



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending October 26, 2008

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good week for Field Work: As the dry month of October nears its end, Saturday's heavy rains provided soaking rain throughout the state. Killing frost also occurred last week, putting a quick end to the growing season. A total of 5 days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included spreading manure and lime, planting barley and wheat, picking apples, as well as harvesting grapes, soybeans, and corn. Farmers also conducted post harvest activities such as equipment maintenance, building repairs, and installing conservation practices. Fall plowing continued and is 70 percent complete.

regions. Meanwhile, a period of heavy rain developed across the central and southern Plains, slowing harvest activities but boosting moisture reserves for emerging winter wheat. Farther north, cold weather ended the growing season across the northern Plains and the upper Midwest. At the time of the season-ending freezes, at least three-quarters of the upper Midwestern corn was fully mature, while virtually all of the crop had dented. Nearly all of the soybeans in the freeze-affected areas were dropping leaves and thus safe from frost. Across the remainder of the Midwest, scattered showers caused only minor corn and soybean harvest delays. Elsewhere, little or no rain accompanied late-season warmth (as much as 10 degrees F above normal) across the eastern one-third of the nation. Southeastern fieldwork resumed, following the previous week's rainfall, while pastures benefited from topsoil moisture improvements. Early in the week, a winter-like storm continued across the Northwest. Heavy snow fell as far east as western North Dakota. Meanwhile on the Plains, North Platte, NE experienced its wettest 3-day period in October since 1946. Very cold air trailed the storm into the western and north central U.S.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 26, 2008

| Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 3 | 17 | 69 | 11 |

Crops: Corn condition improved slightly last week at 67 percent good or excellent compared to 65% two weeks ago. Ten percent of the corn is in poor or very poor condition. The state's corn is 95% mature, and 58% harvested, compared with the five year average of 95% and 55% respectively. Sixty-three percent of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent, which is the same as the previous week. The soybean harvest remains ahead of schedule at 61% complete, compared to the 45% average. Winter wheat condition was rated as 82% good or excellent. Winter wheat is also ahead of average, as planting is 85% completed, compared with an 80% average. Winter wheat is 69% emerged, compared with a 53% average. Barley planting is 94% complete, compared with the average of 93%. Eighty-two percent of the barley has emerged, which is 5 points ahead of the average. The apple harvest is 88% complete, compared with last year's 79% and the average of 91%. The grape harvest is estimated as 81% complete, which is the same as average.

Corn: While a good portion of the Nation's mid-section received light rainfall, isolated areas of the central and southwestern Corn Belt received up to 3.5 inches during the week. Temperatures across the region averaged between 45 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Ninety-three percent of the corn acreage was mature and beyond, 6 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Acreage was maturing at or behind the 5-year average pace in all States except Pennsylvania. Twenty-nine percent of the crop was harvested, 29 points behind last year and 24 points behind the 5-year average. Other than in Colorado and Ohio, producers were harvesting behind the 5-year average harvest pace. Condition of the corn crop was rated 62 percent good to excellent, unchanged from the previous week.

Livestock: Pasture conditions decreased slightly as 25% of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition. This is compared to last week's 28%. Thirty-two percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 30 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 14% very poor, 18% poor, 43% fair, 19% good, and 6% excellent.

Soybeans: Minimal to light rain fell over much of the soybean growing area as temperatures ranged from 40 degrees in the north, to as warm as 75 degrees along the Mississippi. Producers harvested 67 percent of soybeans, 5 points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average.

U.S. as of October 19, 2008: Snow ended early in the week after accumulating as much as a foot on the northern High Plains, and at least 2 to 4 feet across parts of the northern Intermountain West. Most of the remainder of the West experienced cool (more than 10 degrees F below normal in a few locations), dry weather, although Santa Ana winds briefly fanned two major wildfires in southern California and brought warmer weather to coastal

Winter Wheat: Producers had planted 79 percent of the winter wheat crop, the same as last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty percent of the winter wheat acreage had emerged, 7 points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence had just begun in Arkansas, California, and North Carolina while two-thirds or more had emerged in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 26, 2008

