



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending November 8, 2009

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Fair Week for Field Work: A wide area of the state finally experienced sunny and dry weather last week. These were the kind of harvest conditions we were all hoping for. Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: corn and soybean harvesting, planting barley, wheat and cover crops, as well as finishing up the final cutting of alfalfa. Fall plowing continues, and is 70% completed, behind last year's estimate of 85% and the average of 84%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending November 8, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent 0	Percent 1	Percent 78	Percent 21

Crop Progress: Ninety-six percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's estimate and the average, which are both 100%. Fifty-one percent of the corn is harvested, ahead of both last year's 78% and the average of 76%. Barley planting is 97% completed. This is behind last year's estimate and the average, which are both 99%. Barley is 88% emerged, behind last year's and the average which are both 96%. Wheat planting is 88% completed. This is behind last year's 95% and the average of 94%. Wheat is 72% emerged, behind last year's 81%, and the average of 80%. Soybeans are 57% harvested, which is behind last year's 75%, and the average of 71%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 97% completed. This is behind last year's 100% and slightly above the average of 96%.

Crop Condition: The state's corn condition is 4% poor, 14% fair, 48% good, and 34% excellent. State-wide wheat condition is 3% poor, 17% fair, 76% good, and 4% excellent. Soybean conditions are 2% poor, 9% fair, 48% good, and 41% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 14% very poor, 7% poor, 18% fair, 52% good and 9% excellent.

Nationwide as of November 1, 2009: Winter storm systems delivered cooler than normal temperatures to much of the western half of the country, slowing small grain development. In contrast, the eastern half of the Nation experienced above average temperatures. Abnormally wet weather continued from the Great Plains eastward to the Atlantic Coast. Precipitation accumulations totaled upward of 400 percent of

