



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending October 19, 2008

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Excellent week for Field Work: A total of 6 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, and potatoes. Farmers also conducted post harvest activities such as equipment maintenance, building repairs, and installing conservation practices. Fall plowing continued and is 69 percent complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 19, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
11	28	61	0

Crops: Corn condition declined again last week and is now 65 percent good or excellent, compared to 71% last week. Nine percent of the corn is in poor or very poor condition. The state's corn is 94% mature, and 44% harvested, compared with the five year average of 92% and 48% respectively. Sixty-three percent of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent, compared with 70% the previous week. The soybean harvest is 41% complete, compared to the 33% average. Winter wheat planting is 77% completed, compared with a 69% average. Winter wheat is 37% emerged, compared with a 40% average. Barley planting is 87% complete, compared with the average of 86%. Sixty-eight percent of the barley has emerged, which is 6 points ahead of the average. The potato harvest and the 4th cutting of alfalfa are both nearing completion at 98% and 96% complete respectively. The apple harvest is 79% complete, compared with last year's 86% and the average of 85%. The grape harvest is estimated as 80% complete, which is 11 points above the average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions improved slightly as 28% of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition. This is compared to last week's 25%. Thirty percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 48 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 14% very poor, 16% poor, 42% fair, 23% good, and 5% excellent.

U.S. as of October 12, 2008: Showers swept across the Plains, Midwest, and Southeast, causing temporary fieldwork delays, but boosting moisture reserves for winter grain emergence and establishment. Wet conditions lingered along the southern Atlantic Coast for much of the week, but warm, dry weather overspread most areas from the central and southern Plains into the East. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 9 degrees F above normal in the western Corn Belt. Another week without a widespread freeze greatly benefited maturing Midwestern summer crops, which had been highly vulnerable to an early-season cold outbreak. Meanwhile, Midwestern showers provided much-needed moisture for newly planted soft red winter wheat in the Ohio Valley. On the central and

southern Plains, mid- to late-week warmth and dryness promoted winter wheat planting and emergence. This also allowed harvesting of corn, cotton, peanuts, and sorghum to advance northward. In the Southeast, harvest continued for the aforementioned crops, along with rice and soybeans. Late in the week, a winter-like storm brought markedly colder weather to the northern Plains and the West, along with widespread rain and snow. Significant accumulations of wind-driven snow were reported across the northern Intermountain West and the northern Plains, where fieldwork came to a standstill and livestock stress increased. Elsewhere on the Plains, storm-total rainfall locally ranged from 2 to 4 inches. Late-week temperatures plunged below 20 degrees F across parts of the northern High Plains. Early in the week, locally heavy showers dotted the nation's midsection. By October 7, rain spread across the South and Midwest.

Corn: Throughout much of the Corn Belt, precipitation levels remained below 2 inches for the week. However, portions of the Great Plains States received slightly larger amounts. Average temperatures throughout the Corn Belt ranged between 45 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit, with the cooler temperatures in the northwestern portions of the region. Eighty-six percent of the acreage was mature, 11 points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Development was at or behind the 5-year average pace in all States except Pennsylvania. Harvest was 21 percent complete, 29 points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest was most active in the southern Corn Belt. Harvest progress was behind both last year and normal in nearly all states. Corn condition ratings improved 1 point during the week to 62 percent good to excellent.

Soybeans: Temperatures in soybean-producing areas varied from 75 degrees in the Southeast to as low as 45 degrees in the northern Great Plains. A band of precipitation stretching from Arkansas eastward brought more than 2 inches of rainfall to many areas. Harvest of the crop was complete on 51 percent of the acreage, 10 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Producers were harvesting their crop at or behind the average pace in all States except Kansas, Louisiana, and Ohio. The crop was rated 57 percent good to excellent, unchanged from last week.

