



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending November 9, 2008

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Good week for Field Work: Last week was an improvement in contrast to the winter conditions of two weeks ago. A total of 5 days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included spreading manure and lime, planting barley and wheat, as well as harvesting grapes, soybeans, and corn. Farmers also conducted post harvest activities such as equipment maintenance, building repairs, and preparing for winter. Fall plowing continued and is 85 percent complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending November 9, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
11	14	65	10

Crops: The state's corn harvest continued ahead of schedule at 79% harvested, compared with the five year average of 75%. The soybean harvest also advanced mightily at 77% complete, compared to the 69% average. Winter wheat condition improved significantly, as 97% was rated good or excellent, compared to the previous week's 74%. Winter wheat progress is also further along than normal, as planting is 96% completed, compared with a 94% average. Winter wheat is 82% emerged, compared with a 78% average. Ninety-eight percent of the barley has emerged, which is close to normal at 1 point above the average. The grape harvest is completed, estimated to be 100% done, which is 3 percentage points above average.

Livestock: Supplemental feed use might be necessary because of the continuing poor pasture conditions. Pasture conditions, however, did improve last week. Thirty-eight percent of the state's pastures were estimated as poor or very poor. This is compared to the previous report of 41%. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 23% very poor, 15% poor, 30% fair, 21% good, and 11% excellent.

U.S. as of November 2, 2008: Increasing Western storminess brought much-needed rain and high-elevation snow to much of California and the Intermountain region. California recently completed its driest 2-year period since October 1, 1975, to September 30, 1977, but weekly precipitation totals topped 4 inches in parts of the northern Sierra Nevadas. Western topsoil moisture improvements were especially beneficial for emerging winter grains and drought-stressed pastures and rangeland. Prior to the arrival of a series of Pacific storms, warm, dry weather spread from the West to the Plains. Weekly temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees F above normal in much of the Great Basin, the Intermountain West, and the Desert Southwest. In contrast, cold air settled across the South, East, and Midwest. Temperatures generally ranged from 5 to 10 degrees F below normal in the Southeast. By week's end, however, warmer-than-normal conditions expanded to cover most of the nation. Meanwhile on the Plains, warmer weather and abundant soil moisture reserves promoted rapid winter wheat growth. On the central and southern Plains, dry weather and a warming trend promoting the maturation and harvesting of late-developing summer crops, such as cotton and sorghum. Farther east, Midwestern fieldwork advanced with

few delays, despite an early-week chill and snow showers downwind of the Great Lakes. Fieldwork continued to shift from soybean to corn acreage as the soybean harvest neared completion. In the eastern Corn Belt, dryness remained a concern with respect to winter wheat establishment. In contrast, an early-season winter storm brought significant rain and snow to the Northeast on October 28-29. In the storm's wake, Southeastern freezes on October 29-30 ended the growing season as far south as northern Florida. On October 29, monthly record lows were broken in Florida locations such as Tallahassee (29 degrees F) and Jacksonville (33 degrees F). Despite the chill, harvest activities for crops such as cotton, peanuts, and soybeans rapidly advanced.

Early in the week, high winds swept across the Plains and the Midwest. Light snow across the northern Plains and the Great Lakes region resulted in daily-record totals in some locations. Cold weather accompanied the high-pressure system, resulting in numerous daily-record lows. Areas of the Midwest that had not experienced a killing freeze saw the growing season end on October 28. Cold weather lingered along the Atlantic Seaboard through October 31. In contrast, unusually warm weather prevailed in the West. Significant storminess was confined to the Northeast and the Pacific Coast States. Heavy snow developed across the interior Northeast on October 28-29, when unofficial totals topped a foot in some locations such as East Jewett, NY (20 inches), Tobyhanna, PA (16 inches), and New Jersey's High Point State Park (14 inches).

Corn: Harvest conditions were favorably dry across the Corn Belt as temperatures remained within 3 degrees of normal. Producers harvested 55 percent of the corn acreage, 28 points behind last year and 24 points behind the 5-year average. Major harvest activity was apparent during the week as 16 percent of the crop was harvested. Condition of the crop remained unchanged from the previous week's rating of 64 percent good to excellent.

Soybeans: Temperatures in the northern Great Plains were up to 6 degrees warmer than average, while across remaining soybean-growing areas, temperatures were cooler than average. Eighty-six percent of the acreage had been harvested, 4 points behind last year and 3 points behind the average. One-tenth of the acreage was harvested during the week, Nationwide. Harvest was wrapping up in many states.