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - October 26, 2008 | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|----------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|----------|
| | Temperature | | | | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | Base 40F |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | Total |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 65 | 30 | 49 | -3 | 0.55 | 3 | 23.39 | -2.45 | 85 | 3,047 | 425 | 4,996 |
| Franklin | 62 | 27 | 42 | -6 | 1.03 | 4 | 24.35 | -3.05 | 95 | 2,544 | 148 | 4,442 |
| Meadville | 60 | 28 | 45 | -3 | 1.00 | 4 | 24.00 | -3.74 | 92 | 2,549 | 356 | 4,466 |
| Mercer | 63 | 26 | 44 | -5 | 0.97 | 4 | 25.27 | -0.75 | 99 | 2,526 | 153 | 4,445 |
| Springboro | 62 | 24 | 43 | -7 | 0.76 | 4 | 30.03 | 5.13 | 95 | 2,311 | -255 | 4,186 |
| Warren | 63 | 25 | 42 | -5 | 0.85 | 3 | 26.05 | -1.74 | 91 | 2,401 | 89 | 4,264 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 57 | 22 | 41 | -4 | 1.36 | 4 | 24.12 | -3.42 | 109 | 1,792 | 138 | 3,547 |
| Emporium | 61 | 25 | 42 | -4 | 1.39 | 4 | 22.16 | -4.87 | 102 | 2,399 | 516 | 4,265 |
| Kane | 60 | 21 | 40 | -4 | 1.40 | 4 | 24.93 | -3.28 | 96 | 1,760 | 146 | 3,507 |
| Laporte | 57 | 28 | 41 | -7 | 2.60 | 4 | 29.86 | 4.32 | 99 | 2,105 | -260 | 3,923 |
| Lock Haven | 62 | 26 | 43 | -6 | 1.14 | 3 | 20.32 | -4.70 | 84 | 2,790 | 273 | 4,735 |
| Port Allegany | 63 | 23 | 41 | -5 | 1.35 | 4 | 19.97 | -6.30 | 97 | 1,986 | 155 | 3,782 |
| Renovo | 65 | 26 | 43 | -6 | 1.37 | 4 | 20.61 | -4.41 | 84 | 2,704 | 187 | 4,638 |
| Ridgway | 61 | 22 | 41 | -5 | 1.56 | 5 | 22.80 | -4.36 | 95 | 1,996 | 113 | 3,805 |
| Stevenson Dam | 64 | 26 | 43 | -3 | 1.59 | 4 | 19.82 | -7.34 | 86 | 2,528 | 645 | 4,426 |
| Towanda | 65 | 24 | 42 | -6 | 1.58 | 3 | 24.92 | 3.71 | 87 | 2,477 | 92 | 4,357 |
| Wellsboro | 62 | 24 | 40 | -6 | 1.64 | 4 | 22.18 | 0.80 | 96 | 1,950 | 176 | 3,727 |
| Williamsport | 63 | 27 | 46 | -4 | 2.01 | 3 | 26.09 | 1.18 | 85 | 3,046 | 271 | 5,033 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 61 | 22 | 41 | -7 | 1.39 | 3 | 25.56 | 1.51 | 79 | 2,275 | 244 | 4,116 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 63 | 26 | 45 | -5 | 1.20 | 4 | 21.78 | -1.58 | 81 | 2,838 | 207 | 4,769 |
| Susquehanna | 60 | 25 | 41 | -4 | 1.84 | 3 | 26.14 | 0.24 | 95 | 2,359 | 441 | 4,229 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 62 | 26 | 44 | -5 | 1.05 | 4 | 20.34 | -5.39 | 105 | 2,475 | -12 | 4,406 |
| New Castle | 71 | 28 | 47 | -1 | 0.56 | 3 | 22.08 | -1.58 | 94 | 2,930 | 438 | 4,906 |
| Slippery Rock | 64 | 25 | 45 | -3 | 0.95 | 4 | 25.53 | 0.26 | 86 | 2,543 | 312 | 4,515 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 63 | 27 | 46 | -4 | 0.77 | 3 | 20.74 | -1.97 | 92 | 2,721 | 74 | 4,658 |
| DuBois | 60 | 28 | 44 | -4 | 1.56 | 4 | 23.61 | -2.27 | 102 | 2,397 | 127 | 4,270 |
| Lewistown | 64 | 29 | 45 | -6 | 1.41 | 2 | 25.85 | 1.52 | 81 | 2,923 | 15 | 4,874 |
| Middletown | 63 | 32 | 48 | -4 | 1.60 | 2 | 24.93 | 0.74 | 67 | 3,534 | 236 | 5,557 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 59 | 22 | 42 | -6 | 0.90 | 4 | 24.32 | -4.67 | 85 | 2,215 | 93 | 4,089 |
| Selinsgrove | 61 | 27 | 44 | -6 | 1.78 | 2 | 24.29 | -1.06 | 76 | 2,826 | 122 | 4,767 |
| State College | 61 | 30 | 45 | -4 | 1.50 | 3 | 23.38 | 0.45 | 78 | 2,869 | 272 | 4,823 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 65 | 25 | 46 | -5 | 1.49 | 3 | 27.21 | 0.98 | 68 | 3,090 | 82 | 5,062 |
| Lehighton | 63 | 27 | 43 | -8 | 1.96 | 2 | 25.41 | -0.90 | 79 | 2,748 | -150 | 4,677 |
| Matamoras | 63 | 24 | 42 | -7 | 2.33 | 3 | 25.76 | -0.70 | 88 | 2,557 | -42 | 4,443 |
| Mt_Pocono | 59 | 23 | 42 | -3 | 3.10 | 3 | 27.30 | -1.20 | 89 | 2,160 | 416 | 3,992 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 63 | 30 | 47 | -2 | 1.17 | 4 | 20.82 | -3.14 | 86 | 3,136 | 466 | 5,133 |
| Derry | 62 | 27 | 43 | -5 | 0.95 | 4 | 27.58 | 2.74 | 99 | 2,636 | 119 | 4,581 |
| Myersdale | 63 | 18 | 40 | -9 | 0.52 | 3 | 27.38 | 0.17 | 88 | 1,976 | -507 | 3,826 |
| Mount Pleasant | 62 | 23 | 44 | -4 | 1.15 | 3 | 25.70 | -2.69 | 87 | 2,601 | 355 | 4,558 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 62 | 30 | 47 | -3 | 0.76 | 3 | 22.27 | -0.04 | 83 | 3,058 | 262 | 5,054 |
| Connellsville | 65 | 28 | 46 | -4 | 0.98 | 4 | 28.87 | 2.57 | 95 | 3,013 | 160 | 5,003 |
| Waynesburg | 65 | 22 | 43 | -5 | 1.17 | 3 | 26.03 | 1.78 | 79 | 2,696 | 116 | 4,655 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 64 | 31 | 46 | -7 | 1.64 | 2 | 29.94 | 6.82 | 70 | 3,189 | -35 | 5,178 |
| Everett | 67 | 22 | 43 | -7 | 1.01 | 2 | 25.78 | 3.48 | 77 | 2,506 | -136 | 4,418 |
| Hanover | 63 | 27 | 45 | -8 | 1.52 | 2 | 29.53 | 6.41 | 75 | 3,142 | -82 | 5,115 |
| Harrisburg_AP | 64 | 29 | 48 | -5 | 2.06 | 2 | 22.26 | -1.93 | 57 | 3,441 | 133 | 5,462 |
| South Mountain | 58 | 26 | 43 | -7 | 1.70 | 2 | 34.27 | 11.56 | 86 | 2,498 | -139 | 4,405 |
| York | 64 | 26 | 46 | -7 | 1.29 | 2 | 31.65 | 7.18 | 75 | 3,172 | -50 | 5,167 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 66 | 29 | 46 | -5 | 0.84 | 2 | 28.36 | 2.95 | 76 | 3,232 | 363 | 5,227 |
| Hamburg | 65 | 29 | 45 | -4 | 1.85 | 2 | 22.27 | -7.30 | 74 | 3,239 | 643 | 5,230 |
| West_Chester | 69 | 26 | 45 | -8 | 1.21 | 2 | 24.65 | -3.08 | 62 | 3,132 | -77 | 5,110 |
| Lancaster | 65 | 29 | 46 | -5 | 1.28 | 2 | 24.95 | -0.78 | 66 | 3,163 | 121 | 5,156 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 66 | 28 | 47 | -5 | 1.01 | 1 | 24.33 | -4.93 | 62 | 3,225 | 226 | 5,221 |
| New Holland | 65 | 31 | 47 | -4 | 1.00 | 1 | 25.50 | -0.23 | 65 | 3,346 | 304 | 5,352 |
| Philadelphia | 70 | 38 | 51 | -3 | 0.63 | 2 | 20.32 | -4.43 | 61 | 3,956 | 424 | 6,012 |
| Philadelphia NE | 70 | 32 | 51 | -3 | 0.74 | 1 | 20.63 | -4.12 | 64 | 4,065 | 533 | 6,122 |
| Reading | 65 | 29 | 47 | -4 | 1.19 | 2 | 21.22 | -6.06 | 72 | 3,406 | 428 | 5,411 |
| Valley Forge Na | 66 | 30 | 46 | -7 | 1.25 | 2 | 28.28 | 1.66 | 70 | 3,151 | -256 | 5,159 |
| Willow Grove | 66 | 31 | 48 | -3 | 0.75 | 1 | 23.87 | -5.39 | 69 | 3,488 | 489 | 5,509 |