Winter Wheat: One to two inches of rain fell across much of the Great Plains, aiding newly seeded winter wheat. Producers had planted 73 percent of the winter wheat crop, 4 points ahead of last year's planting pace but the same as the 5-year average. With 46 percent of the wheat crop emerged, development is 7 points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 19, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 19, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	79	33	58	6	0.98	1	22.84	-2.16	82	3,034	435	4,932
Franklin	79	27	54	5	0.33	1	23.32	-3.38	91	2,544	163	4,423
Meadville	78	28	55	6	0.64	2	23.00	-3.90	88	2,548	368	4,427
Mercer	79	25	55	6	0.53	2	24.30	-1.08	95	2,526	167	4,416
Springboro	79	24	53	2	0.78	2	29.27	5.14	91	2,311	-236	4,158
Warren	80	27	52	4	0.47	1	25.20	-1.82	88	2,401	102	4,244
North Central												
Bradford Region	76	22	51	5	0.48	1	22.76	-4.08	105	1,792	145	3,528
Emporium	77	25	53	6	0.31	2	20.77	-5.56	98	2,399	523	4,251
Kane	78	21	50	6	0.54	3	23.53	-3.91	92	1,760	153	3,497
Laporte	72	29	52	4	0.03	1	27.26	2.42	95	2,105	-246	3,910
Lock Haven	82	28	56	6	0.02	1	19.18	-5.18	81	2,790	288	4,709
Port Allegany	79	21	51	5	0.30	3	18.62	-6.94	93	1,986	162	3,771
Renovo	79	27	56	6	0.04	3	19.24	-5.12	80	2,704	202	4,612
Ridgway	80	22	51	5	0.15	2	21.24	-5.22	90	1,996	120	3,797
Stevenson Dam	80	26	55	8	0.02	1	18.20	-8.26	82	2,528	652	4,403
Towanda	81	26	53	4	0.14	1	23.34	2.70	84	2,477	107	4,336
Wellsboro	78	24	53	6	0.16	2	20.54	-0.28	92	1,950	184	3,721
Williamsport	77	30	56	6	0.03	2	24.08	-0.06	82	3,043	285	4,988
Northeast												
Hawley	75	23	53	5	0.00	0	24.17	0.78	76	2,275	254	4,098
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	26	55	5	0.01	1	20.58	-2.15	77	2,838	223	4,729
Susquehanna	75	27	53	6	0.33	2	24.30	-0.83	92	2,359	449	4,212
West Central												
Butler	81	27	55	5	0.37	3	19.29	-5.81	101	2,475	3	4,378
New Castle	83	29	57	8	0.22	3	21.52	-1.56	91	2,930	453	4,867
Slippery Rock	84	26	56	7	0.20	2	24.58	-0.02	82	2,543	325	4,478
Central												
Altoona/Blair	79	26	56	5	0.01	1	19.97	-2.11	89	2,717	88	4,615
DuBois	78	29	55	7	0.20	3	22.05	-3.20	98	2,396	137	4,241
Lewistown	81	30	56	4	0.04	2	24.44	0.81	79	2,923	34	4,841
Middletown	77	34	60	6	0.00	0	23.33	-0.20	65	3,530	257	5,499
Prince Gallitzi	76	26	52	3	0.00	0	23.42	-4.84	81	2,218	107	4,070
Selinsgrove	78	30	56	6	0.00	0	22.51	-2.14	74	2,826	138	4,739
State College	79	30	56	7	0.01	1	21.88	-0.42	75	2,868	286	4,787
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	78	33	58	6	0.00	0	25.72	0.14	65	3,086	101	5,018
Lehighton	76	30	55	3	0.00	0	23.45	-2.16	77	2,747	-128	4,654
Matamoras	74	28	54	3	0.03	1	23.43	-2.33	85	2,556	-27	4,424
Mt_Pocono	74	31	54	8	0.00	0	24.20	-3.47	86	2,160	423	3,967
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	32	59	8	0.05	1	19.65	-3.68	82	3,127	475	5,079
Derry	78	28	55	5	0.15	2	26.63	2.40	95	2,636	135	4,554
Myersdale	77	21	51	2	0.04	1	26.86	0.33	85	1,976	-492	3,805
Mount Pleasant	81	23	54	5	0.04	1	24.55	-3.13	84	2,598	365	4,526
Pittsburgh Intl	81	33	58	7	0.41	2	21.51	-0.27	80	3,050	273	5,000
Connellsville	82	28	57	6	0.16	1	27.89	2.22	91	3,009	177	4,958
Waynesburg	82	26	56	6	0.00	0	24.86	1.17	76	2,694	129	4,628
South Central												
Biglerville	82	37	59	6	0.05	1	28.30	5.86	68	3,189	-10	5,137
Everett	82	25	54	4	0.00	0	24.77	3.16	75	2,506	-119	4,396
Hanover	81	31	58	4	0.01	1	28.01	5.57	73	3,142	-57	5,080
Harrisburg_AP	80	32	60	6	0.00	0	20.20	-3.33	55	3,436	153	5,407
South Mountain	78	30	54	4	0.00	0	32.57	10.49	84	2,498	-122	4,380
York	81	29	57	3	0.00	0	30.36	6.59	73	3,168	-27	5,126
Southeast												
Green Lane	77	36	59	7	0.00	0	27.52	2.76	74	3,229	378	5,186
Hamburg	78	34	58	9	0.00	0	20.42	-8.32	72	3,239	656	5,194
West_Chester	80	36	58	5	0.00	0	23.44	-3.59	60	3,129	-55	5,074
Lancaster	79	37	60	7	0.00	0	23.67	-1.36	64	3,160	140	5,111
Neshaminy Falls	79	32	57	5	0.00	0	23.32	-5.24	61	3,219	241	5,173
New Holland	80	35	61	8	0.00	0	24.50	-0.53	64	3,343	323	5,300
Philadelphia	81	43	63	8	0.09	1	19.69	-4.48	59	3,938	438	5,933
Philadelphia NE	81	43	63	8	0.00	0	19.89	-4.28	63	4,047	547	6,045
Reading	79	34	60	8	0.01	1	20.03	-6.57	70	3,399	440	5,357
Valley Forge Na	78	37	59	5	0.00	0	27.03	1.05	68	3,147	-230	5,113
Willow Grove	78	37	60	8	0.00	0	23.12	-5.44	68	3,479	501	5,450