Winter Wheat: Temperatures in the major winter wheat areas of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, remained within 3 degrees of average. Further north, and in the Pacific Northwest, temperatures were warmer than average during the week. Producers had nearly completed winter wheat seeding with 90 percent planted, the same pace as last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Seventy-six percent of the crop was emerged, 2 points ahead of last year but 2 points behind normal. Condition of the winter wheat crop improved 2 points from the previous week to 67 percent good to excellent.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 9, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - November 9, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	75	39	56	11	0.27	3	24.32	-3.29	92	3,109	466	5,165
Franklin	71	33	52	8	0.24	2	25.18	-3.83	101	2,567	158	4,547
Meadville	71	35	52	9	0.16	1	25.06	-4.47	96	2,575	371	4,574
Mercer	74	37	53	10	0.17	1	25.99	-1.59	104	2,556	172	4,565
Springboro	72	28	51	7	0.18	3	31.44	4.85	102	2,339	-246	4,288
Warren	71	30	52	10	0.15	1	26.51	-2.99	96	2,430	107	4,373
North Central												
Bradford Region	67	33	49	10	0.07	2	24.38	-4.78	114	1,809	154	3,633
Emporium	70	31	51	10	0.09	1	22.70	-5.89	107	2,419	534	4,365
Kane	69	26	47	8	0.05	1	25.55	-4.36	101	1,765	151	3,572
Laporte	61	28	49	7	0.15	5	31.55	4.51	107	2,118	-259	3,998
Lock Haven	71	35	53	10	0.14	2	20.61	-5.89	88	2,823	292	4,867
Port Allegany	70	25	49	10	0.13	1	20.43	-7.46	102	2,000	164	3,865
Renovo	72	34	53	10	0.18	2	20.98	-5.52	89	2,733	202	4,762
Ridgway	72	29	49	9	0.08	1	23.84	-4.88	100	2,009	124	3,888
Stevenson Dam	74	33	52	11	0.06	1	20.00	-8.72	90	2,554	669	4,538
Towanda	67	27	50	8	0.04	1	26.18	3.63	90	2,494	96	4,452
Wellsboro	67	26	50	10	0.15	1	22.83	0.19	100	1,969	189	3,816
Williamsport	69	42	54	10	0.18	3	26.55	-0.04	91	3,087	295	5,174
Northeast												
Hawley	62	26	49	7	0.14	2	27.37	1.80	83	2,292	251	4,194
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	65	40	54	10	0.15	3	23.23	-1.49	86	2,876	229	4,899
Susquehanna	64	26	50	10	0.07	1	28.08	0.45	99	2,377	454	4,319
West Central												
Butler	73	36	51	8	0.25	2	20.93	-6.17	111	2,498	-4	4,512
New Castle	80	36	55	12	0.11	2	22.52	-2.47	99	2,971	465	5,045
Slippery Rock	76	36	53	11	0.21	1	26.24	-0.51	90	2,579	337	4,643
Central												
Altoona/Blair	71	40	52	8	0.02	1	20.81	-3.26	95	2,759	95	4,792
DuBois	70	35	52	11	0.03	1	23.97	-3.32	107	2,432	155	4,390
Lewistown	73	40	54	10	0.20	3	26.23	0.40	86	2,964	37	5,017
Middletown	68	45	55	9	0.05	2	25.28	-0.43	71	3,582	259	5,715
Prince Gallitzi	71	35	50	8	0.07	1	24.76	-5.92	89	2,225	96	4,163
Selinsgrove	67	36	53	9	0.10	3	25.01	-1.87	82	2,853	133	4,889
State College	71	39	53	10	0.10	1	23.54	-0.83	80	2,905	294	4,955
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	67	36	54	8	0.15	4	28.77	0.91	74	3,128	96	5,190
Lehighton	67	35	50	6	0.26	4	27.26	-0.64	85	2,769	-152	4,779
Matamoras	63	25	48	5	0.24	4	28.07	-0.08	94	2,576	-37	4,530
Mt_Pocono	64	38	54	15	0.37	3	28.90	-1.57	94	2,198	453	4,116
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	72	39	55	11	0.10	1	21.18	-4.14	91	3,190	501	5,285
Derry	72	38	52	9	0.07	1	28.08	1.84	104	2,661	128	4,697
Myersdale	78	34	49	6	0.13	2	27.76	-0.93	93	1,993	-505	3,919
Mount Pleasant	73	33	52	10	0.06	1	25.83	-4.16	90	2,625	367	4,676
Pittsburgh Intl	72	39	54	10	0.13	1	22.71	-0.80	88	3,104	288	5,195
Connellsville	75	39	55	10	0.08	2	29.22	1.48	100	3,061	187	5,151
Waynesburg	75	36	52	8	0.07	2	26.32	0.72	83	2,722	128	4,772
South Central												
Biglerville	71	39	55	8	0.11	3	30.25	5.72	74	3,231	-18	5,327
Everett	74	39	53	9	0.05	2	25.86	2.16	80	2,541	-117	4,552
Hanover	71	36	55	8	0.11	5	29.93	5.40	82	3,185	-64	5,263
Harrisburg_AP	70	41	55	9	0.06	1	22.66	-3.05	60	3,490	157	5,623
South Mountain	68	40	52	7	0.09	2	34.44	10.37	89	2,523	-130	4,519
York	69	36	55	8	0.09	3	32.12	6.15	80	3,214	-34	5,316
Southeast												
Green Lane	64	37	54	8	0.28	4	30.25	3.23	84	3,267	379	5,363
Hamburg	69	37	54	10	0.20	5	23.96	-7.47	82	3,279	672	5,362
West_Chester	66	36	53	5	0.50	6	26.52	-2.87	70	3,169	-67	5,242
Lancaster	67	39	55	9	0.04	2	25.79	-1.43	70	3,205	143	5,301
Neshaminy Falls	63	37	53	8	0.67	5	26.97	-3.94	69	3,255	236	5,346
New Holland	71	38	54	8	0.14	4	26.80	-0.42	71	3,391	329	5,500
Philadelphia	64	42	56	8	0.43	4	21.54	-4.59	67	4,020	452	6,194
Philadelphia NE	66	43	57	9	0.44	4	22.69	-3.44	70	4,136	568	6,312
Reading	67	43	55	10	0.15	4	22.32	-6.60	78	3,452	455	5,564
Valley Forge Na	64	38	54	6	0.54	4	30.22	2.00	76	3,189	-250	5,300
Willow Grove	63	41	54	9	0.48	4	26.13	-4.78	76	3,535	516	5,663