normal across much of the Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Delta, further delaying harvest and causing crop conditions to worsen. Dry conditions throughout much of the Southwest and California promoted cotton and sorghum harvest. **Corn:** Acreage at or beyond the mature stage advanced to 94 percent, 4 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in North Dakota where crop maturity was 34 points, or over 1 month behind normal. Producers had harvested 25 percent of the Nation's crop by week's end, 28 points behind last year and 46 points, or 1 month, behind the average. Harvest delays of 3 weeks or more were evident in the 6 largest corn-producing States, with progress in Illinois over 5 weeks behind normal. Overall, 67 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 points from ratings last week but 3 points better than last year. Conditions in unharvested corn fields throughout the Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Great Lakes continued to deteriorate as reports of unfavorably high moisture levels and mold were reported. **Soybeans:** Producers harvested 7 percent of the 2009 soybean crop during the week, leaving progress, at 51 percent, 34 points behind last year and 36 points, or over 3 weeks, behind the 5-year average. Persistent rainfall and mostly below average temperatures across much of the growing region have caused harvest delays in all of the 18 major soybean-producing States except North Carolina. Overall, 63 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 points from ratings last week. The most significant decline in condition was evident in Wisconsin where continued excess moisture led to bursting pods and mold development. **Winter Wheat:** Winter wheat seeding advanced to 79 percent complete, 9 points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. In Arkansas, rainfall in excess of 5 inches across much of the growing region halted fieldwork, prohibiting any winter wheat seeding during the week. Elsewhere, dry conditions allowed producers in California to seed 12 percent of their intended acreage during the week. Emergence advanced to 64 percent complete, 10 points behind last year and 11 points behind the average. Emergence was most rapid in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana where adequate soil moisture and above average temperatures provided ideal conditions for seed germination. Overall, 64 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from ratings last week but 3 points below last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 8, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - November 8, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	65	32	45	-3	0.10	2	25.89	-1.56	98	2,615	-26	4,591
Franklin	65	29	41	-4	0.11	3	30.05	1.17	112	2,404	-5	4,323
Meadville	65	28	41	-3	0.09	1	26.46	-2.92	102	2,343	139	4,254
Mercer	65	29	41	-4	0.08	1	28.72	1.26	106	2,397	13	4,323
Springboro	63	27	40	-7	0.20	4	27.20	0.78	104	2,122	-461	3,999
Warren	65	30	40	-3	0.09	2	30.13	0.78	99	2,233	-90	4,128
North Central												
Bradford Region	61	23	38	-3	0.20	4	30.17	1.15	115	1,634	-21	3,424
Oswayo	58	20	37	-5	0.21	3	29.14	1.39	111	1,702	-134	3,481
Kane	63	23	37	-3	0.26	3	33.74	3.97	107	1,618	4	3,388
Laporte	50	27	37	-7	0.12	2	36.50	9.58	115	1,882	-495	3,724
Lock Haven	60	24	41	-4	0.07	1	32.17	5.79	93	2,640	110	4,606
Port Allegany	62	26	39	-3	0.13	2	27.39	-0.36	103	1,859	23	3,688
Renovo	57	26	41	-4	0.04	1	26.17	-0.21	98	2,508	-22	4,472
Ridgway	65	24	38	-5	0.12	2	27.84	-0.75	98	1,904	19	3,713
Stevenson Dam	62	26	40	-2	0.07	1	25.01	-3.58	92	2,385	500	4,319
Towanda	56	21	39	-5	0.07	1	28.42	5.98	95	2,362	-36	4,280
Wellsboro	53	25	36	-6	0.11	2	28.88	6.35	102	1,750	-30	3,549
Williamsport	60	26	43	-3	0.01	1	29.72	3.29	90	3,017	227	5,085
Northeast												
Hawley	56	20	38	-6	0.04	1	33.90	8.47	95	2,102	61	3,965
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	56	22	41	-5	0.02	2	27.72	3.11	94	2,677	32	4,665
Susquehanna	54	23	39	-3	0.10	1	29.21	1.73	102	2,191	268	4,079
West Central												
Butler	66	27	41	-5	0.06	3	26.46	-0.54	108	2,359	-141	4,292
New Castle	66	27	43	-2	0.07	1	24.13	-0.76	96	2,745	241	4,714
Slippery Rock	68	26	43	-1	0.11	2	27.79	1.15	104	2,515	273	4,464
Central												
Altoona/Blair	60	26	41	-5	0.02	1	25.39	1.41	101	2,578	-84	4,552
DuBois	65	27	41	-2	0.01	1	30.15	2.97	109	2,282	5	4,183
Lewistown	59	25	42	-5	0.02	1	32.10	6.40	93	2,802	-124	4,807
Middletown	60	26	44	-5	0.05	1	35.06	9.49	98	3,389	67	5,479
Prince Gallitzi	57	22	38	-6	0.15	1	25.62	-4.94	100	2,085	-44	3,938
Selinsgrove	58	22	41	-5	0.00	0	33.11	6.37	84	2,692	-26	4,669
State College	56	28	41	-5	0.01	1	27.01	2.76	98	2,650	40	4,623
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	60	23	42	-5	0.05	1	32.87	5.16	92	2,944	-86	4,978
Lehighton	58	24	41	-6	0.16	2	41.01	13.25	104	2,498	-421	4,487
Matamoras	59	22	40	-5	0.03	1	29.68	1.67	85	2,348	-265	4,271
Mt_Pocono	54	22	39	-2	0.05	1	35.19	4.90	112	2,162	417	4,048
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	67	29	45	-2	0.09	1	21.88	-3.34	108	3,034	346	5,072
Indiana_PA	64	27	40	-6	0.08	1	16.92	-12.48	84	2,524	-79	4,462
Myersdale	68	21	38	-7	0.12	1	28.35	-0.25	103	1,938	-558	3,759
Mount Pleasant	69	23	42	-2	0.12	1	29.66	-0.22	103	2,652	394	4,625
Pittsburgh Intl	67	27	45	-2	0.07	2	21.72	-1.72	95	3,038	223	5,068
Connellsville	69	28	44	-3	0.11	2	31.78	4.14	109	2,971	98	5,002
Waynesburg	71	26	42	-4	0.05	2	25.70	0.19	104	2,605	13	4,590
South Central												
Biglerville	59	27	44	-5	0.00	0	34.43	10.00	97	3,083	-165	5,129
Everett	62	22	40	-6	0.00	0	27.30	3.70	92	2,526	-130	4,421
Hanover	62	24	43	-6	0.03	1	33.15	8.72	95	3,105	-143	5,151
Harrisburg_AP	60	27	44	-5	0.06	1	32.67	7.10	96	3,335	3	5,418
South Mountain	56	24	40	-6	0.02	1	35.12	11.14	101	2,407	-245	4,363
York	62	22	42	-6	0.00	0	30.53	4.67	93	3,117	-130	5,161
Southeast												
Green Lane	61	26	44	-4	0.00	0	38.55	11.68	102	3,042	156	5,089
Hamburg	59	24	43	-3	0.01	1	41.58	10.32	103	2,964	357	5,009
West_Chester	61	22	43	-6	0.01	1	38.80	9.55	94	3,039	-196	5,063
Lancaster	60	26	44	-3	0.03	1	31.47	4.36	96	3,170	109	5,227
Neshaminy Falls	72	24	44	-3	0.04	1	38.81	8.03	93	3,134	116	5,187
New Holland	61	31	45	-2	0.05	1	35.23	8.12	96	3,151	90	5,208
Philadelphia	64	31	48	-3	0.00	0	36.31	10.28	98	3,851	286	5,995
Philadelphia NE	62	28	46	-5	0.01	1	33.34	7.31	98	3,455	-110	5,560
Reading	62	26	44	-3	0.00	0	33.29	4.50	101	3,309	314	5,386
Sellersville	60	23	42	-5	0.00	0	38.67	11.81	97	2,798	-88	4,810
Willow Grove	61	28	45	-2	0.01	1	57.32	26.54	99	3,291	273	5,374

