



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 25, 2009

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Wintery weather has arrived early this year. Slight snowfall and killing frosts were common throughout the state. Farmers continue being hopeful for some warm days to help dry out the fields. Farmers are still closely monitoring the weather forecasts for frost warnings. Pennsylvania had a total of 4 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities when the weather allowed were: corn silage, potato, soybean, grape and apple harvesting, and planting barley and wheat. Fall plowing continues, and is 60% completed, behind last year's estimate of 70% and the average of 73%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 25, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	67	31

Crop Progress: Eighty-one percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's 95% and the average of 98%. Thirty-two percent of the corn is harvested, behind both last year's 56% and the average of 57%. Ninety-one percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate and the average of 100%. Barley planting is 88% completed. This is behind last year's 93% and behind the average of 94%. Barley is 56% emerged, well behind last year's estimate of 80% and the average of 78%. Wheat planting is 62% completed. This is behind last year's 84% and the average of 82%. Wheat is 38% emerged, behind last year's 64%, and behind the average of 56%. Soybeans are 33% harvested, which is behind last year's 58%, and the average of 47%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 88% completed. This is behind last year's 100%, the average of 91%. Ninety-four percent of Pennsylvania's apples are harvested, ahead of last year's 87%, and the average of 91%. Grapes are 80% harvested, which is behind both last year's 81%, and the average of 82%.

Crop Condition: The state's corn condition is 1% very poor, 5% poor, 17% fair, 47% good, and 30% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 3% poor, 15% fair, 45% good, and 37% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 5% very poor, 12% poor, 28% fair, 45% good, and 10% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 14% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 39% good and 12% excellent.

Nationwide as of October 18, 2009: The season's first significant cold-season storm arrived along the Pacific Coast on October 13-14, producing more than 10 inches of rain in a few

