



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 4, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released October 5, 2009, 4 pm

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had a total of 4 days suitable for field work. The rain and cooler temperatures will help recently seeded crops emerge. Primary field activities were: making hay, filling silos, as well as harvesting potatoes, apples, tobacco, fruits, and vegetables. Fall plowing continues, and is 48% completed, behind last year's 50%, and the five year average of 52%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 27, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	10	77	12

Crop Progress: Ninety-three percent of corn has reached the dough stage, behind last year and the five year average of 100%. Eighty-seven percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind last year and the average of 97%. Fifty-three percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's 76%, and the average of 81%. Seventeen percent of the corn is harvested, behind both last year's 28% and the average of 32%. Sixty-eight percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate of 87% and the average of 89%. Barley planting is 61% completed. This is ahead of last year's 49% and the same as the average. Barley is 37% emerged, compared to 28% last year and the 33% average. Wheat planting is 36% completed. This is compared to 32% last year, and the 39% average. Wheat has begun to surface and is 15% emerged, compared to 14% last year, and same as the average. Tobacco harvesting is 95% harvested. This is equal to last year's average and behind the 97% average. Potatoes are 75% harvested, behind last year's 81% and the 83% average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 69% completed. This is behind last year's 83%, and the average of 71%. Seventy percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 56%, and the 66% average. Grapes are 35% harvested, which is behind last year's 39%, and ahead of the average of 33%.

Crop Condition: The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 2% poor, 11% fair, 48% good and 38% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 3% poor, 14% fair, 46% good, and 37% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 45% good, and 19% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 4% very poor, 10% poor, 23% fair, 47% good and 16% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 27, 2009: Early in the week, a long period of dry weather came to an end across the upper Midwest. Both La Crosse, WI, and Rochester, MN, set records for the greatest number of days to start September without measurable rain. Elsewhere in Wisconsin, Madison noted 19 consecutive rain-free days to start the month, but endured its wettest September day on record on September 22. Farther south, Pine Bluff, AR, received measurable rain on 11 consecutive days from September 9-19. Meanwhile, record flooding

