



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending November 23, 2003

Fair week for Field Work: There were 3 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 49 percent adequate and 51 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included harvesting corn and soybeans; fall plowing; spreading manure, lime and fertilizer; planting wheat and barley; caring for livestock; storing machinery; preparing for winter and cutting firewood.

Crops: Much of the State saw warmer temperatures last week as well as the return of rain showers which slowed or halted field work. Acres of corn harvested for grain advanced slightly to 78 percent complete, 14 percent behind last year and 11 percent behind the five year average. Soybean acres harvested improved to 77 percent complete, also 11 percent below the five year average but 14 percent ahead for the same week one year ago. Fall tillage advanced very little to 72 percent complete, but is still 16 percent behind the five-year average. Nearly all of winter wheat has been planted and 93 percent of the planted acres have emerged only slightly behind the five year average. The winter wheat crop was rated as 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 67 percent good and 11 percent excellent. Virtually all the barley has been planted and nearly all planted acres have emerged. With fourth cutting of alfalfa nearing completion, the quality of hay made last week was rated as 16 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 26 percent good and 9 percent was excellent.

Livestock: Warmer temperatures aided pasture conditions across Pennsylvania. Ten percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 22 percent was rated poor, 13 percent was rated fair, 48 percent was rated good and 7 percent was rated excellent.

U.S. As of November 16, 2003: The eastern Corn Belt and Atlantic Coast, along with parts of the Southwest, Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains, and northern Great Plains, had slightly below-normal temperatures. Across the rest of the Nation, temperatures were slightly above normal. Except for a few areas, temperatures were within 6 degrees Fahrenheit of normal. Most of the Great Plains remained dry, stressing winter wheat. The western Corn Belt and coastal areas of the Southeast also had little precipitation, aiding summer crop harvest activities. Moderate to heavy rainfall in the Ohio Valley promoted winter wheat emergence and improved crop condition. In the Pacific Northwest, moderate precipitation fell in the coastal areas but did not help winter wheat further inland. Parts of the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi Delta also had moderate precipitation, while rainfall was light to moderate in New England. Corn: Acreage harvested advanced to 95 percent, 3 percentage points ahead of last year but the same as the 5-year average. Harvest progressed steadily in the eastern Corn Belt but remained well behind normal. Michigan growers progressed the most, harvesting 20 percent of their crop during the week, but remained over 1 week behind normal. Across the Great Plains and western Corn Belt, harvest progress approached completion ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Eighty-eight percent of the crop was emerged, the same as a year ago but 2 percentage points ahead of normal. Development slowed across most of the Nation as emergence neared completion in several States. However, in Arkansas and North Carolina, 15 and 16 percent of the crop emerged during the week, respectively. Emergence was generally behind normal in the northern and central Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Northwest and ahead of normal in the southern Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Southeast.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 23, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - November 23, 03					GDD BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	63	39	51	+10	0.36	3	27.63	-1.87	107	2693	+46	4744
Franklin_AG	64	35	47	+8	1.29	4	38.85	+8.04	146	2344	-65	4356
Meadville	62	37	47	+10	0.75	3	36.67	+5.22	125	2372	+168	4370
Mercer	65	28	45	+7	1.00	2	42.15	+12.76	109	1972	-412	3898
Springboro	64	34	47	+7	0.48	3	36.22	+7.85	122	2206	-381	4164
Warren	64	33	46	+8	1.90	3	40.91	+9.55	122	2324	+1	4296
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	61	30	44	+11	2.05	3	37.85	+6.89	134	1815	+160	3672
Emporium	58	29	44	+8	2.92	3	44.48	+14.09	128	2381	+496	4378
Kane	58	25	39	+4	2.14	3	35.39	+3.63	106	1240	-374	2897
Laporte	61	30	44	+6	2.25	3	43.20	+14.53	116	2074	-303	3925
Lock_Haven	67	30	47	+8	2.06	3	35.85	+7.77	111	2756	+225	4822
Port_Allegany	63	30	44	+9	2.24	3	39.93	+10.35	118	1977	+141	3856
Renovo	64	32	46	+8	2.41	3	36.05	+7.97	121	2617	+86	4676
Ridgway	64	29	44	+8	3.44	4	36.52	+6.13	111	1960	+75	3875
Stevenson_Dam	63	32	45	+9	2.65	3	38.10	+7.71	131	2389	+504	4401
Towanda	67	29	46	+8	1.52	3	37.04	+13.04	129	2416	+18	4388
Wellsboro	62	32	44	+9	2.36	3	36.10	+12.19	110	1976	+196	3828
Williamsport_AP	66	30	48	+8	2.60	2	39.64	+11.28	110	2899	+107	4984
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	64	27	43	+6	1.91	4	36.45	+9.22	100	2123	+82	4046
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	29	47	+8	1.60	2	39.01	+12.84	104	2765	+118	4802
Susquehanna	66	31	44	+9	1.82	3	41.55	+12.12	105	2608	+685	4558
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	66	32	47	+8	1.73	3	35.12	+6.48	124	2481	-22	4536
New_Castle	68	34	48	+9	1.13	3	40.63	+14.16	107	2718	+212	4807
Slippery_Rock	67	35	49	+11	1.51	5	43.40	+15.05	122	2598	+356	4682
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	63	31	48	+8	1.82	3	32.33	+6.74	125	2642	-23	4691
Du_Bois	63	35	47	+10	2.14	3	37.91	+9.06	139	2295	+18	4283
Lewistown	67	32	48	+7	2.43	3	36.63	+9.26	103	2976	+46	5094
Middletown	68	34	50	+8	1.08	2	38.94	+11.57	120	3325	-4	5497
Prince_Gallitzi	66	29	45	+8	2.74	3	36.24	+3.65	132	2350	+221	4312
Selinsgrove	67	32	47	+8	1.71	3	35.93	+7.39	110	2796	+76	4865
State_College_P	63	34	48	+9	2.31	3	40.95	+15.05	116	2703	+92	4770
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	68	34	49	+8	1.38	2	41.62	+11.89	102	3168	+129	5295
Lehighton	68	31	47	+6	1.59	2	48.19	+18.51	126	2631	-296	4656
Matamoras	63	30	44	+6	2.10	4	38.92	+8.85	109	2328	-285	4286
Tobyhanna	60	30	43	+8	2.13	2	51.86	+19.31	114	2765	+1020	4702
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	66	39	50	+11	2.58	2	31.68	+4.83	124	3115	+423	5267
Derry	69	36	49	+10	2.60	3	42.03	+14.25	111	2720	+186	4806
Meyersdale	67	28	45	+7	1.65	3	37.21	+6.85	118	2007	-491	3943
Mount_Pleasant	67	31	48	+10	2.67	2	39.21	+7.49	123	2625	+367	4707
Pittsburgh_Intl	66	38	50	+10	1.78	3	29.97	+5.08	117	3048	+228	5175
Rector	70	29	48	+10	2.49	4	39.01	+7.29	118	2660	+402	4736
Waynesburg	70	33	49	+9	3.00	2	44.91	+17.76	121	2770	+173	4887
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	68	34	49	+6	1.61	4	41.94	+15.87	127	3077	-179	5216
Everett	64	26	43	+4	1.96	3	36.14	+10.99	115	2556	-102	4530
Hanover	67	32	49	+6	1.40	3	44.41	+18.34	105	3113	-143	5254
Shippensburg	71	32	49	+8	2.10	3	36.73	+11.31	99	3235	-8	5389
South_Mountain	69	32	48	+8	1.58	3	43.38	+17.79	108	2454	-199	4462
York_AP	68	30	50	+7	1.14	3	35.90	+8.29	114	3180	-74	5329
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	67	33	48	+7	1.93	4	48.27	+19.45	109	3315	+423	5473
Hamburg	68	33	49	+10	1.35	2	41.97	+8.53	114	3019	+412	5128
Hopewell	67	36	50	+6	1.70	3	44.04	+13.96	108	2976	-473	5077
Lancaster_AP	69	35	51	+10	1.42	3	34.80	+5.93	104	3191	+125	5342
Neshaminy_Falls	68	35	51	+10	2.66	2	37.82	+5.01	98	3441	+417	5615
New_Holland	66	39	51	+10	1.55	3	43.70	+14.83	109	3181	+115	5339
Philadelphia	69	40	54	+9	1.11	2	30.74	+3.00	94	3952	+371	6185
Philadelphia_NE	68	37	52	+8	1.82	2	34.46	+6.72	103	3588	+7	5787
Reading_AP	68	34	50	+9	1.13	3	36.09	+5.33	108	3259	+259	5394
Valley_Forge_Na	70	30	48	+4	1.88	3	44.93	+14.85	107	3108	-341	5220
Willow_Grove	67	37	52	+10	2.03	3	31.61	-1.20	97	3337	+313	5516

