



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 11, 2011

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

Very Poor Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 1 day suitable for field work. The remnants of tropical storm Lee belted the keystone state this last week. Many areas of the state were affected by the tremendous rains that fell last week, as much as 19 inches reported by some. There was widespread flooding throughout the region that caused road closures and evacuations of homes and neighborhoods. Primary field activities for the week were majorly impaired by the heavy rains and flooding. Fall plowing is 23% complete which is ahead of the 22% this time last year, but slightly behind the 5-year average of 24%.

centered from southern Kansas to northern Texas averaged as much as 12°F above normal. Dry weather in the West promoted fieldwork and summer crop development. Elsewhere, Tropical Storm Lee dumped rainfall in excess of 8 inches on portions of the central Gulf Coast region late in the week.

Corn: Nationally, 94 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 3 percentage points behind last year but 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Denting had advanced to 71 percent complete by September 4, thirteen percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5- year average. Favorable weather conditions thus far during the season pushed denting to 15 percentage points or more ahead of normal in Illinois and Iowa, the two largest corn-producing states. Nationwide, 18 percent of this year's crop was mature by week's end, 13 percentage points behind last year and 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 52 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 17 points below the same time last year.

Soybeans: Ninety-seven percent of this year's soybean crop was at or beyond the pod-setting stage by September 4, two percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Leaves were dropping on 6 percent of the nation's acreage by week's end, 11 percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Leaf drop was behind normal in all estimating states except North Carolina, where progress was on par with the average pace. Overall, 56 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 8 percentage points below the same time last year. The largest declines were evident in Kentucky and Tennessee, where hot weather and little or no rain have negatively impacted conditions.

Small Grains: With harvest winding down in all estimating states except North Dakota, 94 percent of the oat crop was out of the nation's fields by week's end. This was 4 percentage points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. In North Dakota, producers utilized 6 days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 22 percent of their crop during the week; yet, progress remained 13 days behind normal. By week's end, 71 percent of the barley crop was harvested, 3 percentage points behind last year and 10 percentage points behind the 5-year average. With favorable conditions providing ample time for fieldwork in the five estimating states, producers harvested 18 percent or more of their crop during the week. Overall, 65 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 11, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	7	27	66

Crop Progress: Corn is 90% at the dough stage, slightly ahead of the 87% a year ago and equal to the 5-year average of 90%. Corn is 62% at the dent stage, behind the 72% last year and the average of 69%. The corn crop is 12% mature, behind the 28% at this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 28%. Corn for Silage harvest is 23% complete, behind the previous year's 60% and the 5-year average of 47%. The tobacco harvest is 46% complete, compared to the 87% last year and the average of 76%. The potato harvest is 29% complete, compared to 25% at this time last year and the 5 year average of 37%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 44% complete, behind the previous year's 76% and the 5-year average of 48%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 93% complete, behind last year's 95%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 92%. Peach harvesting is 95% complete, compared to 95% at this time last year and the average of 96%. Apple harvesting is 46% complete, behind the 59% last year, and the average of 44%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 7% very poor, 15% poor, 30% fair, 38 % good, and 10% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 24% fair, 57% good, and 14% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 25% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 43% good, and 5% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 14% very poor, 20% poor, 27% fair, 35% good and 4% excellent. Apple conditions are; 0% very poor, 13% poor, 21% fair, 47% good and 19% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 04, 2011: Near-normal temperatures were recorded along much of the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, while warmer-than-normal weather blanketed the heart of the United States during the week. Most notably, weekly temperatures in an area