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. Temperatures started out in the 50's and sunny. Tuesday evening had some showers, and Wednesday was cloudy. Thursday was in the 60's with some showers. Friday was in the 70's and sunny, while Saturday was in the 60's and also sunny. Sunday was windy, sunny and cloudy in the low 50's. Adams County producers are still busy with harvesting corn and soybeans. Corn silage was harvested last week, and is about done. There is still a nice amount of corn and soybeans still standing in the fields to harvest as grain. Producers are waiting for the moisture levels in grain to dry, so they can save some money on drying expenses due to high price of propane. Some hay was also baled and wrapped last week but is about done. Wheat is still being seeded after corn and soybeans are harvested. Most wheat and barley that was seeded early is now emerged. The apple harvest is complete now. Quality seems to be affected for various reasons this year. Hail damage from summer storms and scab are the most apparent quality issues. Crop insurance adjusters are busy adjusting crops that have some kind of damage. Overall, the producers are still pretty busy with various kinds of field work.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Apple harvest is virtually complete except for a few growers who have Pink Lady apples.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - It was a good harvest week for corn and soybeans. Producers were working hard trying to get everything finished up before the wintery weather hits again. Pasture conditions have been declining rapidly.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy L Lewis (FSA) - Corn still remains in the field unable to be harvested due to the wet conditions of the soil. Many producers have complained of getting stuck while attempting to harvest. Later harvested grapes were struck by a recent freeze, suggesting that the yield could be affected.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Last week was a good week for finishing the fall harvest, and getting prepared for winter. Apple harvest is complete with a few major disappointments due to weather. General yield was less than normal, but size was very good. Corn harvest is nearly complete as are soybeans. Rainfall for this fall has been less than normal, and some of the farmers are getting concerned about the water level of streams and ground water for the winter. Surface water has been adequate but none extra for ground water.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Many of the crops are harvested already. Harvesting has slowed down.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The corn harvest is slow due to the high moisture level of the corn for shelling; however, the soybean harvest is near ending. The yields of both crops are normal to above normal for the area. The main activities for the week were: harvesting corn and soybeans, spraying, spreading lime, and conducting machine repairs.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Snow was on the ground this morning (Monday, November 10, 2008). Most of the corn should be off by the end of the week. Yields were great if you had rain at the right time. Lots of lime was applied this fall with the dry weather.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Excellent harvest conditions continued this week. Corn moisture levels are low, requiring very little drying and saving substantially on energy costs.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 9, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	85	81	80
Corn, harvested	79	73	75
Barley, emerged	98	89	97
Wheat, planted	96	96	94
Wheat, emerged	82	84	78
Soybeans, harvested	77	81	69
Grapes, harvested	100	97	97

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 9, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	1	1	81	16
Pasture	23	15	30	21	11

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