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 nice week of weather. There was no measureable precipitation. A shower came through on Thursday morning, but it was not even enough to dampen the parking lot. At the beginning of the week, morning temperatures were in the 50-60's, and daytimes were in the 70's. On Friday morning it was 50 degrees, while in the evening it was in the high 50's and cloudy. Saturday and Sunday mornings were in the 30's. During the daytime it was sunny, windy and into the 50's. The Monday (October 20, 2008) morning temperature was 28 degrees with heavy frost throughout the entire county. We are still pretty dry in Adams County. Corn silage harvest continues. The corn greened up after September's rains, and is now drying down again. Corn for grain and early soybeans are being harvested. Some soybeans are still pretty green and may not make it through the frosts. Wheat seeding continues. Some moisture is needed to get the wheat and barley going. We haven't had any measureable rainfall since September. Hay making also continues. Vegetables are almost completely harvested. Frost for those that have not been harvested will be a factor. Apples continue to be harvested. Quality is an issue this year due to wet weather last Spring. Overall the county is fairing ok. Producers are busy with all different kinds of field work.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - It was a good week for apple harvesting. Some small growers are finished, while others continue to harvest Romes, Yorks, Cameos, and Fujis.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - It has been a good month for harvesting. Earlier planted wheat is up and looks good. Migrant Canada geese are moving in and finding the emerging wheat. Corn and bean harvests are moving along nicely with highly variable yields. On Monday 10/20, we saw our first good frost at 29 degrees. Many of the double cropped beans still had a long way to go before the frost hit

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Harvesting corn was the main activity during the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was another good week for fall field work.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - It is getting dry again, but there was great harvest weather.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Most producers have finished corn silage harvest. Getting cover crops sown is next on the to do list. Other activities are cleaning and putting away equipment, repairs on buildings, and just trying to remember all the stuff that was put off until after harvest.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Dry soil conditions are affecting germination of winter small grains, but providing good opportunities for the soybean and corn harvests. The reports of bean and corn yields vary. Comments of a good crop, but not a great one are frequently made. Corn plants are starting to go down, due to weak drought affected stalks. The fifth cutting of alfalfa has out yielded fourth cutting. Earlier frost was repeated Sunday and Monday of this week. This has put an end to the growing season. Some second crop soybeans were not able to complete development, but the majority of grain crops have been finished growing.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was a good week for fall activities. Apple harvest is going well, with yields and quality varying according to location. General yields and quality are off in the western part of the county. Corn is drying down really well. Fall planting is now finished except cover crops following corn or soybeans.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Corn and soybean harvests continues to progress. The main activities for the week were liming fields and pastures, planting cover crops and small grains, and installing conservation practices such as waterways, terraces and diversions.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - It was a good week for field work. Silo filling, sowing wheat and cover crops, and harvesting corn and soybeans were the main activities for the week. Reports on the corn and soybean yields are respectable.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Most of the area got the first killing frost when the temperature dropped to 25 degrees on Saturday night. Conditions have been relatively dry, allowing for harvest to continue at a good pace.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 19, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	69	69	66
Corn, mature	94	93	92
Corn, harvested	44	46	48
Barley, planted	87	80	86
Barley, emerged	68	57	62
Wheat, planted	77	72	69
Wheat, emerged	37	46	40
Soybeans, harvested	41	44	33
Potatoes, harvested	98	98	96
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	96	86	81
Apples, harvested	79	86	85
Grapes, harvested	80	64	69

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 19, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	9	26	53	12
Soybeans	3	9	25	52	11
Pasture	14	16	42	23	5

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