Weather Data For Week Ending September 11, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 11, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	57	66	-1	1.34	4	25.74	5.83	78	2,677	446	4,163
Franklin_AG	80	56	66	2	1.86	7	28.58	6.19	91	2,609	519	4,104
Meadville-Port	77	54	65	3	1.43	5	26.22	3.95	91	2,653	737	4,144
Mercer	80	55	65	2	1.27	7	27.84	6.60	105	2,591	522	4,108
Springboro	79	55	64	-2	1.23	6	29.32	9.73	92	2,308	100	3,768
Warren	80	55	65	3	1.69	6	26.26	3.90	84	2,411	382	3,893
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	52	63	4	1.49	7	28.06	5.67	94	2,063	578	3,487
Oswayo	80	50	63	4	1.72	6	25.97	4.85	82	2,050	415	3,494
Kane	79	53	63	5	1.48	5	30.44	7.68	79	1,970	513	3,407
Laporte	83	54	63	-2	11.94	6	52.43	31.82	90	2,138	58	3,590
Lock Haven	84	58	67	3	5.93	6	29.55	9.21	76	2,791	589	4,317
Port Allegany	82	54	64	5	1.45	7	27.86	6.74	88	2,195	560	3,645
Renovo	87	58	68	4	3.48	6	28.41	8.07	86	2,740	538	4,260
Ridgway	81	54	65	5	3.77	7	26.12	3.77	86	2,214	544	3,690
Stevenson Dam	86	57	66	6	2.74	5	27.60	5.25	70	2,621	951	4,122
Towanda	89	54	66	3	8.93	5	40.06	22.94	75	2,461	365	3,956
Wellsboro	81	52	63	4	3.89	5	28.25	11.07	83	2,125	547	3,563
Williamsport	84	57	68	3	10.28	6	40.25	20.23	78	2,970	543	4,520
Northeast												
Hawley	86	54	65	4	5.15	6	42.42	22.91	77	2,216	416	3,698
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	83	57	67	3	5.99	6	34.28	15.32	80	2,723	419	4,254
Susquehanna	84	53	65	5	5.99	6	38.90	18.07	81	2,335	622	3,820
West Central												
Butler	81	55	66	2	2.32	7	26.26	5.01	87	2,652	487	4,187
New Castle	84	56	68	4	0.97	6	28.74	9.47	86	2,914	749	4,451
Slippery Rock	83	54	66	4	1.72	6	28.31	7.65	85	2,673	722	4,201
Central												
Altoona/Blair	86	56	66	2	6.38	6	28.06	9.68	74	2,921	615	4,466
DuBois	77	54	65	3	2.90	6	28.01	6.66	85	2,488	485	3,983
Lewistown	88	58	68	2	7.58	6	34.87	15.05	74	2,992	464	4,552
Middletown	86	59	69	0	13.41	7	46.01	26.44	71	3,293	444	4,886
Prince Gallitzi	85	55	65	3	6.90	6	28.63	4.94	76	2,491	633	3,979
Selingsgrove	84	58	67	2	11.02	6	39.13	18.69	80	2,795	426	4,335
State College	85	57	66	3	5.55	7	29.68	11.10	74	2,810	529	4,336
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	60	70	3	7.14	6	39.67	18.24	71	3,085	477	4,656
Lehighton	80	58	67	1	5.22	7	37.03	15.76	78	2,663	142	4,213
Matamoras	81	56	66	2	6.50	6	46.03	24.51	81	2,371	89	3,883
Mt_Pocono	80	57	66	8	6.09	7	44.52	21.69	87	2,328	753	3,814
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	56	67	2	2.37	4	22.21	2.55	82	3,093	776	4,665
Indiana_PA	82	55	66	1	4.32	7	30.48	7.54	102	2,713	473	4,249
Myersdale	83	53	63	-3	5.34	5	27.44	5.14	82	2,137	-17	3,628
Chalk_Hill	82	53	63	-4	3.96	4	36.95	15.05	87	2,203	-264	3,707
Pittsburgh Intl	81	56	67	1	1.04	4	18.83	0.29	74	3,063	640	4,631
Connellsville	87	55	69	3	4.43	4	29.24	7.34	95	2,936	469	4,501
Waynesburg	81	56	66	1	3.94	5	36.52	16.17	80	2,754	506	4,318
South Central												
Biglerville	85	58	67	-3	6.61	5	31.30	12.97	64	3,134	351	4,712
Everett	86	56	67	1	10.77	6	34.58	16.68	73	2,630	335	4,176
Hanover	85	58	68	-1	9.15	7	29.87	11.54	69	3,099	316	4,671
Harrisburg_AP	85	60	70	2	13.70	4	43.45	23.88	63	3,289	433	4,880
South Mountain	86	55	65	0	6.59	7	27.79	9.41	73	2,582	283	4,116
York	86	60	70	2	10.06	6	34.69	14.83	72	3,110	341	4,699
Southeast												
Green Lane	84	59	70	5	5.44	7	33.87	13.09	70	3,090	597	4,668
Hamburg	83	59	68	4	8.37	6	37.92	13.98	76	3,041	756	4,607
West_Chester	86	60	72	4	6.08	6	34.50	12.02	60	3,124	362	4,705
Lancaster	85	60	71	4	10.53	5	34.99	14.01	73	3,198	563	4,780
Neshaminy Falls	85	60	71	4	6.70	5	42.64	18.48	58	3,243	639	4,824
New Holland	84	58	71	4	7.89	6	34.51	13.53	71	3,154	519	4,727
Philadelphia	87	62	75	4	6.37	4	38.14	17.63	56	3,699	686	5,307
Philadelphia NE	85	61	73	3	5.40	5	38.41	17.90	63	3,461	448	5,062
Reading	85	61	71	4	8.32	6	31.92	9.55	75	3,360	769	4,956
Sellersville	84	58	69	4	5.62	6	36.99	16.21	67	2,903	410	4,461
Doylestown_AG	84	61	71	4	8.38	7	42.55	18.39	71	3,223	619	4,813

