



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 31, 2004

Issued weekly, April-November

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

Average Week for Field Work: A lack of adequate sunshine prevented fields from drying out in many parts of Pennsylvania last week. Four days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, finishing the 4th cutting of hay, feeding livestock, harvesting corn and soybeans, applying stored manure, and repairing machinery and buildings.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 31, 2004

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0	0	73	27

Crops: The corn harvest progressed despite wet conditions and is now only slightly ahead of historic trends. Sixty-three percent of this year's crop has been harvested as opposed to 57 percent for the 5-year average. There have been numerous reports of this year's corn harvest being one of the best ever. The soybean harvest has been hindered by wet field conditions as well and is 13 percentage points behind historic trends. Eighty-eight percent of this year's soybean crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Farmers are planting winter wheat at a rate very consistent with previous years as 87 percent of next year's crop is now planted. Ninety-four percent of barley has now emerged, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Seventy percent of sorghum had been harvested as of last week. The hay cutting season is drawing to a close as 89 percent of the 4th cutting is now complete. The quality of hay made this past week did improve slightly as 38 percent of hay was rated as either

good or excellent. Only 21 percent of the hay made was rated as either very poor or poor.

Livestock: Pasture conditions in many areas remain in poor shape as a result of this year's wet conditions. With clouds prevailing in many areas last week, conditions remained relatively steady from the previous week and now stand at 2 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

