



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending November 2, 2003

Poor week for Field Work: There were 3 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 54 percent adequate and 46 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: A majority of the Commonwealth saw significant rain showers return last week, thus slowing many fall activities. With 90 percent of the corn crop reaching maturity, acres harvested for grain advanced to 49 percent complete, 24 percent behind last year and 14 percent behind the five year average. With 47 percent of the soybean acres harvested, the condition of the soybean crop was rated as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 54 percent good and 22 percent excellent. Fall tillage, advancing 10 percent, is 64 percent complete, but is still 14 percent behind the five-year average. Eighty-three percent of winter wheat has been planted, only 7 percent less than the five-year average, while 61 percent of the planted acres have emerged. Barley planted advanced to 92 percent complete, only 4 percent behind the five year average. The quality of hay made declined last week with 13 percent rated as very poor, 17 percent was poor, 36 percent was fair, 28 percent was good and 6 percent was excellent. The fourth cutting alfalfa advanced slightly to 78 percent complete, 8 percent behind 2002 and 12 percent behind the five-year average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions across Pennsylvania declined as a result of continued wet conditions. Five percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 28 percent was rated poor, 15 percent was rated fair, 42 percent was rated good and 10 percent was rated excellent.

Fruit & Vegetable: Apple harvest advanced to 90 percent complete, holding at 3 percent behind the five-year average. The potato harvest is nearly complete.

U.S. As of October 26, 2003: Temperatures for the week were above normal across most of the Nation, with daily record highs across much of the Pacific Coast, Rocky Mountains, and Great Plains. However, cold weather late