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

Adams County had a very wet week. Since last Saturday most parts of the county had at least 10 inches of rainfall. Temperatures have been in the 60's morning and some days made it to 70 but cool for this time of year. Sunday evening Northeastern Adams County received 4 inches of rainfall in a short amount of time. It rained so hard that not all went in the rain gage. Flooding occurred in East Berline and York Springs areas. York Springs had a few minutes of pea size hail during the Sunday evening thunderstorms that just kept hanging over the area for a couple of hours. Corn and soybeans continue to grow. Some producers were going to start to chop corn silage this week however that has been put on hold because of the rain we received. Producers are hoping we don't get winds to take the crops down in the fields due to wet conditions. We need some days now of sunshine to dry us out. It will be a little bit before producers are able to get into the fields. No hay making, no seeding of small grains will happen now until it dries off. Peach harvest is almost complete. Producers are glad most have been harvested with this recent week of rainfall. Apples continue to be harvested but producers are hoping trees stay upright as the apple load and wet soil conditions are causing some trees to go over. Vegetables are ready for harvest if you can get to them.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Soils remain saturated. Parts of the county had another inch of rain over the weekend. Pumpkin growers tell of crops lying in water and beginning to rot. Corn silage maturity is now becoming an issue as harvest will not be able to start up again for at least several days.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

WET, WET, WET.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Wet week limited field work, 4.75 inches in my gauge. We need a week or so of sun for early fall field work.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Corn silage being harvested.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum

Received 11.5" of rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Rain off and on this week stopped hay making but a few producers were able to start harvesting corn silage. Pastures have finally started to rebound after the last couple weeks of showers.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Rained all week and no field work was accomplished. Some minor flooding, but most of the rain soaked into the dry soil. 4" to 8" common through the area. Probably not get any field work for at least a week or more.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Lots of rain this week. Got over 1.2" just this past Friday. As stated last week, the corn and soybeans are coming along nice but need a couple more weeks for the soybeans to fully mature. So hope there is not an early frost. If it waits till early October to frost that would be good. Hope to get some more hay made if the weather cooperates this week. Hope everyone has a safe farming week!

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler

Had heavy thunderstorm Friday evening, 2.5 to 4.5 inches rain in about an hour and a half depending on locale with severe flooding in some drainage areas.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger

Flooding has destroyed crops along the river and creeks. Vegetable harvest on many farms has stopped until the fields drain enough to allow crews to re-enter.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler

The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee dumped in excess of 15 inches over Lebanon County. The heavy rain caused major flooding along the creeks in the county damaging bridges or the roads approaching them. The roads will be closed indefinitely which will cause hardship to farmers during harvest season as they try to get from farm to field. The flood waters were deep in many locations. Debris from the floods is scattered throughout the fields, fences are destroyed. There were reports of chicken and turkey houses sustaining damage and poultry deaths. The soil was already saturated from Hurricane Irene prior to this event and although the water has receded the fields are slow to dry off. We are waiting to see the effects on pumpkins and winter squash that were not flooded.

MERCER COUNTY, JAMES P. RUST

A few area corn growers have been preparing to chop corn for silage. It has rained everyday this week which has prevented the large silage equipment from entering the fields. Some corn growers are saying the corn is going to be lower in yield than the past two years. Area pumpkin growers have been harvesting in earnest. I attended the Great Stoneboro Fair in Mercer County (PA) and the Canfield Fair in Mahoning County in OHIO and all the farm machinery dealers exhibiting equipment are more than happy with the brisk sales in agricultural equipment for 2011 thus far.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger

Received 10 inches of rain this past week.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

No field work completed this week due to heavy, persistent rainfall. We received 10.4 inches of rain this week in western Perry County. Springs in fields have reopened, and it will be difficult to harvest corn for silage from many fields that will be saturated for some time.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr

Schuylkill County received 11 to 19 inches of rainfall throughout the week of September 5th. Flooding along streams and rivers caused significant damage to crops in low lying areas. Harvesting activities ceased during the week because of wet conditions. Damage to roads and bridges will impair travel throughout the county for some time.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Rain, Rain, Rain, too much rain. Over 12 inches since last weekend. No field activities. Rain caused some lodging of soybeans

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker

We have had 9.2" of rain this past week, however we have not had any significant damage to our crops. Corn and beans are moving toward maturity, but we need more warm weather to finish them. Both corn and beans look like they will be excellent yields if we don't have an early frost.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler

Heavy rains and flooding have stopped all field work for the week. Farmers will need a week without rain and/or good drying conditions before fieldwork can be completed without severe problems from compaction. A number of fields have running springs.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 11, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dough	90	87	90
Corn, dent	62	72	69
Corn, mature	12	28	28
Corn silage, harvested	23	60	47
Tobacco, harvested	46	87	76
Potatoes, harvested	29	25	37
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	44	76	48
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	93	95	92
Peaches, harvested	95	95	96
Apples, harvested	46	59	44

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 11, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	7	15	30	38	10
Soybeans	0	5	24	57	14
Quality of hay made	25	3	24	43	5
Pasture	14	20	27	35	4
Apples	0	13	21	47	19

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