locations in California. The Western precipitation, mostly rain, halted fieldwork but provided beneficial moisture for pastures, winter grains, and reservoirs. Dry weather continued, however, in the Desert Southwest, where cotton harvesting and other fieldwork continued with few delays. Meanwhile, cool, mostly dry weather on the High Plains promoted some summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Across the remainder of the Plains, some fieldwork disruptions continued due to cool, damp conditions. Farther east, very cool, wet conditions plagued much of the Midwest, especially across the southern and western Corn Belt. Despite a late-week drying trend, many Midwestern fields remained too wet for producers to resume summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting. Elsewhere, excessive wetness also plagued much of the South, where the condition of unharvested summer crops such as cotton, rice, and soybeans continued to deteriorate. Weekly rainfall exceeded 4 inches in the southern Appalachians and the lower Mississippi Valley. To the north, an early-season snowfall blanketed the northern Mid-Atlantic States toward week's end. **Corn:** Crop maturity advanced to 83 percent complete by week's end, 9 points behind last year and 14 points behind the 5-year average. Producers harvested 4 percent of the Nation's crop during the week, leaving progress, at 17 percent, 11 points behind last year and 29 points behind the average. Cool temperatures and continued rainfall across much of the growing region limited harvest and left producers waiting for the moisture content in their crop to decline. Overall, 70 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 8 points better than last year. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 95 percent of the soybean crop was at the leaf dropping stage or beyond, on par with last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest advanced to 30 percent complete, 34 points behind last year and 42 points, or over 2 weeks, behind the average. The most activity was evident in Michigan where 5 days suitable for fieldwork provided producers ample time to harvest 21 percent of their crop. Overall, 65 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 8 points better than last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers seeded 5 percent of the 2010 winter wheat crop during the week. With 69 percent of the crop in the ground, progress was 8 points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Seeding was most advanced in areas of the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and Pacific Northwest. Emergence advanced to 48 percent complete by week's end, 8 points behind last year and 6 points behind the average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 25, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 25, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	66	33	53	3	0.57	5	24.31	-1.39	92	2,580	-36	4,459
Franklin	72	28	51	3	0.53	3	28.41	1.10	103	2,387	-5	4,230
Meadville	70	26	50	3	0.59	2	25.19	-2.42	97	2,326	136	4,160
Mercer	71	25	51	4	0.67	2	27.58	1.63	101	2,380	11	4,229
Springboro	71	25	50	0	0.56	3	25.31	0.54	96	2,106	-456	3,908
Warren	70	27	50	4	0.64	3	29.11	1.43	93	2,212	-97	4,027
North Central												
Bradford Region	65	19	49	5	0.67	3	28.75	1.30	106	1,628	-24	3,350
Oswayo	67	19	47	2	0.86	3	28.45	2.29	105	1,702	-127	3,423
Kane	68	21	47	4	0.67	2	32.42	4.31	100	1,611	-1	3,321
Laporte	64	27	48	1	2.27	2	34.87	9.43	108	1,881	-480	3,664
Lock Haven	71	27	51	3	1.70	3	31.16	6.24	89	2,622	109	4,511
Port Allegany	68	21	48	3	0.97	2	26.71	0.55	97	1,853	24	3,613
Renovo	69	30	51	3	0.81	2	25.41	0.49	94	2,489	-24	4,371
Ridgway	70	24	48	3	0.90	2	26.96	-0.11	92	1,896	15	3,644
Stevenson Dam	72	30	51	6	1.08	2	24.37	-2.70	88	2,368	487	4,224
Towanda	70	26	50	3	1.68	2	27.16	6.03	91	2,344	-37	4,193
Wellsboro	66	23	48	3	0.93	2	27.72	6.43	97	1,749	-23	3,496
Williamsport	71	31	54	5	2.12	2	28.41	3.62	86	2,981	210	4,953
Northeast												
Hawley	72	24	49	3	1.63	3	32.29	8.34	90	2,092	63	3,900
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	70	27	52	3	1.26	2	26.20	2.93	89	2,656	29	4,560
Susquehanna	70	27	49	4	1.71	2	27.72	1.93	98	2,182	266	4,005
West Central												
Butler	72	26	50	2	0.55	2	25.75	0.09	100	2,346	-137	4,201
New Castle	79	26	52	4	0.49	2	23.08	-0.50	91	2,720	232	4,604
Slippery Rock	76	24	51	4	0.46	2	26.65	1.47	98	2,488	260	4,350
Central												
Altoona/Blair	75	26	54	5	2.90	2	24.76	2.12	97	2,558	-85	4,448
DuBois	68	25	51	4	0.92	2	29.24	3.43	104	2,261	-7	4,083
Lewistown	78	28	53	3	2.47	2	31.27	7.05	89	2,779	-126	4,699
Middletown	74	34	55	4	1.69	3	33.53	9.44	92	3,352	59	5,338
Prince Gallitzi	71	22	47	0	0.88	2	24.85	-4.06	95	2,079	-41	3,862
Selinsgrove	76	27	52	3	2.17	2	31.97	6.72	79	2,672	-28	4,568
State College	71	30	53	5	1.63	2	26.35	3.50	94	2,633	40	4,529
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	73	32	53	3	1.30	3	30.82	4.68	86	2,917	-85	4,859
Lehighton	68	34	51	0	2.13	2	38.71	12.50	97	2,481	-411	4,389
Matamoras	77	27	50	1	1.63	3	28.00	1.62	80	2,335	-260	4,187
Mt_Pocono	69	30	50	6	2.66	2	33.37	4.99	106	2,159	417	3,973
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	72	27	54	5	0.34	3	21.27	-2.61	103	2,990	323	4,932
Indiana_PA	71	26	50	1	1.12	2	15.97	-11.90	79	2,510	-72	4,371
Myersdale	72	23	47	-2	1.94	2	27.59	0.45	98	1,926	-553	3,684
Mount Pleasant	72	24	51	4	0.69	2	28.93	0.62	99	2,612	369	4,503
Pittsburgh Intl	72	27	54	5	0.34	1	21.14	-1.12	90	2,997	204	4,935
Connellsville	74	28	51	2	0.67	3	30.65	4.41	104	2,926	77	4,864
Waynesburg	73	26	50	2	0.21	2	24.84	0.63	99	2,585	9	4,487
South Central												
Biglerville	76	32	55	3	1.79	3	32.92	9.89	91	3,056	-163	5,002
Everett	79	26	52	3	1.52	2	26.81	4.61	91	2,507	-131	4,327
Hanover	77	28	54	2	1.12	3	31.32	8.29	89	3,075	-144	5,023
Harrisburg_AP	75	31	56	4	1.39	3	31.24	7.15	90	3,298	-5	5,281
South Mountain	73	28	52	3	0.98	2	33.70	11.06	96	2,392	-241	4,270
York	76	28	54	2	0.95	3	28.94	4.56	88	3,080	-137	5,032
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	33	53	3	1.13	2	36.28	10.96	97	3,017	152	4,965
Hamburg	74	34	53	6	1.30	2	39.91	10.47	97	2,945	352	4,894
West_Chester	75	30	52	-2	2.64	2	36.71	9.06	88	3,015	-189	4,940
Lancaster	74	33	54	4	1.38	3	30.36	4.72	91	3,132	95	5,086
Neshaminy Falls	74	31	54	4	1.73	2	36.40	7.21	87	3,110	115	5,061
New Holland	79	32	55	4	1.06	3	33.33	7.69	90	3,124	87	5,077
Philadelphia	74	38	57	3	1.53	3	34.23	9.54	93	3,798	273	5,820
Philadelphia NE	73	36	56	2	1.62	3	31.35	6.66	92	3,416	-109	5,408
Reading	74	33	55	5	1.18	3	31.48	4.28	96	3,274	300	5,247
Sellersville	74	30	52	2	1.74	2	36.50	11.18	92	2,779	-86	4,699
Willow Grove	74	34	56	5	3.07	3	55.16	25.97	93	3,260	265	5,231