in the week brought freezes to some of these same areas. Dry conditions prevailed across most of the Nation, while locally heavy rain fell in the Pacific Northwest, and scattered, moderate precipitation fell in the Mississippi Delta, western Gulf Coast, Ohio Valley, and New England. The unseasonably warm and persistently dry conditions in the western half of the Nation favored crop maturation and field work for summer crops, but limited winter wheat emergence and discouraged planting. Dry Conditions across the Corn Belt encouraged harvest of summer crops, while the soil retained enough moisture from the previous week's rainfall to aid winter wheat emergence. Corn: Seventy-two percent of the crop was harvested, 8 percentage points ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Harvest continued to progress rapidly across the western Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, where producers in Iowa, Minnesota, and the Dakotas harvested over 20 percent of their crop during the week. Harvest was only slightly slower in the eastern Corn Belt, as growers focused more on harvesting soybeans and planting winter wheat. Harvest remained over 1 week behind normal in the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley. Soybeans: Harvest was 85 percent complete, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Harvest neared completion in the western Corn Belt and northern Great Plains and progressed well in other parts of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Progress was nearly 1 week ahead of normal in Michigan and Wisconsin, but was over 1 week behind in Kansas and Missouri. Winter Wheat: Seeding advanced to 88 percent complete, the same as last year but 3 points ahead of normal. Seventy percent of the crop had emerged, 3 points below last year at this time but 3 points above the 5-year average. Planting neared completion in the northern and central Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, with Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota growers finished. Planting progressed well in the eastern Corn Belt. Emergence also progressed rapidly in the eastern Corn Belt, with the crop in Michigan and Ohio advancing 28 percent during the week and Indiana's crop advancing 32 percent. But emergence was limited in the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Northwest by persistent dry conditions.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 2, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - November 2, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	
NORTHWEST												
Erie	73	38	52	+4	0.84	6	26.59	-0.08	95	2624	-10	4543
Franklin_AG	73	32	49	+3	1.29	4	36.69	+8.53	136	2299	-104	4203
Meadville	70	35	49	+4	0.88	4	34.97	+6.37	115	2318	+119	4209
Mercer	71	25	48	+3	1.34	5	39.96	+13.20	99	1931	-448	3773
Springboro	72	33	49	+2	0.66	6	34.67	+8.98	112	2162	-415	4016
Warren	71	34	49	+5	1.02	6	37.63	+9.04	113	2286	-32	4161
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	68	28	48	+7	1.08	6	34.50	+6.20	122	1783	+128	3559
Emporium	76	32	48	+6	1.30	6	40.00	+12.10	116	2344	+459	4253
Kane	66	25	43	+1	0.89	5	31.61	+2.59	98	1230	-384	2845
Laporte	68	30	46	+2	3.66	5	39.99	+13.73	105	2051	-320	3821
Lock_Haven	74	31	50	+4	1.94	5	32.56	+6.84	100	2719	+195	4682
Port_Alegany	72	32	48	+6	0.82	6	36.82	+9.79	107	1948	+112	3745
Renovo	72	33	50	+5	1.34	6	32.62	+6.90	109	2574	+50	4528
Ridgway	73	28	46	+4	1.19	5	31.36	+3.46	100	1931	+46	3762
Stevenson_Dam	76	31	49	+6	1.58	6	34.53	+6.63	119	2350	+465	4267
Towanda	73	33	51	+6	2.63	4	35.00	+13.16	121	2375	-17	4251
Wellsboro	73	28	47	+5	1.87	5	33.09	+11.10	102	1947	+167	3719
Williamsport_AP	73	33	52	+5	2.36	4	36.19	+10.48	102	2850	+66	4821
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	73	32	50	+6	3.06	4	33.95	+9.18	90	2109	+72	3949
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	33	53	+6	2.96	4	36.66	+12.65	97	2720	+81	4651
Susquehanna	68	34	50	+7	2.79	4	38.88	+12.16	97	2577	+654	4445
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	74	30	49	+3	0.91	6	32.21	+5.81	113	2442	-52	4382
New_Castle	76	32	50	+5	0.96	5	38.40	+14.10	98	2670	+172	4645
Slippery_Rock	74	33	51	+7	1.14	5	40.49	+14.51	110	2552	+315	4513
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	74	31	52	+5	0.91	4	29.58	+6.20	118	2586	-70	4518
DuBois	72	29	50	+6	0.93	6	34.81	+8.24	130	2244	-32	4127
Lewistown	75	33	51	+4	1.78	4	33.42	+8.38	95	2915	-5	4912
Middletown	71	36	54	+5	2.35	4	36.94	+12.04	113	3249	-64	5280
Prince_Galitz	76	28	50	+5	1.10	5	32.31	+2.50	123	2312	+184	4174
Selinsgrove	75	33	51	+5	2.87	4	33.29	+7.21	100	2744	+32	4701
State_College_P	75	33	51	+6	1.60	4	37.56	+13.95	105	2653	+49	4604
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	77	35	55	+8	3.43	4	39.68	+12.70	96	3104	+83	5099
Lehighton	76	29	50	+3	3.33	4	45.66	+18.61	117	2586	-324	4506
Matamoras	73	33	51	+5	4.30	4	35.90	+8.64	99	2308	-299	4176
Tobyhanna	72	28	48	+7	4.18	4	48.69	+19.27	106	2743	+998	4603
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	75	33	54	+7	1.07	4	28.00	+3.38	113	3045	+363	5066
Derry	75	32	51	+5	0.76	4	37.72	+12.20	101	2655	+130	4612
Meyersdale	74	28	47	+1	0.84	4	33.31	+5.37	109	1975	-515	3813
Mount_Pleasant	77	30	51	+6	0.98	5	34.85	+5.67	114	2580	+328	4542
Pittsburgh_Intl	75	32	54	+7	0.95	5	27.30	+4.40	108	2981	+172	4982
Rector	79	30	51	+7	1.16	5	34.53	+5.35	106	2616	+364	4580
Waynesburg	77	30	51	+6	1.00	4	38.98	+14.07	112	2722	+136	4709
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	75	32	53	+3	1.98	4	39.07	+15.24	117	3007	-232	5017
Everett	67	26	45	-3	1.12	3	33.10	+10.10	108	2539	-111	4430
Hanover	76	33	54	+4	2.69	4	41.50	+17.67	96	3032	-207	5039
Shippensburg	78	33	54	+4	1.75	4	33.40	+10.26	92	3163	-66	5184
South_Mountain	74	30	51	+4	1.92	4	40.71	+17.33	101	2398	-248	4291
York_AP	77	32	54	+5	2.44	4	33.19	+7.99	106	3098	-140	5112
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	76	32	54	+6	4.42	4	45.12	+18.97	100	3251	+371	5275
Hamburg	76	34	52	+7	3.21	5	39.70	+9.26	107	2956	+354	4936
Hopewell	71	33	52	+2	3.44	4	41.09	+13.72	100	2908	-518	4876
Lancaster_AP	73	34	54	+7	2.52	4	32.34	+5.89	97	3107	+52	5117
Neshaminy_Falls	80	37	55	+7	4.12	4	33.47	+3.42	91	3358	+346	5383
New_Holland	76	37	55	+7	2.89	4	40.14	+13.69	102	3094	+39	5106
Philadelphia	78	41	57	+6	2.99	4	28.74	+3.32	87	3842	+290	5909
Philadelphia_NE	78	38	57	+6	3.81	4	31.76	+6.34	97	3494	-58	5534
Reading_AP	76	34	54	+7	2.68	4	34.26	+6.21	101	3187	+198	5187
Valley_Forge_Na	81	34	53	+3	4.52	4	40.17	+12.80	100	3048	-378	5031
Willow_Grove	77	39	56	+8	3.47	4	28.73	-1.32	89	3250	+238	5273