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) - We had a dry week of weather finally. Temperatures all week were very cool, with heavy frost on most days. Daytime temperatures did not get out of the 50's. Some days were sunny, but most were cloudy. Some corn and soybeans were harvested, with a lot left to be harvested. Ground conditions are not the best. The apple harvest is pretty much complete, with a few growers just now finishing up. There are quality issues due to the wet weather throughout the year. Cold storage areas of the processing plants are full. Some apples are being stored outside. Bins were scarce for harvesting during the past few weeks. Overall, the producers are trying to harvest whenever they can.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Apple harvest is complete for most growers.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly Sundy (FSA) - Moisture levels are adequate. The fields are accessible to be harvested.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - This was a fairly productive week. Combines were able to get on the no-till ground early in the week, and into tilled fields toward the middle of the week. Corn moisture remains a problem with many fields still testing over 30%. More corn stands this year are having problems with lodging. Ear molds and reduced yields are common, probably due to excessive rains all year. Corn after beans is doing much better, with some exceptional yields. The wheat planting is way behind schedule.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a great week for fall field work. Soybean and corn harvest moving at a good pace. Soybean yields are some of the best I have seen!

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - The wet weather is giving producers fits for harvesting. Many acres of corn for grain are being reported at 30% moisture.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Some good weather days this week brought the harvesting equipment back into the fields. The weekend was excellent for combining and even making some hay. Pastures are declining quickly with most producers supplementing hay.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was a week of drying weather. It was still too wet to make much headway on harvesting beans and corn. Corn is beginning to show signs of stress due to excessive moisture. We also had one day of a hard frost.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - Towards the end of last week, combines was able to get into fields. Farmers are still planning to get in some late cover crops planted this week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart - The much needed dry weather last week has helped in drying crops and progressing the harvest.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Finally, some nice weather has arrived to help dry down the corn. The area corn has dropped 3-5% in moisture the last two weeks. Most corn that is being harvested is in the low 20's for moisture. Soybeans are rapidly being harvested.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Finally, a good week! Soybean harvest went into full swing with yields being mostly above normal. The corn is still somewhat high in moisture. The fall seeded crops are looking good. A few farmers have made some good quality fourth cutting dry hay. We had a hard freeze of 19 degrees on Thursday morning that took care of the growing season.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - There were several good days this week for field work. Some additional soybean harvesting was completed. Corn harvest is now well underway.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT) - Harvest for all crops is progressing but still being hampered by wet soil conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 8, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	70	85	84
Corn, mature	96	100	100
Corn, harvested	51	78	76
Barley, planted	97	99	99
Barley, emerged	88	96	96
Wheat, planted	88	95	94
Wheat, emerged	72	81	80
Soybeans, harvested	57	75	71
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	97	100	96

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 8, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	4	14	48	34
Wheat	0	3	17	76	4
Soybeans	0	2	9	48	41
Pasture	14	7	18	52	9

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