engulfed parts of northern Georgia. From September 18-21, unofficial 4-day rainfall totals in the southern Appalachians included 17.59 inches near Brevard, NC; 17.27 inches in Toccoa, GA; and 15.15 inches in northwestern South Carolina at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. Through September 26, month-to-date rainfall climbed to 10.68 inches in Macon, GA; 11.04 inches in Greenwood, MS; 11.08 inches in Nashville, TN; 12.38 inches in Chattanooga, TN; and 12.90 inches in Searcy, AR. Meanwhile, heat built into the Far West, where Portland, OR observed its 24th 90-degree reading of the year. On September 22, highs of 105 degrees F in California locations such as Redding and Paso Robles were records for the date. Meanwhile in Montana, the Bozeman Airport (91 degrees F on September 24) set a record for its latest reading above 90 degrees F. Later, chilly air settled across New England, where daily-record lows in Maine for September 26 dipped to 26 degrees F in Caribou and 29 degrees F in Bangor. By week's end, southern California's two largest blazes-the Station and Guiberson fires-were nearly contained. The Station fire, which began in late August, had consumed more than 160,000 acres of vegetation, while the Guiberson fire, near Fillmore, CA, had charred 17,500 acres. Meanwhile in western Oregon, both the Boze fire and the Tumblebug complex had consumed well over 10,000 acres of timber. In Alaska, cool weather accompanied widespread precipitation. On September 25-26, 24-hour snowfall totals reached 3.8 inches in Circle Hot Springs and 2.3 inches in Central. From September 22-26, McGrath netted 2.2 inches of snow. Meanwhile in southern Alaska, weekly rainfall totaled 7.06 inches in Yakutat and 4.75 inches in Juneau. Farther south, significant Hawaiian rainfall remained confined to windward locations. On September 25-26, 24-hour totals reached 3.61 inches on Kauai's Mount Waialeale and 3.02 inches at the Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge. **Corn:** Ninety percent of the Nation's corn crop was at the dent stage or beyond, 5 points behind last year and 7 points, or slightly more than 1 week behind the 5-year average. Denting was most active in the Great Lakes States and the Dakotas where above average temperatures aided crop development. Crop maturity advanced 16 points during the week to 37 percent complete, 12 points behind last year and 35 points, or 2 weeks, behind the average. Overall, 68 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 7 points better than last year. **Soybeans:** Leaves had dropped on 63 percent of the soybean acreage, 2 points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. Although leaf drop was active across much of the growing region, overall progress remained behind normal in all estimating States. Overall, 66 percent of the soybean acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, down 1 point from last week but 9 points better than last year. Excessively wet weather across the Delta led to a decline in soybean conditions as producers in Arkansas and Mississippi reported sprouting and seed rot in several fields. **Winter Wheat:** Producers seeded 12 percent of their winter wheat acreage during the week, leaving progress, at 36 percent, 1 point behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding was most active in Colorado, Idaho, and Montana where mostly dry weather afforded producers over 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Thirteen percent of the winter wheat crop was emerged, 1 point ahead of last year but 1 point behind the average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 4, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary							April 1 - October 4, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	66	43	55	-4	2.22	5	22.42	-0.75	80	2,524	20	4,255	
Franklin	66	40	53	-4	1.37	7	26.29	1.08	90	2,356	44	4,079	
Meadville	66	39	52	-4	2.32	6	23.30	-1.90	87	2,294	175	4,007	
Mercer	67	40	53	-4	1.49	5	25.52	1.48	91	2,345	53	4,069	
Springboro	68	39	53	-6	2.56	6	23.39	0.93	86	2,079	-384	3,767	
Warren	66	38	52	-4	1.80	5	26.93	1.55	80	2,180	-56	3,880	
North Central													
Bradford Region	62	28	47	-5	1.54	7	26.64	1.31	93	1,607	-6	3,230	
Oswayo	64	29	48	-6	1.98	7	26.16	2.14	94	1,685	-96	3,314	
Kane	63	30	48	-4	1.57	5	29.89	4.08	87	1,597	20	3,217	
Laporte	64	37	49	-7	1.61	6	31.02	7.67	97	1,865	-421	3,540	
Lock Haven	70	39	54	-3	1.02	5	27.29	4.32	79	2,570	138	4,324	
Port Allegany	65	34	50	-4	1.41	5	24.11	0.09	83	1,836	55	3,493	
Renovo	70	38	54	-4	1.54	5	22.65	-0.32	83	2,446	14	4,191	
Ridgway	66	28	50	-4	1.52	5	24.46	-0.54	81	1,877	43	3,528	
Stevenson Dam	69	39	54	0	1.12	4	21.27	-3.73	76	2,331	497	4,053	
Towanda	72	39	52	-4	0.85	6	24.40	4.96	82	2,308	5	4,032	
Wellsboro	63	31	48	-5	1.60	5	25.31	5.77	85	1,732	10	3,382	
Williamsport	73	41	56	-2	1.08	3	24.35	1.74	78	2,894	213	4,697	
Northeast													
Hawley	71	38	51	-3	0.63	4	29.36	7.32	78	2,069	97	3,768	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	71	37	54	-4	0.51	6	23.67	2.27	81	2,594	52	4,363	
Susquehanna	70	37	52	-2	0.88	7	24.88	1.36	86	2,153	287	3,857	
West Central													
Butler	66	41	54	-3	1.54	6	24.03	0.26	91	2,315	-85	4,044	
New Castle	73	40	56	-2	1.62	7	21.57	-0.26	83	2,677	273	4,424	
Slippery Rock	68	40	54	-2	1.64	6	24.80	1.57	87	2,445	289	4,174	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	69	39	54	-4	0.45	4	18.99	-1.76	88	2,483	-66	4,231	
DuBois	65	36	52	-4	1.85	6	27.11	3.19	93	2,217	15	3,922	
Lewistown	73	39	56	-4	0.76	3	25.60	3.36	80	2,712	-90	4,484	
Middletown	74	43	59	-3	0.05	1	28.81	6.65	83	3,240	73	5,056	
Prince Gallitzi	66	32	51	-5	1.12	5	21.44	-5.31	86	2,057	4	3,729	
Selinsgrove	74	37	55	-3	0.67	4	27.05	3.87	71	2,614	-1	4,368	
State College	68	39	54	-4	0.84	5	22.47	1.51	85	2,575	63	4,332	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	74	37	56	-3	0.23	4	28.02	3.79	79	2,833	-58	4,612	
Lehighton	69	40	53	-6	0.47	5	34.23	10.12	88	2,441	-343	4,200	
Matamoras	72	37	53	-5	0.56	6	25.18	0.81	72	2,288	-223	4,010	
Mt_Pocono	69	34	52	-1	0.04	4	30.12	4.13	97	2,112	408	3,801	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	68	39	55	-3	0.97	5	19.06	-2.99	92	2,916	345	4,705	
Indiana_PA	67	38	53	-5	1.69	6	12.72	-13.19	69	2,475	-13	4,208	
Myersdale	66	38	51	-7	0.52	5	23.56	-1.55	88	1,903	-492	3,556	
Mount Pleasant	69	38	56	0	1.04	5	26.29	0.12	89	2,563	394	4,317	
Pittsburgh Intl	67	37	56	-3	0.62	5	19.63	-1.08	82	2,924	233	4,709	
Connellsville	73	40	57	-2	1.10	5	26.74	2.37	93	2,859	117	4,644	
Waynesburg	68	36	54	-4	0.95	5	21.83	-0.70	91	2,541	49	4,299	
South Central													
Biglerville	74	42	57	-4	0.01	1	28.43	7.44	82	2,965	-130	4,752	
Everett	74	40	55	-3	0.49	3	22.73	2.51	82	2,448	-98	4,125	
Hanover	75	42	58	-3	0.06	3	27.19	6.20	80	2,981	-114	4,776	
Harrisburg_AP	74	43	58	-3	0.04	1	26.90	4.74	82	3,188	14	5,002	
South Mountain	69	40	54	-4	0.06	1	29.77	9.02	87	2,333	-209	4,073	
York	74	40	58	-4	0.12	3	24.94	2.60	78	2,972	-113	4,763	
Southeast													
Green Lane	74	40	57	-2	0.27	5	33.28	9.83	87	2,931	166	4,718	
Hamburg	73	40	55	-2	0.27	3	36.52	9.48	88	2,874	359	4,668	
West_Chester	74	40	56	-6	0.27	2	30.79	5.25	79	2,938	-142	4,707	
Lancaster	75	41	58	-2	0.09	3	26.20	2.58	82	3,033	107	4,820	
Neshaminy Falls	76	40	57	-3	0.49	3	32.78	5.65	78	3,016	128	4,806	
New Holland	76	44	59	-2	0.25	3	29.24	5.62	81	3,022	96	4,818	
Philadelphia	79	47	62	0	0.35	4	30.81	7.83	84	3,642	271	5,478	
Philadelphia NE	77	43	60	-3	0.56	3	28.18	5.20	82	3,283	-88	5,098	
Reading	77	42	59	1	0.11	4	28.60	3.38	87	3,162	291	4,964	
Sellersville	74	38	54	-5	0.36	5	33.20	9.75	84	2,710	-55	4,479	
Willow Grove	75	42	59	-1	0.94	3	48.72	21.59	82	3,132	244	4,934	

