	29	47	+0	0.21	3	33.37	+4.96	101	2588	+343	4501
Waynesburg	76	28	47	-1	0.16	2	37.98	+13.69	108	2694	+116	4630
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>												
Biglerville	74	30	48	-5	0.02	1	37.09	+13.96	113	2976	-246	4927
Everett	71	26	43	-7	0.07	1	31.98	+9.68	105	2533	-107	4392
Hanover	74	28	48	-5	0.18	2	38.81	+15.68	92	2997	-225	4943
Shippensburg	74	30	49	-4	0.00	0	31.65	+9.19	88	3127	-85	5087
South_Mountain	71	27	45	-5	0.13	2	38.79	+16.06	97	2367	-268	4212
York_AP	75	29	50	-3	0.01	1	30.75	+6.27	102	3059	-161	5011
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>												
Green_Lane	73	27	48	-3	0.15	3	40.70	+15.28	96	3219	+352	5178
Hamburg	72	28	46	-3	0.09	2	36.49	+6.93	102	2926	+331	4847
Hopewell	73	27	47	-7	0.03	1	37.65	+11.01	96	2881	-523	4788
Lancaster_AP	74	31	50	-2	0.00	0	29.82	+4.08	93	3069	+29	5015
Neshaminy_Falls	72	30	49	-3	0.04	1	29.35	+0.06	87	3319	+321	5277
New_Holland	75	32	49	-3	0.06	1	37.25	+11.51	98	3054	+14	5001
Philadelphia	71	33	53	-2	0.19	1	25.75	+0.97	83	3788	+259	5786
Philadelphia_NE	71	30	51	-4	0.06	2	27.95	+3.17	93	3445	-84	5417
Reading_AP	73	29	49	-2	0.07	2	31.58	+4.28	97	3149	+173	5084
Valley_Forge_Na	71	24	46	-8	0.17	1	35.65	+9.01	96	3016	-388	4939
Willow_Grove	70	31	50	-1	0.09	2	25.26	-4.03	85	3205	+207	5160

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.*

"Fall is here and winter is on the way. Snow flurries in the earlier part of the week. Cold temperatures are drying things out quickly. Corn for silage is very dry in most parts. Some lower river bottom ground isn't so bad. Shelled corn is drying up and needs to be harvested soon. Days of making hay are over. Many fields too wet to get into. Harvest is wrapping up for the year."

- Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"A coating of snow awaited the commute to work. Farmers are trying to chop the last of the corn silage and begin combining before the deep snow arrives. Fall manure is being applied. Some winter rye was planted but is yet to emerge."

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"Good week for field work, corn and soybean harvest in full swing."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"We were hoping to wrap some hay this week but the ground is just too wet. Had snow 2 days this week, only whitened the car tops. Neighbors are all done with silage but nobody has got any fall crops planted yet, just too wet."

- Marina K., Huntington County

"With our last two wind storms many acres of the later planted corn have gone down flat. Corn silage harvesting is winding up. Moderate amount of soybean acres will not mature properly. Roasting seems to be one possible solution."

- Greg Hostetter, Juniata County

"Corn for grain slow to start due to high kernal moisture, still running 28-30%."

- Don Fretts, Fayette County

"Relatively warm and dry weather has allowed for some late fall catch up work."

- Tom Sierzega, Washington County

"Very good week to finish harvest of apples. Most of the fresh apples are picked while a few of the late maturing blocks of York apples have yet to be picked. Yield is still coming out better than past three years, but quality is off leaving more to go to processing than producers would like. Corn for silage is all but done and now most of the corn for high moisture grain has been harvested. Soybeans are maturing and yield depends upon when they were planted. Early planted beans are making good yields. Good week for drying."

- Thomas A. Kerr, Franklin County

"Beautiful week to work on harvesting a challenging crop of corn that was down due to Isabel. Lots of progress made in that harvest along with harvesting soybeans. Growers participating in the NCGA and PA Corn Harvest programs are having some excellent yields, however harvest time is much longer than normal on the per acre basis. Some early harvest in the Soybean Growers program are showing yields in the high 60 and low 70 bushel range. Some of the severely down corn where harvesting attempts have been made seem to indicate that some of these severely down fields will present too difficult a challenge and may not be harvested."

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"Corn harvesting is progressing well with yields around average. Many farmers still needed to pick their spots to avoid getting stuck. As I write this on Monday morning we have already had close to 2 inches of rain with more to come. It will be a while until we get into the field again."

- Andrew Frankenfield,  
Montgomery County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 26, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
		<i>Percent</i>	
Fall plowing	54	68	73
Corn, dent	95	98	99
Corn, mature	83	95	92
Corn, harvested	38	64	51
Barley, planted	88	94	93
Barley, emerged	68	82	77
Winter wheat, planted	74	83	78
Winter wheat, emerged	45	68	60
Soybeans, harvested	44	24	36
Potatoes, harvested	94	94	93
Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	76	85	86
Timothy clover, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	95	95	99
Apples, harvested	86	90	89
Grapes, harvested	74	94	97

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 26, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			<i>Percent</i>		
Corn	5	7	22	43	23
Soybeans	3	7	21	52	17
Quality of hay made	7	19	32	35	7
Pasture conditions	6	14	21	52	7

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