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 (FSA) -

It was pretty wet from last weekend's rainfall and this past weekend also. Friday into Saturday most areas received at least 1 1/2 inches and Saturday another inch of rainfall. Previous weekend totals were 3 1/2 inches. Crop harvesting is on hold a little until things dry out some. Corn silage is still being chopped and corn and soybeans for grain is also occurring when field conditions permit. Barley and wheat that has been sown looks good but the recent rains have standing water in fields. Wheat planting will be halted until ground conditions improve. Apple harvest continues. Some have not harvested during rainy spells the past weeks due to conditions to get apples out of orchards. Our producers are busy trying to get harvested the crops that they can between these rains but are behind due to wet field conditions.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly Sundy (FSA) -

An abundance of rain has prevented access to fields to be harvested this past week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker -

There were some good field work days. There was approximately three inches of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) -

We had a couple killer frosts that ended the growing season. There were many acres of corn silage, potato, and soybean harvesting. Some producers still are planting winter wheat.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) -

The week finally started to dry out a little which got the combines rolling again but heavy rains on Friday stopped harvesting over the weekend. Wet weather has caused tremendous stress for producers trying to get crops out of the field.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig -

A killing frost put the caboose to late planted corn and beans early in the week. Wet weather and soils have lead to harvest challenges. Any late planted corn on bottom lands are now too early to mature for grain. The soils are too wet to harvest for silage. Harvest is progressing around the wetter fields.

FRANKLIN COUTNY, Thomas Kerr -

Showers and several poor drying days stopped any soybean and corn harvest for the week. There was very little field work done. If it had not rained, apple harvest would be essentially done. Now it looks like mid-week the apple harvest will be finished.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler -

From midnight Friday to noon Saturday we had almost four inches of rain. It was wet, wet, and more wet.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter -

Recent frost and snow have killed all of the late planted corn. Some of this corn is not dented. Others are dented but do not have black layer. Also frost killed numerous acres of late and double crop beans that were still green with leaves.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart -

The dry weather and sun shine most of last week has helped corn and hay harvest progress. Wheat planting has started and rye cover crops are going on harvested fields.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust -

We need some sunny days to dry out the fields. Several producers have stop planting wheat due to weather conditions and the lateness of the season. Also, the final planting date for crop insurance has come and gone. Grape producers are harvesting with very low yields and low sugar content due to the lack of sunshine. The major killing frost for our area was last Monday morning. All harvesting is causing major ruts and damage to the soil structure for 2010.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor -

Had 3.1 inches of rain Saturday. Harvesting will be delayed this year. Water is everywhere and going down.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer -

The weather at the beginning of the week allowed for the making of good hay, combining of corn and soybeans, cutting silage, and sowing of winter wheat. However, the heavy rains on Friday and Saturday put a halt to any planned field activities. The rainfall amount ranged from two to four inches, and caused widespread flooding in the poorly drained areas that may create problems for harvesting.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes -

It was a mixed week of weather. It was sunny the early part of the week and then turned to rain. There were cold temperatures. There was still enough sunlight to melt the previous snowfall received. Corn harvest is rolling along with some chopping of hay as well. Grain corn is ready to be harvested. Combines are starting to move through the field.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl -

Rain over the past weekend delayed harvesting in the early part of the week. Yields of corn and soybeans are very good to excellent. Some corn fields have very weak stalks, probably due to late season leaf diseases. Wet soil conditions are delaying planting of small grains.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 25, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	60	70	73
Corn, mature	81	95	98
Corn, harvested	32	56	57
Corn silage, harvested	91	100	100
Barley, planted	88	93	94
Barley, emerged	56	80	78
Wheat, planted	62	84	82
Wheat, emerged	38	64	56
Soybeans, harvested	33	58	47
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	88	100	91
Apples, harvested	94	87	91
Grapes, harvested	80	81	82

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 25, 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	5	17	47	30
Soybeans	0	3	15	45	37
Quality of hay made	5	12	28	45	10
Pasture	14	6	29	39	12

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