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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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 - We had a nice week of weather conditions. Some morning temperatures were in the 40's which made people think that was really cold due to not being use to cooler temperatures. Daytime most days were in the higher 60's-lower 70's. Some showers Friday evening but no accumulation. Corn silage continues to be harvested as it becomes ready. Some corn for grain is being harvested now. Soybeans are still maturing and will soon be ready for harvest. Hay for haylage continues to be harvested. Barley and wheat continue to be seeded with some emerging that was planted already. Apples continue to be harvested with good size and crop being reported. Some scab issues due to spring rainfall. Pumpkins are being harvested with some doing good, and some not so good of a crop. Vegetables are still being harvested and will continue until frost occurs. Overall, producers are busy harvesting their crops and they all have something to harvest which is not always an occurrence.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - It was a good week for apple harvest and color development. Most growers are finishing Gold Delicious with active harvest of Red Delicious occurring. Processing growers are picking Romes. This crop is picking long due to fruit size. Quality is good to excellent.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly Sundy - There was lots of moisture last week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There were showers most days, 1.25 inches in my gauge for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - Corn for silage is now being harvested. Soybeans appear to be healthy. Most farmers have finished harvesting hay for the year.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Rain all week put a halt to field work and most construction work. Fields are saturated. No good sunny and warm days predicted for the upcoming week to help get harvesting going again.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Cool weather with sunny days allowed field work to continue. High moisture corn harvest, fall grain seeding, and chopping alfalfa for haylage were the main activities. Apple harvest was at its peak this week. Yields in all crops are excellent this year.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - The first corn that was planted is almost matured and done growing. This is the same case for the soybeans. A nice light frost would speed this up. We are waiting for nice weather to pick and shell the corn and combine soybeans.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Corn and soybean harvest has started. Cover crops and small grain planting is coming along nicely.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart - Dry weather last week helped in getting the corn and soybean harvest started in many areas. Corn health problems are starting to emerge like ear molds, stalk rots and lower stalk breakage. These were aggravated by excessive summer rains that have increased crop diseases and have depleted soil nitrogen levels leading to lower stalk cannibalization.

POTTER David Stratton, (FSA) - It was another very wet week. Corn silage harvesting is in progress but was hindered by continual rains. Processed sweet corn harvest is almost complete.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The fall sown grain and cover crops have emerged very well and are looking good. Early harvesting of corn and soybeans has begun. There are reports of normal to above normal yields, with some concern on the quality of the soybeans. The main activities for the week were planting and silo filling.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - There was rain all week. The sun was out Monday morning. Corn that has been harvested for silage has been short in height.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NR) - It was a very cool week with spotty drizzle. Corn silage harvest is progressing. Cooler, damp weather has allowed some pasture recovery.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 4, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	48	50	52
Corn, dough	93	100	100
Corn, dent	87	97	97
Corn, mature	53	76	81
Corn, harvested	17	28	32
Corn silage, harvested	68	87	89
Barley, planted	61	49	61
Barley, emerged	37	28	33
Wheat, planted	36	32	39
Wheat, emerged	15	14	15
Soybeans, harvested	5	10	11
Tobacco, harvested	95	95	97
Potatoes, harvested	75	81	83
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	69	83	71
Apples, harvested	70	56	66
Grapes, harvested	35	39	33

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 4, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	2	11	48	38
Soybeans	0	3	14	46	37
Quality of hay made	1	6	29	45	19
Pasture	4	10	23	47	16

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