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 started the week off at a heavy killing frost temperature of 28 degrees. We continued throughout the week to have frost. Daytime temperatures varied from the 50's to 60's. Tuesday was really windy, and most other days were sunny. On Saturday, we received 2 inches of rainfall. It started out as beneficial by soaking into the dry soil. By lunchtime we had downpours that continued through the majority of the afternoon until early evening. On Sunday, morning temperatures were in the 30's, and they warmed into the 60's. It was sunny in the afternoon with some breeze. The soybean harvest continued last week. Most silage has been cut, and the focus will be on harvesting for grain. The rain received over the weekend will hamper field conditions, and then harvest will continue again. Dry hay, baled hay and haylage were made last week. Wheat sowing continued last week. More wheat had emerged last week. The apples harvest continues, with some smaller producers finished. Field road conditions may prevent apple hauling due to excessive rain on Saturday. Most apples have some kind of quality damage showing up due to weather conditions earlier in the Spring. Other vegetables are finished now, since we had a killing frost last week. Overall, the producers have been busy in the fields. They welcomed the beneficial rainfall on Saturday, since October was another dry month. The rainfall has replenished the soil moisture for the future.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Apple harvest should be almost complete by the end of the current week. Most areas got 1.25 to 1.6" of rain over the weekend.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Two good frosts last week ended the growing season. Some late planted, full season soybeans and double cropped beans still had plenty of green leaves when the frost hit. Corn and soybean harvests continued with variable yields. A lot of wheat is being planted compared to previous years. An inch of rain on Saturday will help the wheat germinate, without significantly slowing corn and bean harvest. The ground was very dry and can absorb an inch of rain easily.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Corn & soybean harvesting continues.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week was a good week for fall field work, ending with some needed rainfall. I had 1-1/2 inches in my gauge.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Colder temperatures this week brought frost and freezing conditions to our area. Most producers are finishing corn and bean harvests, and trying to wrap up loose ends. Most cover crops have been planted on silage fields. Pastures are declining rapidly with the colder weather. Many producers are already supplementing stored forages.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - We received 2.5 inches of rain on Saturday following the extremely dry period. The harvest progress prior to the rain will be slowed for a day or two. Heavy frosts earlier in week have put the finish to double crop beans. Late season forage harvests were completed last week. Late plantings of oats for forage are reported to be yielding well.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Dry, fall weather happened until Saturday when we received over 1.5 inches of rain. This is the extent of the rainfall for October thus far. Most of the remaining corn has matured and is being harvested. The majority of the beans are harvested, and some late planted beans got frosted this week.

