



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 28, 2008

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Good week for Field Work: The comfortable weather continued for much of the week, but the weekend rain slowed field work. A total of 5 days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included making hay, spreading manure and lime, planting barley and wheat, picking apples, as well as harvesting grapes, soybeans, corn, tobacco, and potatoes. Fall plowing is 43 percent complete.

lowland flooding persisted from Missouri into southern Michigan. In contrast, unfavorable dryness continued in much of the Ohio Valley and the upper Midwest. Farther south, hurricane damage assessments continued in the western and central Gulf Coast regions. Showers lingered during the early- to mid-week period from the Carolinas southward into Florida, and returned toward week's end to the central Gulf Coast States. Meanwhile on the Plains, dry weather favored an acceleration of winter wheat planting and other fieldwork, especially across the northern half of the region. Weekly temperatures ranged from 5 to 10 degrees F below normal on the southeastern Plains, where some fields remained soggy, but averaged as much as 10 degrees F above normal on the northern High Plains. Elsewhere, very warm, mostly dry weather prevailed in the West. A late-season heat wave boosted temperatures as much as 10 degrees F above normal in the Northwest, where winter wheat planting advanced. Late in the week, however, cooler, showery weather in the Northwest slowed fieldwork but boosted topsoil moisture for small grain emergence. High winds raked the Ohio Valley, where peak gusts on September 14 were clocked to 75 M.P.H. in Columbus, OH. A gust to 81 M.P.H. was noted as far north and east as the Beaver County Airport in western Pennsylvania.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 28, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
20	22	48	10

Crops: Corn condition was estimated as 67 percent good or excellent, up 3 points from last week. Eleven percent of the corn is poor or very poor. The state's corn is 94% dented, 64% mature, and 26% harvested, compared with the five year average of 90%, 64% and 21% respectively. Soybean condition declined, as 65% of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent. This is compared with last week's 71 percent. The soybean harvest has begun throughout the state and is estimated to be 7% complete, compared to a 4% average. Winter wheat planting is 19% completed, compared with a 22% average. Winter wheat seedings have started to surface, as 7% of the state's wheat has emerged, which is 1 point ahead of the average. The corn silage harvest is 82% completed, compared to a 75% average. Barley planting is 47% complete, compared with the average of 45%. Twenty-five percent of the barley has emerged, which is 5 points ahead of the average. The potato harvest is 80% complete, which is 11 points above than average. The tobacco harvest is 93% completed, which is 2 points below the five year average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa continued and is 82% complete, which is 26 points ahead of the average. Hay quality declined last week, as 71% of the hay made was of good or excellent quality, with 11 percent rated as poor or very poor. The apple condition improved slightly and is estimated at 74 percent good or excellent. The apple harvest is 47% complete, compared with last year's 68% and the average of 60%. The grape harvest has begun and is 35% complete, which is 16 points above the average.

Corn: A band of heavy rain fell across central Illinois, northern Indiana, and southern Michigan during the week. Temperatures across much of the Corn Belt varied between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Ninety percent of the corn acreage had reached the dent stage, 8 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Denting was complete in Kansas, North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee, and was nearly complete in Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Texas. Thirty-three percent of the corn crop was mature, 43 points behind last year and 30 points behind the 5-year average. Corn acreage was reaching maturity at or ahead of normal in Colorado, North Carolina, and Ohio, but was behind the average by up to 46 points, elsewhere. Producers had harvested 5 percent of the Nation's corn, 15 points behind last year and 9 points behind the average. Condition of the corn crop declined 2 points from the previous week to 59 percent good to excellent.

Livestock: Only 25% of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition, which is 5 points more than last week. Forty-six percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 50 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 27% very poor, 19% poor, 29% fair, 20% good, and 5% excellent.

Soybeans: Varied temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees held throughout the week in major soybean areas. Significant rainfall was received in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, while only limited precipitation fell elsewhere. Nationwide soybean condition remained unchanged from last week at 57 percent good to excellent.