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.

"The end of the week was excellent for harvesting the remaining crops. Farmers were busy making last minute repairs to winterize buildings and equipment."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Most to the harvest activity is completed except for ear and shelled corn. Many farmers are waiting for moisture contend to drop and/or fields to dry-up some. This weekend sounds good for many acres to be harvested with no rain forcast."

- Lew Steckler, Erie County

"Another week closer to the winter season. Area farmers are washing and greasing machinery for the winter months ahead. Fences are being mended and fall projects are being completed before snow flies."

- Willie Keeney,
Susquehanna County

"Heavy rain mid week, Indian summer weather Friday thru Sunday."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"This area had a major flood again this week."

- Marina K., Huntington County

"A few producers were able to get back into fields by Friday to continue harvesting corn and soybeans even after most of the county received around 3 inches of rain on Wednesday. Some fields will need frozen ground or weeks of dry conditions before harvesting can continue."

- John Lorr, Westmoreland County

"A warm week, but still too wet to do much field work. Corn is beginning to show serious mold problems. Too wet to get into fields. Soybeans are holding on. Yield is starting to drop doue to shattering."

- Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

"All year we have been running on marginal or worse soil conditions. Lots of rutted up fields from planting, spraying and now from harvest conditions. Soil compaction will be an issue."

- Russ McLucas, Fulton County

"Harvesting is becoming more of a challenge each week as the rain continues to fall. Deer are hammering the remaining standing crops. Yields are well down from previous years. Some bean fields yielding less than 10 bu/acre."

- Michael Fournier, Bucks County

"This was the third week that had sufficient rain that soils remained too wet for any meaningful field operations to take place. Corn and soybean harvest are at a standstill. Wheat and barley planting has reached the point that what has not been planted will probably not be planted."

- Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 23, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Fall plowing	72	80	88
Corn, harvested	78	92	89
Winter wheat, emerged	93	96	95
Soybeans, harvested	77	63	88
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	95	94	98

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 23, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Winter Wheat	1	2	19	67	11
Quality of hay made	16	15	34	26	9
Pasture conditions	10	22	13	48	7

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