



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 5, 2010 ----- Issued weekly, April-November ----- Released September 7, 2010, 4 pm

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Excellent Week for Field Work: The weather conditions for many counties across the state continued to be dry last week. Soil moisture condition estimates continue to be less adequate than previous weeks. Crop conditions are varied throughout the state, depending on soil moisture and time of planting. Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were harvesting vegetables, apples, peaches, corn silage, tobacco, grapes, and seeding fall crops. Fall plowing continued strong, and is now 21% complete, ahead of 11% last year, and the five year average of 19%

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 5, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
18	37	45	0

Crop Progress: Corn is estimated to be 83% at the dough stage, ahead of last year's 76%, yet behind the five year average of 87%. Corn is 65% at the dent stage, ahead of 43% from last year and the 59% average. Corn is 13% mature, ahead of 6% from a year ago, but behind the 21% average. Corn silage is 44% harvested, ahead of 18% last year and the 30% average. Barley is 10% planted, ahead of last year's 4%, and the average of 9%. The tobacco harvest is 78% completed, ahead of 63% from a year ago and the 60% average. Potatoes are at 20% harvested, behind last year's 45% and the 31% average. The alfalfa fourth cutting is at 57% completed, ahead of 30% a year ago, and the 33% average. The peach harvest is 95% completed, ahead of last year's 91% and the average of 92%. The apples are 58% harvested, above last year's 33%, and the average of 34%. The grape harvest has begun, and is 20% completed.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 7% very poor, 12% poor, 23% fair, 46% good, and 12% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 1% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 60% good, and 14% excellent. The quality of hay made is 0% very poor, 4% poor, 10% fair, 49% good, and 37% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 16% very poor, 18% poor, 30% fair, 29% good and 7% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 6% poor, 21% fair, 42% good, and 30% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 29, 2010: With the exception of the Pacific Northwest, where temperatures fell to as many as 8 degrees below normal, above average temperatures dominated much of the country during the week, promoting the continued rapid development of summer crops such as corn, cotton, and soybeans. Lingering showers along the Gulf Coast delivered some much needed moisture to areas of the Delta and Southeast, while much of the Corn Belt welcomed a relatively rain-free week that promoted drying in previously saturated summer crop fields. Corn: Nearly ideal growing conditions throughout the major corn-producing areas of the Nation continued to promote rapid phenological development of this year's crop. By August 29, corn at or beyond the dough stage had advanced to 94 percent complete, 21 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Double-digit progress was evident in 14 of the 18 major estimating States during the week and by week's end, 73 percent of this year's corn acreage was at or beyond the dented stage, 43 percentage points, or over 18 days, ahead of last year and 18 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Denting progress in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota was 52 percentage points or more ahead of last year and 20 percentage points or more ahead of the 5-year average. Corn in the mature stage advanced 9 points during the week, leaving progress, at 17 percent complete, 12 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 70 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but up slightly from the same time last year. Soybeans: Nationally, 96 percent of this year's soybean acreage was at the pod setting stage or beyond by weeks end, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Pod setting was complete or nearly complete in all estimating States except Missouri and North Carolina, where progress was ahead of both last year and the average, and Kansas, where progress trailed both last year and the average. By August 29, leaves were dropping on 8 percent of the soybean acreage, 5 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Leaf dropping was most advanced in Louisiana and Mississippi. Overall, 64 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but down 5 percentage points from the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 5, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 5, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	92	59	76	9	0.46	2	17.71	-1.30	61	2,753	618	4,231