U.S. as of September 21, 2008: The remnants of Hurricane Ike raced northeastward early in the week, with the storm's center passing through the middle Mississippi Valley and the lower Great Lakes States. On September 14, damaging wind gusts as high as 60 to 80 M.P.H. tore through the Ohio Valley and the lower Great Lakes region, downing trees and causing widespread electrical outages. Meanwhile, heavy rain subsided in the storm's wake, although

Winter Wheat: Minimal rainfall was received across the winter wheat growing area, while temperatures varied from slightly below normal in the south to slightly above normal in the north. Producers had planted 22 percent of the winter wheat acreage, 2 points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. In the west, producers were seeding their acreage on time or slightly ahead of usual, while elsewhere, planting was behind.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 28, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 28, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	79	50	64	4	0.07	1	18.61	-3.81	75	2,864	405	4,562	
Franklin	78	45	62	5	0.00	0	21.94	-2.62	84	2,437	160	4,134	
Meadville	76	48	63	6	0.00	0	20.62	-3.87	79	2,436	349	4,132	
Mercer	79	47	63	6	0.05	1	22.71	-0.69	86	2,407	150	4,111	
Springboro	77	42	60	1	0.04	1	26.29	4.50	82	2,214	-207	3,883	
Warren	80	44	61	5	0.35	1	22.97	-1.71	82	2,315	111	3,980	
North Central													
Bradford Region	74	37	58	5	0.08	1	20.95	-3.70	97	1,731	137	3,316	
Emporium	76	41	59	5	0.76	3	19.09	-5.15	87	2,314	504	3,993	
Kane	75	37	57	5	0.23	2	21.57	-3.52	83	1,710	150	3,299	
Laporte	72	43	57	0	2.23	4	26.13	3.42	88	2,029	-225	3,668	
Lock Haven	80	43	61	3	1.05	3	18.76	-3.59	75	2,655	259	4,380	
Port Allegany	76	38	58	4	0.17	3	16.84	-6.51	84	1,913	154	3,534	
Renovo	80	42	62	4	0.75	2	18.74	-3.61	72	2,575	179	4,291	
Ridgway	78	38	59	5	0.06	1	20.31	-4.06	82	1,924	114	3,559	
Stevenson Dam	81	41	62	7	1.40	2	17.67	-6.70	74	2,413	603	4,097	
Towanda	80	43	60	3	2.35	4	22.35	3.45	77	2,382	112	4,065	
Wellsboro	78	38	57	4	1.67	3	19.27	0.27	84	1,876	176	3,496	
Williamsport	78	46	64	4	3.68	4	23.69	1.73	76	2,902	261	4,651	
Northeast													
Hawley	77	41	59	4	1.74	4	22.69	1.25	71	2,188	242	3,840	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	45	62	4	0.37	3	19.12	-1.71	73	2,704	199	4,406	
Susquehanna	74	41	58	4	1.26	3	23.48	0.62	85	2,272	429	3,948	
West Central													
Butler	80	44	62	4	0.27	2	17.57	-5.60	91	2,362	-1	4,078	
New Castle	86	46	65	7	1.25	2	20.16	-1.08	82	2,769	402	4,505	
Slippery Rock	83	45	64	8	0.00	0	22.66	0.04	74	2,407	283	4,144	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	78	42	61	2	0.71	3	19.80	-0.37	83	2,587	76	4,299	
DuBois	76	43	62	5	0.02	1	21.19	-2.12	90	2,285	114	3,950	
Lewistown	80	45	61	1	1.19	3	23.77	2.12	73	2,785	27	4,505	
Middletown	79	50	65	3	2.05	3	22.65	1.09	62	3,329	215	5,093	
Prince Gallitzi	78	39	60	3	0.22	2	22.93	-3.09	76	2,146	124	3,819	
Selinsgrove	77	47	61	2	2.44	3	21.60	-0.94	69	2,700	123	4,419	
State College	76	46	61	3	1.61	2	21.21	0.82	70	2,738	263	4,461	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	81	44	63	3	0.83	3	21.79	-1.81	61	2,932	87	4,662	
Lehighton	75	46	60	-1	1.17	3	20.38	-3.08	72	2,633	-108	4,348	
Matamoras	78	45	60	2	1.52	4	22.09	-1.62	77	2,441	-34	4,115	
Mt_Pocono	75	42	59	6	1.81	4	21.48	-3.77	81	2,073	387	3,707	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	51	65	6	0.22	4	19.10	-2.38	75	2,944	416	4,698	
Derry	78	45	61	3	0.64	3	25.76	3.36	87	2,517	130	4,243	
Myersdale	78	39	58	-2	0.96	3	26.68	2.25	81	1,890	-467	3,539	
Mount Pleasant	78	41	61	4	0.22	2	23.76	-1.73	77	2,484	348	4,223	
Pittsburgh Intl	81	48	65	6	0.95	2	20.55	0.37	73	2,883	236	4,635	
Connellsville	81	45	64	4	0.14	3	26.80	3.03	84	2,837	141	4,590	
Waynesburg	80	44	62	4	0.33	3	24.35	2.35	71	2,549	95	4,289	
South Central													
Biglerville	80	49	63	2	4.51	3	29.20	8.85	65	3,019	-24	4,762	
Everett	79	43	60	1	0.57	3	24.54	4.92	72	2,385	-121	4,087	
Hanover	78	44	61	-2	3.43	3	27.86	7.51	69	2,976	-67	4,714	
Harrisburg_AP	81	48	65	3	2.30	3	19.42	-2.14	52	3,246	125	5,013	
South Mountain	75	43	60	1	2.87	3	32.48	12.31	81	2,377	-127	4,067	
York	80	43	63	1	2.24	3	29.56	7.83	71	3,007	-25	4,766	
Southeast													
Green Lane	80	48	63	3	0.76	3	26.76	3.91	69	3,057	335	4,807	
Hamburg	79	48	63	5	0.55	3	19.71	-6.60	67	3,073	593	4,823	
West_Chester	80	45	63	1	0.63	3	22.68	-2.17	56	2,965	-62	4,702	
Lancaster	79	45	63	2	2.49	3	23.25	0.26	62	2,975	97	4,718	
Neshaminy Falls	74	47	62	2	1.75	4	22.56	-3.88	57	3,056	214	4,808	
New Holland	80	47	63	2	0.60	3	24.18	1.19	62	3,132	254	4,882	
Philadelphia	80	55	67	3	0.70	3	19.25	-3.14	54	3,671	361	5,456	
Philadelphia NE	82	54	67	3	1.10	3	17.79	-4.60	59	3,781	471	5,569	
Reading	81	47	64	4	0.72	4	19.27	-5.29	67	3,207	381	4,959	
Valley Forge Na	80	48	63	0	1.21	3	25.79	1.82	63	2,964	-237	4,722	
Willow Grove	80	50	64	3	0.95	3	21.01	-5.43	64	3,273	431	5,037	