U.S. As of October 24, 2004: Highlights: The winter wet season began in the western part of the Nation, with below-normal temperatures and moderate to locally heavy precipitation, including some snow in the higher elevations, across much of the Pacific Northwest, Intermountain region, and northern and central Rocky Mountains. Though the precipitation was beneficial for winter wheat condition, crop development was slowed by the cool weather. Corn: Fifty-five percent of the crop had been harvested, 12 percentage points behind last year and 13 points behind normal. Winter Wheat: Growers had planted 85 percent of their acreage, 2 points behind last year but the same as the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 68 percent complete, compared with 67 percent last year and 64 percent for the normal. Planting advanced slowly in areas that still had significant acreage left to be planted, hampered by rainy conditions. Soybeans: Harvest reached 80 percent complete, 2 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Minnesota growers progressed rapidly, harvesting nearly one-third of their acreage under warm, mostly dry conditions. However, progress was limited to 14 points or less elsewhere, hampered by wet conditions in most growing areas.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 31, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 31, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	75	41	56	7	0.52	3	28.58	2.14	93	2,793	161	4,735
Franklin	72	40	54	8	0.45	5	40.70	12.76	110	2,620	218	4,576
Meadville	72	37	54	9	0.56	3	35.67	7.31	99	2,464	266	4,372
Mercer	71	34	51	6	0.44	3	34.29	7.76	90	2,061	-317	3,923
Springboro	73	37	54	6	0.55	4	36.93	11.45	113	2,394	-182	4,292
Warren	69	38	53	8	0.58	5	42.36	14.00	120	2,453	136	4,372
North Central												
Bradford Region	65	32	51	10	0.27	4	29.38	1.30	104	2,006	351	3,824
Emporium	68	37	51	9	0.69	4	38.84	11.16	105	2,595	710	4,523
Kane	62	27	44	3	0.49	3	35.63	6.85	94	1,250	-364	2,900
Laporte	60	36	47	1	0.32	4	46.80	20.75	114	2,214	-156	4,046
Lock Haven	64	37	51	5	1.00	2	46.60	21.08	88	2,911	388	4,919
Port Allegany	68	32	50	7	0.38	4	33.76	6.94	102	2,171	335	4,019
Renovo	71	38	52	6	0.46	5	37.66	12.14	108	2,824	301	4,816
Ridgway	69	34	51	8	0.88	3	37.96	10.28	89	2,139	254	4,003
Stevenson Dam	68	36	52	9	0.55	3	39.81	12.13	97	2,685	800	4,647
Towanda	65	37	50	5	0.33	2	34.55	12.89	94	2,706	315	4,652
Wellsboro	65	35	48	6	0.23	3	39.96	18.13	99	2,114	335	3,958
Williamsport	66	40	54	7	0.42	1	37.61	12.12	106	3,088	305	5,122
Northeast												
Hawley	70	31	47	3	0.12	1	38.85	14.29	79	2,299	263	4,160
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	67	37	51	5	0.02	1	32.36	8.54	87	2,827	189	4,806
Susquehanna	66	34	49	7	0.28	2	40.05	13.56	93	2,749	826	4,703
West Central												
Butler	71	36	54	8	0.34	4	39.00	12.81	113	2,597	104	4,538
New Castle	76	38	57	11	0.48	3	40.31	16.20	86	2,912	415	4,879
Slippery Rock	73	35	55	11	0.32	4	38.82	13.05	108	2,709	473	4,680
Central												
Altoona/Blair	71	37	53	6	0.40	3	38.36	15.19	105	2,772	117	4,719
DuBois	67	38	52	8	0.39	5	38.43	12.07	128	2,421	146	4,324
Lewistown	72	40	52	5	0.48	1	36.11	11.27	84	3,096	178	5,111
Middletown	67	41	53	4	0.87	3	41.05	16.36	92	3,566	256	5,639
Prince Gallitzi	70	35	50	6	0.55	3	38.07	8.52	95	2,422	295	4,314
Selinsgrove	63	36	50	4	1.14	3	39.09	13.22	94	2,971	260	4,965
State College	71	42	52	7	0.30	2	38.02	14.61	90	2,847	244	4,819
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	63	39	51	3	0.40	2	35.89	9.13	82	3,209	190	5,249
Lehighton	61	39	49	1	0.49	2	40.90	14.06	101	2,808	-100	4,801
Matamoras	62	34	48	2	0.15	2	34.77	7.75	83	2,494	-112	4,417
Tobyhanna	64	32	49	7	0.32	2	44.30	15.14	116	2,453	708	4,366
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	70	39	58	11	0.69	4	33.06	8.64	100	3,147	467	5,160
Derry	72	41	55	9	0.60	4	41.53	16.22	103	2,804	280	4,783
Myersdale	72	34	53	8	0.75	2	34.01	6.30	89	2,257	-232	4,161
Mount Pleasant	73	37	54	10	2.71	4	39.37	10.43	83	2,759	508	4,717
Pittsburgh Intl	70	38	58	11	0.74	4	36.88	14.17	98	3,168	362	5,177
Rector	72	35	55	10	0.81	5	41.51	12.57	116	2,803	552	4,769
Waynesburg	75	39	55	9	1.48	4	37.88	13.18	96	2,880	295	4,866
South Central												
Biglerville	70	43	54	5	0.44	3	39.96	16.34	93	3,236	0	5,264
Everett	77	35	52	5	0.29	2	35.65	12.85	86	2,443	-206	4,357
Hanover	68	40	52	3	0.20	1	35.34	11.72	81	3,341	105	5,373
Shippensburg	70	41	53	4	0.09	2	42.50	19.56	90	3,387	161	5,417
South Mountain	71	38	50	4	0.42	2	37.34	14.17	76	2,682	37	4,603
York	72	38	53	4	0.16	1	29.53	4.55	73	3,345	110	5,386
Southeast												
Green Lane	63	39	51	3	0.48	2	40.45	14.52	86	3,557	678	5,638
Hamburg	62	40	51	5	0.79	2	38.24	8.04	95	3,224	623	5,263
Hopewell	64	40	51	1	0.43	2	39.69	12.55	109	3,279	-143	5,330
Lancaster	67	42	54	5	0.24	2	35.30	9.07	93	3,365	313	5,427
Neshaminy Falls	63	38	52	3	0.13	1	37.21	7.41	78	3,551	542	5,629
New Holland	65	42	52	4	0.29	1	36.95	10.72	94	3,342	290	5,387
Philadelphia	63	44	55	3	0.55	2	33.71	8.51	80	3,937	389	6,032
Philadelphia NE	64	40	54	2	0.23	1	36.77	11.57	83	3,792	244	5,883
Reading	63	40	52	4	0.72	3	37.79	9.97	88	3,400	412	5,458
Valley Forge Na	65	36	49	-3	0.53	1	40.10	12.96	75	3,374	-48	5,418
Willow Grove	66	40	53	4	0.29	1	30.75	0.95	85	3,508	499	5,580

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.