Franklin	92	47	71	6	0.41	2	20.92	-0.63	64	2,585	577	4,064
Meadville	90	48	71	7	0.47	2	20.91	-0.52	74	2,486	646	3,959
Mercer	91	47	72	7	0.36	2	20.92	0.52	76	2,596	609	4,086
Springboro	89	49	71	4	1.10	2	25.14	6.33	69	2,326	210	3,756
Warren	91	50	72	8	0.43	2	17.38	-4.14	60	2,416	465	3,876
North Central												
Bradford Region	84	47	66	6	0.23	3	20.07	-1.48	65	1,909	476	3,314
Oswayo	88	45	67	6	0.27	2	20.86	0.55	70	1,944	367	3,336
Kane	86	46	66	7	0.21	2	19.62	-2.25	62	1,910	507	3,305
Laporte	84	47	70	6	0.05	1	18.68	-1.15	71	2,240	238	3,681
Lock Haven	92	46	72	7	0.00	0	16.70	-2.88	52	2,757	641	4,275
Port Allegany	88	48	69	8	0.30	2	18.53	-1.78	67	2,112	535	3,533
Renovo	93	47	72	7	0.02	1	17.09	-2.49	61	2,653	537	4,169
Ridgway	88	43	69	7	0.28	2	17.96	-3.61	64	2,126	519	3,558
Stevenson Dam	91	46	71	9	0.09	2	16.60	-4.97	58	2,512	905	4,009
Towanda	92	50	71	7	0.04	2	13.92	-2.54	54	2,419	401	3,900
Wellsboro	87	44	68	7	0.02	1	17.86	1.33	59	2,034	513	3,472
Williamsport	92	45	74	7	0.00	0	16.36	-2.97	55	3,013	680	4,561
Northeast												
Hawley	90	44	69	7	0.01	1	19.60	0.81	55	2,196	464	3,640
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	93	50	74	8	0.00	0	11.12	-7.14	48	2,821	605	4,321
Susquehanna	90	49	71	10	0.08	1	18.71	-1.40	63	2,356	705	3,826
West Central												
Butler	92	44	71	5	0.46	1	24.45	3.95	66	2,552	474	4,041
New Castle	96	46	73	8	0.19	1	22.11	3.56	59	2,843	765	4,347
Slippery Rock	96	43	72	8	0.47	2	20.15	0.21	67	2,660	785	4,161
Central												
Altoona/Blair	92	45	72	6	0.00	0	18.69	0.96	60	2,715	497	4,225
DuBois	91	43	70	6	0.33	2	17.36	-3.21	68	2,444	516	3,935
Lewistown	97	49	75	7	0.00	0	15.99	-3.17	52	2,908	479	4,449
Middletown	97	55	79	9	0.00	0	18.48	-0.37	45	3,353	617	4,914
Prince Gallitzi	92	47	69	6	0.15	1	19.49	-3.36	58	2,252	467	3,730
Selinsgrove	94	46	73	7	0.00	0	12.81	-6.85	46	2,826	549	4,355
State College	91	51	73	8	0.00	0	15.20	-2.72	52	2,782	588	4,300
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	96	48	76	8	0.00	0	20.08	-0.51	45	3,002	495	4,532
Lehighton	92	47	72	5	0.00	0	17.87	-2.56	50	2,680	255	4,203
Matamoras	92	46	72	6	0.00	0	16.86	-3.86	51	2,452	256	3,939
Mt_Pocono	89	48	71	11	0.00	0	15.42	-6.51	62	2,363	843	3,825
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	94	49	75	8	0.17	1	17.11	-1.89	61	3,090	865	4,613
Indiana_PA	91	46	71	5	0.20	1	20.54	-1.56	72	2,522	371	4,021
Myersdale	88	40	67	0	0.05	1	15.29	-6.23	62	2,030	-36	3,476
Mount Pleasant	92	42	71	7	0.22	1	18.67	-3.84	53	2,670	793	4,166
Pittsburgh Intl	93	48	74	7	0.20	1	16.82	-1.09	57	3,019	692	4,538
Connellsville	92	46	73	6	0.27	1	20.38	-0.80	65	2,943	575	4,462
Waynesburg	94	43	72	6	0.00	0	17.11	-2.58	48	2,757	598	4,257
South Central												
Biglerville	96	51	76	7	0.00	0	13.01	-4.60	40	3,122	450	4,663
Everett	95	50	72	6	0.08	1	16.30	-1.00	55	2,577	374	4,082
Hanover	95	51	75	6	0.00	0	14.13	-3.48	46	3,094	422	4,632
Harrisburg_AP	94	53	77	7	0.00	0	20.94	2.09	48	3,251	508	4,805
South Mountain	91	52	72	6	0.00	0	13.51	-4.22	47	2,529	318	4,025
York	95	49	74	5	0.00	0	16.46	-2.69	49	3,012	353	4,545
Southeast												
Green Lane	95	51	77	9	0.00	0	14.63	-5.37	48	3,113	719	4,663
Hamburg	95	48	76	10	0.00	0	18.62	-4.48	53	3,050	852	4,594
West_Chester	96	47	75	5	0.00	0	19.78	-1.85	40	3,041	391	4,581
Lancaster	96	51	77	8	0.00	0	14.69	-5.54	48	3,151	621	4,692
Neshaminy Falls	97	49	76	8	0.00	0	11.84	-11.42	45	3,198	697	4,755
New Holland	95	53	78	9	0.00	0	16.58	-3.65	50	3,160	630	4,700
Philadelphia	97	59	82	10	0.00	0	15.70	-4.09	44	3,779	889	5,356
Philadelphia NE	96	54	80	8	0.00	0	13.12	-6.67	54	3,521	631	5,089
Reading	99	51	79	10	0.00	0	14.41	-7.12	48	3,355	867	4,914
Sellersville	95	47	75	8	0.00	0	15.20	-4.80	46	2,897	503	4,421
Willow Grove	94	55	78	10	0.00	0	15.61	-7.65	42	3,304	803	4,863