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, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had a pretty nice week of weather conditions. The week started with morning temperatures in the 50's and daytime temperatures in the 70's. Monday was cloudy, but Tuesday and Wednesday were sunny. Thursday was cloudy with some rain and temperatures in the 60's. 1/2 inch of rain was received Thursday night into Friday. Friday was in the 50's, with 2 inches of rain received into Saturday. Saturday into Sunday received another 2 inches. There was 1/2 inch on Sunday. Most areas of the county received 5 inches of rainfall the past 3 days. The soil is very saturated. A lot of water ran off and caused some ponding on roadways. Corn silage continues to be harvested. Corn for grain harvest is also continuing with the right conditions. Wheat and barley continue to be seeded, and earlier seeded small grains are emerging. More small grains will be seeded as the corn and soybeans come off. New seedings of hay are emerging. Some hay was baled last week with the bad weather conditions. Apples continue to be harvested. Rains during the end of the week have slowed field work. Field roads conditions are not good from all of the rainfall. Late sweet corn harvest is about complete. Pumpkins are also being harvested. Overall, the producers are very busy in the fields as conditions permit. Upper Adams area is busy getting ready for the National Apple Harvest Festival. The festival is happening October 4-5, and October 11-12 at the South Mountain Fairgrounds (Rt. 234), near Arendtsville, PA.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most of the fruit areas in South-Central Pennsylvania received 2.75 to 4" of rain from Friday through Sunday. Soil moisture is quite adequate. Growers are anxious to continue apple harvest without further disruption. Apples continue to be harvested with high sugar levels and good color. Golden Delicious and Red Delicious will be the main varieties harvested this coming week. Empires and Jonagolds will also continue to be harvested.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Two to four inches of rain over the weekend will keep combines on the sidelines for most of next week, especially with more rain forecasted. Early beans have lost their leaves and will be ready for harvest as soon as the soil dries out. Early corn yields are extremely variable, depending on which fields got the sparse showers during July and August.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - The week consisted of harvesting potatoes, corn silage, and planting winter wheat.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week was a good week for field work, with rainfall at the end of the week. There was 1.5" in my gauge.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - We received about 1" of much needed rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Last week was a great week for field work. Harvesting corn for silage was the primary activity. Field conditions are excellent for this time of year. Pastures are however declining rapidly due to lack of precipitation for the week.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Corn for grain and soybean harvest started in earnest last week. Early season bean yields were good, with moisture in the 10 to 12% range. No till barley seeding followed behind the combines. Harvesting of high moisture corn for silo and bag storage also was taking place.