The soybean crop looks slightly better than the past several years, but the corn crop is less than normal in most areas and almost a disaster in some locations. The fruit crop suffered a variety of weather related problems including hail, leaving some growers with nothing but juice grade fruit.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - There was a good rain on Saturday!.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - The rain on Saturday was just what we needed. Potato harvest will soon be completed. Harvest of fall cole crops is on schedule.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Corn yields in the county have been above many farmers' expectations.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleeger - There was 1.75" of rain in northern Northumberland County on Saturday.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - It was another dry week; however, as I am writing this report on Saturday, it is beginning to rain. The fall planted crops are doing well, but in need of rain. The harvesting of corn and soybeans is continuing with average or above yields in some locations. The main activities for the week were harvesting, silo filling and making hay.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - There were two very cold mornings early this week that ended the growing season. Dry conditions are allowing corn and soybean harvests to continue without interruption. Some good yields are being reported.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Extreme dry conditions were helped with about an inch of good rain over the weekend. This should help some of the small grains sprout that have been planted with no rain.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 26, 2008

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Fall plowing | 70 | 72 | 70 |
| Corn, mature | 95 | 95 | 95 |
| Corn, harvested | 58 | 50 | 55 |
| Barley, planted | 94 | 88 | 93 |
| Barley, emerged | 82 | 69 | 77 |
| Wheat, planted | 85 | 80 | 80 |
| Wheat, emerged | 69 | 58 | 53 |
| Soybeans, harvested | 61 | 53 | 45 |
| Apples, harvested | 88 | 91 | 91 |
| Grapes, harvested | 81 | 72 | 81 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 26, 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 | 10 | 23 | 50 | 17 |
| Wheat | 0 | 1 | 17 | 75 | 7 |
| Soybeans | 1 | 6 | 30 | 51 | 12 |
| Pasture | 14 | 18 | 43 | 19 | 6 |

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