ADAMS COUNTY, Tara Baugher (EXT) - Harvest is complete in most orchards, though some growers will pick late varieties this week.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - An inch of rain toward the end of last week slowed down harvesting. Corn yields continue to be excellent. Bean harvest is slow as beans are retaining moisture. Wheat planting is behind schedule as soil moisture is keeping planters in the barn.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Corn was harvested during the week. Potatoes are being graded for storage and marketing. Potatoes in storage could be a problem this year. During the grading process, there are many rotten potatoes being graded out.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Harvest is slow due to the weather. There are concerns regarding stalk quality of the corn and standability if harvest is delayed.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - The weather has cooperated with harvesting this year. Crops are being taken off in good time with minimal, if any, damage to the fields. Quite a few farmers planted cover crops this year and their fields are greening up quickly.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - All growers are commenting on the outstanding crops of both soybeans and corn. Everyone is calling this year's crop "the best one ever!" Although yields may not be 225 bushels everywhere in the Capital Region, corn and beans are exceeding the county averages. Corn that is not harvested is starting to go down. Concerns about stalk strength have been noted by many agronomists. Timely harvest is critical. Many producers will be completing harvest shortly.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - This week was a catch up week in Franklin County. Nearly all of the silage and high moisture corn has been harvested. The corn that remains will be harvested as dry grain. Yields are mostly from 140 to 180 bushels with some in excess of 200 bushels. Soybeans are ready to harvest but the stems are still tough and this is causing harvesting problems. Storage of the grain is a problem that we have not had here for some time. Looks like a large amount will be stored on piles at the feed mills until it can be shipped out.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT) - Soybeans are drying down slowly. Corn is ready to be harvested whenever the field conditions are dry enough. Corn stalks are starting to break down from wet weather and stalk rots. Very high corn yields so far.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Corn harvest progress was slowed because most farmers switched heads to combine soybeans and plant wheat. Soybean yields are in the 50's and a few up to 60. Persistent clouds early in the week slowed harvest, and rain late in the week kept field work to a minimum.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz (EXT) - Combine operators were primed for soybean harvest last week, but spotty rain and showers kept the moisture of soybeans at 16% or greater. Very few beans were cut last week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - This was a week of limited field activities. There were too many days of clouds and drizzle. However, some corn was harvested and a small amount of fourth cutting alfalfa was put in the silo or wrapped into bales. The winter wheat and barley looks good, and some lodging of corn is becoming evident. The activities for the week included harvesting corn, spreading manure, and making machinery and building repairs.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Corn and soybean harvest progress was good until rain arrived on Friday. Many soybean yields approaching 60 bu/acre are being reported. Dry corn harvest is just getting into full swing. It was a good week to apply stored manure to harvested corn fields.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz - Rain has slowed wheat planting as growers look for some drier weather to complete fall field work. Corn and soybean harvest continues with yields remaining at record levels. Some long time producers declare this is the best crop ever. Corn yields of 175+ bu/acre are common. Soybean yields, although good, may not attain the percentage increase that corn is expected to. Storage, both on farm and commercial, is the precious commodity now.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 31, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	87	61	74
Corn, harvested	63	46	57
Barley, emerged	94	77	85
Wheat, planted	87	80	87
Wheat, emerged	56	56	69
Soybeans, harvested	37	46	50
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	89	77	87

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 31, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	0	8	72	20
Soybeans	1	2	9	51	37
Quality of hay made	1	20	41	29	9
Pasture	2	11	23	48	16

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