Yields of beans and corn were reported to be good but not great. Harvesting of late plantings of silage corn are nearly completed. Three and a half inches of rain over the weekend will slow down field work to start the week.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy L Lewis (FSA) - Sunny, breezy fall conditions permitted producers to finish chopping corn to fill their silos. Producers are reporting excellent yields on their silage. Corn and soybeans are drying down quickly. Producers have started to harvest ear corn. Light rainfall on Sunday provided moisture for recently planted wheat.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Producers are harvesting corn silage. I can see the combines starting to run. Corn has really dried down during the past two weeks. Soybeans are about 2 weeks away until they are ready for harvest. Crops are well ahead of last year for maturity.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Rain late in the week is helping to maintain pastures, but it is a little late for corn and beans. Fall seeded grains are looking good. Excellent stands of fall grasses are common. Cool weather is helping the apple crop as well, but yield is still less than normal. Quality loss due to hail has greatly reduced the returns to several of the growers.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - In the beginning of the week, lots of corn and soybeans were harvested, lime and manure was spread, cover crops were planted, hay was made, and conservation practices were installed. Pastures are looking good.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Lancaster County received over 3 inches of rainfall in many spots. We are looking forward to some dry weather so we can get back into the fields.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Corn silage and hay harvesting were some of the activities in the week. Ground is still very dry. Some corn received frost but not widespread.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The week was somewhat tranquil; then on Friday and Saturday, the heavy rains came with nearly four inches in most places. Earlier in the week, making corn silage, and planting barley and wheat were the main activities. The soybeans are ripening and many fields have dropped the leaves, while others are turning yellow. So far, the crops look good.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker - Union County went from one extreme to another. After one of the driest years ever, we had 7.8 inches of rain this month.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - It was another dry week making for excellent harvest conditions. Newly planted wheat and barley need some moisture. With the dry conditions, some nice late-cutting alfalfa hay is being baled.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Dry weather continues. We could use some more rain. Due to dryness, the corn is drying down quickly. We need rain to benefit the small grain fall plantings.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 28, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	43	47	39
Corn, dent	94	97	90
Corn, mature	64	74	64
Corn, harvested	26	22	21
Corn silage, harvested	82	82	75
Barley, planted	47	45	45
Barley, emerged	25	14	20
Wheat, planted	19	26	22
Wheat, emerged	7	7	6
Soybeans, harvested	7	7	4
Tobacco, harvested	93	94	95
Potatoes, harvested	80	56	69
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	82	54	56
Apples, harvested	47	68	60
Grapes, harvested	35	13	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 28, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	10	22	49	18
Soybeans	1	8	26	52	13
Quality of hay made	2	9	18	62	9
Pasture	27	19	29	20	5
Apples	0	3	23	52	22

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