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.

"Another damp week. Farmers are having trouble in the field trying to get high-moisture corn harvested. Weekend temperatures were very warm for this time on year however intermittent showers spoiled a good work weekend.

....Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

Very busy week harvesting corn and beans. Harvest of grapes is still progressing (no frost along Lake Erie yet).

....Lew Steckler, Erie County

Farmers saying shelled corn is coming off around 20 to 25 percent moisture and yields are above normal. Reports of 80 to 160 bushels yields. Silage yields are being reported in area 8 to 25 tons per acre. Many farmers are cleaning out manure tanks and fall tilling. Most farmers have their fall wheat planted and appear to be off to an excellent start. 2003 wheat yields compared to last year are less per acre and same for barley. Soybeans yields are higher compared to last year yields. Nice crop in the four county area. The wet fall slowed harvesting of corn but most farmers were able to get corn off with little or no difficulty.

....Thomas Tanner, Forrest County

Rain, 3 or more inches fell over the area early last week. Many fields are too wet to harvest the corn. Most farmers have given up trying to harvest corn silage. The grain will have to wait for dryer weather. There probably will be no winter crops planted this year.

....Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

Corn and soybean harvesting moving at a good pace. Warm days are good for field work.

....D. Decker, Centre County

Another wet week. Everybody is busy getting ready for winter.

....Marina K., Huntington County

Good harvest conditions allowing for corn and soybean harvest to continue. Corn yields are generally well above average with many fields at over 150 bushels per acre. Some planned wheat

acreage will not be planted because of the continued wet soils. With above normal temperatures there is still some late-season forage being harvested. Pastures continue to be in excellent condition.

....John Lohr, Westmoreland County

This week was rainy and warm. Most if not all of the silage corn is now harvested and high moisture corn harvest is better than 75% complete. Corn left standing now is being held for dry corn. Soybean harvest has been slow because beans are slow to dry. Yields have varied, some yields have been reported as very good while the major portion are just above ordinary. Apple harvest is nearly over with only a few processing blocks to pick. Yields have been much better than the past three years, but weather played an important role in the quality of the fruit. Lower quality and lower processing prices has resulted in an average year for the fruit producers.

....Thomas A. Kerr, Franklin County

Poor week for field work. Several inches of rain scattered throughout the week kept most producers out of the field with the exception of those working with horses and small equipment. Very little progress was made in the harvesting process.

....Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

Another week with lots of rain, 3.5" and then another 1". Today is beautiful.

....Axel Linde, Lancaster County

More Rain! Over 4 inches on Monday and over 2 inches on Wednesday. All field work is on hold, maybe until the ground freezes. More than half of the corn is yet to be harvested and bean harvest was just getting underway when the rains came. What a year it has been with nearly 50 inches of rain from April-October!

....Andrew Frankenfield,
Montgomery County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 2, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Fall plowing	64	73	78
Corn, mature	90	97	96
Corn, harvested	49	73	63
Barley, planted	92	97	96
Barley, emerged	81	92	88
Winter wheat, planted	83	91	90
Winter wheat, emerged	61	78	73
Soybeans, harvested	47	37	56
Potatoes, harvested	96	98	97
Alfalfa 3 rd cutting	99	100	99
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	78	86	90
Timothy clover, 2 nd cutting	98	99	100
Apples, harvested	90	94	93

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 2, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Soybeans	1	3	20	54	22
Quality of hay made	13	17	36	28	6
Pasture conditions	5	28	15	42	10

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