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

Drought conditions are continuing in the county with no rain in the forecast. Corn silage continues to be harvested. Some early corn has been combined this week. Corn yields will definitely be affected from the ongoing drought conditions. Crop Insurance adjusters are busy appraising fields so producers can chop their corn. Soybeans are still looking ok in most parts of the county, and some leaves are turning yellow now as they are starting to mature. Some ground has been prepared for fall seedings of hay, wheat, barley and rye which will be sown soon.

Apples and peaches continue to be harvested in the county. Peaches were affected by stink bug and apples now are even more affected by the stink bug in Adams County and surrounding counties as well. PSU and USDA are trying to find out what can be done since it is affecting growers crops as high as 50-60% loss is apparent. They have to take in mind what can be done but still be able to keep their IPM programs for the fruit crops. Sweet corn and other vegetables are also being harvested. Pumpkins are almost a complete failure this year due to weather conditions affecting pollination etc.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Field corn harvest may start later this week on the earliest planted fields, which is a few weeks earlier than normal. Yields are expected to be highly variable, with most tending below average. Soybeans look good from the road, but pod fill and pod abortion have become a concern due to lack of rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

It was good week for corn silage harvesting, but crop starting to get dry with no rain for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Potatoes and corn silage harvesting has started. Some fall plowing done with planting of barley. Corn and soybeans in this area are about two to three weeks ahead of last year.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum

Conditions are getting very dry again. Corn and Soy are showing the signs of the dry conditions. They are maturing or drying at a very fast rate.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Great week for making dry hay. Weather conditions were perfect. The weekend brought some much needed rains and

cooler temperatures. Pasture conditions were declining rapidly with the high temperatures which made the weekend rains extremely beneficial.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Dry hot weather again. Corn silage is mostly done except a few late fields after barley.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST

Friday we received .7 inches of rainfall in a very fast moving storm. Vegetable growers are reporting record yields for the crops - especially tomatoes, green beans and melons. Corn silage harvesting has begun.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

Corn crop has dried down extremely fast in the past week (no rain, high heat). Much of the corn silage that was harvested is less than optimum moisture (low 60%). Some growers are considering shelling for high moisture corn at the end of Labor Day week, and those fields are not short season varieties. As a result of the corn crop being harvested early, cover crops have been established up to one month earlier than average. If we receive soaking rain in the near future, we will have excellent cover crops for the winter months. Because of this week of high heat and moisture stress, pasture grasses are not regrowing. Perennial weeds in pastures (horse nettle, Canada thistle) are very evident this year with the grass growth halted this summer by periods of dry, hot weather.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry L. Stehr

Dry conditions have returned to the County. This coupled with the warm temperatures is rushing the growing season. Corn is turning brown, most peaches have been harvested, and many potato vines have been killed. Apple harvest has moved on to the McIntosh variety and most earlier varieties have been removed from the field. Growers report crop maturity is about two weeks ahead of other years.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

Finished chopping corn on Saturday, was worst than it looked. Some fields as low as 5 ton to the acre - very few over 15. Could really tell what fields had a shower compared to others that had not received one.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters, FSA

Hot dry week. Fourth cuttings of alfalfa are being made. Corn is maturing.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 5, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	21	11	19
Corn, dough	83	76	87
Corn, dent	65	43	59
Corn, mature	13	6	21
Corn silage, harvested	44	18	30
Barley, planted	10	4	9
Tobacco, harvested	78	63	60
Potatoes, harvested	20	45	31
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	57	30	33
Peaches, harvested	95	91	92
Apples, harvested	58	33	34
Grapes, harvested	20	0	2

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 5, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	7	12	23	46	12
Soybeans	1	5	20	60	14
Quality of hay made	0	4	10	49	37
Pasture	16	18	30	29	7
Apples	1	6	21	42	30

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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