2010 Crop & Weather Summary: The average monthly temperature for January was 30.8 degrees, which was 0.5 degrees above normal. February temperatures were above normal as the monthly average was 30.4 degrees. There was an average of 2.91 inches of precipitation, which is 0.3 inches above normal. March had highly variable temperatures. The average monthly temperature was 47.1 degrees. Average rainfall for the month was at 3.22 inches, which was mostly rainfall.

In April, the average temperature for the month was 56.2 degrees, which was 4.1 degrees above normal. The reported precipitation average for the state was 1.70 inches, which is 1.61 inches below normal. On average, 21 days were suitable for field work for the month. Producers were able to get 62 percent of the plowing finished by the month’s end. Approximately 18 percent of the corn acreage was planted in April. Temperatures were fairly normal in the month of May, with an average temperature of 65.0 degrees. During the month of May, Pennsylvania had an average of 5.08 inches of rainfall. This is 0.48 inches above normal. Twenty-one days were suitable for fieldwork for the month. Roughly 93 percent of corn acreage and 78 percent of the soybean acreage had been planted by the end of the month. Producers were well into the first cutting of alfalfa hay and had a good start for timothy clover. June temperatures were around normal, as the average temperature was 74.8 degrees. An average of 4.13 inches of rain fell across the state of Pennsylvania during June, which was 0.14 inches above normal. Transplanting tobacco was completed during June. Most producers finished planting their corn and soybean acreage during the month, while others were almost done with the harvest for barley. As some farmers were completing the first cutting of alfalfa, others already had a good start on the second cutting.

The temperature in July averaged 79.3 degrees, which is 3.4 degrees above the average. There was 5.80 inches of precipitation, which is 2.59 inches above normal. Crop conditions continued to decline during the month of July due to the extremely hot temperatures. The barley harvest was completed, and nearly all of the wheat acreage was harvested during the month. The average corn stalk height was at 75 inches tall. The average August temperature was 76.2 degrees, which was 2.2 degrees above normal. The average precipitation for August was 1.72 inches, which is 1.52 inches below normal for the month. Tobacco harvest was advancing slower than the previous year and the 5 year average. Potatoes were behind the previous year and 5 year average. Peach and apple harvests continued steadily. Most producers were well on their way to completing their third cutting of alfalfa and second cutting of timothy clover. September was cooler than August, with an average temperature of 69.5 degrees, which is 3.3 above normal. September, however, had more rain than August. The precipitation total for the month was 5.47 inches, which is above normal. Corn harvesting for both grain and silage were the main activities for the month. Operators were ahead in these tasks as compared to historic trends. The tobacco harvest was near completion by the end of the month, while producers also worked on harvesting potatoes, peaches, apples, and grapes. Producers neared the completion of the fourth cutting of alfalfa as well as the second cutting of timothy clover. Barley and wheat were also planted during the month.

October average temperatures were 55.9 degrees, which is 1.4 degrees more than normal. The precipitation total for the month was 2.54 inches, which is 0.52 inches below normal.

Producers nearly finished harvesting their corn for silage and continued harvesting corn for grain, with 70 percent of the state’s acreage harvested by month’s end. The potato harvest was completed by the end of the month, and the soybean harvest was 71 percent complete by the beginning of the next month. November had an average temperature of 44.8 degrees, which was 0.5 degrees above normal. The precipitation total for the month was 2.42 inches, which is 1.11 inches below normal. Producers continued to harvest corn and soybeans. Farmers also were preparing equipment for the next growing season and completing fall plowing.

Small Grains: Production of winter wheat was 8,850,000 bushels, 9.7 percent less than 2009. There were 150,000 acres harvested in 2010, 25,000 acres less than in 2009. Yield was 59 bushels per acre in 2010, up 3 bushels per acre from 2009. There were 4,720,000 bushels of oats produced in 2010 down 3.3 percent from 2009. Harvested acreage was at 80,000 in 2010, the same as in 2009. Yield was 59 bushels per acre in 2010, a decrease of 2 bushels per acre from 2009. Barley production for 2010 was 3,375,000 bushels, the same as in 2009. Harvested acreage was at 45,000, the same as in 2009. Average yield was 75 bushels per acre, the same as in 2009.

Hay: Production of all dry hay in 2010 was 3,400,000 tons, down 255,000 tons from 2009. Total acres harvested were 1,500,000 in 2010, down 50,000 acres from 2009. Yield was 2.27 tons per acre, down 3.9 percent from 2009. Alfalfa hay production was 1,300,000 tons, down 10.4 percent from 2009’s production. Alfalfa acreage harvested was 500,000, remaining steady from 2009. Yield was 2.60 tons per acre, down 10.4 percent from 2009. Other hay production was 2,100,000 tons, down 4.8 percent from 2009. Other hay acreage harvested was 1,000,000, down 50,000 acres from 2009. Yield was at 2.10 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous year.

Row Crops: Corn for grain production was 116,480,000 bushels, down 11.5 percent from 2009. Harvested acres amounted to 910,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2009. Yield was 128 bushels per acre, down 15 bushels from 2009. Corn for silage production was 7,200,000 tons, down 12.1 percent from 2009. Acres harvested totaled 400,000 acres, down 4.8 percent from 2009. Yield was 18.0 tons per acre, down 1.5 ton per acre from 2009. Soybean production for 2010 was 20,790,000 bushels, up 1.5 percent from 2009. Harvested soybean acreage was at 495,000, up 50,000 acres from 2009. Yield was 42 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from 2009. Potato production was at 2,205,000 cwt., down 25.1 percent from 2009. Acres harvested were down at 9,000 acres. Yield increased to 245 cwt per acre, down 65 cwt from 2009. Total production of tobacco was 19,965,000 pounds, up 6.9 percent from 2009. There were 8,500 acres harvested in 2010, up 300 acres from 2009. The all tobacco yield was 2,349 pounds per acre, up 73 pounds from 2009.