



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Northeastern Regional Field Office

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Week Ending September 22, 2013

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

Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. The weather for Pennsylvania was mostly sunny all week with temperatures in the 70s with rain occurring on Saturday. The rain was much needed as most of Pennsylvania has not received rain in some time and the crops are starting to be affected. Corn silage is still under way and should be completed in the next couple of weeks with farmers reporting good yields. Soybeans are looking good for this time of year and harvest should be taking place shortly. Farmers are in the process of planting barley and winter wheat for the winter months as a cover crop and for harvest next year. Tobacco harvest is almost complete while potato harvest is still ongoing. Apple harvest is well underway while grape harvest is just starting to pick up. Farmers are reporting good yields for apples and peaches this year. Looking forward to this week, temperatures are to remain in the 70s with little to no precipitation expected. Rain is needed though in order to finish out the harvest season strong and help the newly planted barley and winter wheat to grow. Field activities for the week included cutting alfalfa and other forage; harvesting corn silage, tobacco, potatoes, apples and grapes, planting barley and winter wheat, applying fertilizer, mowing pastures, spraying herbicides and pesticides and applying lime to fields and preparing fields for next crop.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 22, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
7	16	76	1

Crop Progress: Fall plowing is 48% plowed, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 44% and the 5-year average of 36% plowed. Corn is 88% dent, which is behind progress at this time last year of 93% but ahead of the 5-year average of 84% dent. Corn is 48% mature, which is behind progress at this time last year of 65% but ahead of the 5-year average of 43% dent. Corn silage is 58% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 77% and the 5-year average of 64% harvested. Barley is 55% planted, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 35% and the 5-year average of 32% planted. Winter wheat is 29% planted, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 25% and the 5-year average of 15% planted. Tobacco is 98% harvested, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 94% and the 5-year average of 90% harvested. Potatoes are 77% harvested, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 68% and the 5-year average of 54% harvested. Alfalfa third cutting is 98% cut, which is the same progress at this time last year of 98% but ahead of the 5-year average of 97% cut. Alfalfa fourth cutting is 69% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 85% but ahead of the 5-year average of 68% cut. Apples are 69%

harvested, which is the same progress at this time last year of 69% but ahead of the 5-year average of 56% harvested. Grapes are 20% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 48% but ahead of the 5-year average of 19% harvested.

Crop Condition: Corn conditions are; 1% very poor, 1% poor, 9% fair, 42% good, and 47% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 18% fair, 62% good, and 20% excellent. Quality of Hay made conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 49% good and 26% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 1% very poor, 21% poor, 32% fair, 37% good and 9% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 17, 2013: Near- to above-normal temperatures prevailed across much of the country during the week, with readings averaging more than 10°F above normal in portions of the Pacific Northwest, Great Plains, and the Mississippi Valley. Conversely, cooler than- normal conditions blanketed much of the Southwest. In addition to cooler weather, portions of the Southwest—including Colorado— received weekly precipitation totaling more than 800 percent of normal. Corn: Ninety-seven percent of this year’s corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week’s end. This was 3 percentage points behind last year but on par with the 5-year average. Nationwide, 81 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dent stage by September 15, sixteen percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. By week’s end, 22 percent of the corn crop was mature, 51 percentage points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. In Iowa, the earliest planted corn was being harvested. Nationally, 4 percent of the corn was harvested by week’s end, 20 percentage points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year. Overall, 53 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 29 percentage points better than the same time last year. Soybeans: Nationwide, 26 percent of the crop was at or beyond the leaf-dropping stage by September 15. This was 28 percentage points behind last year and 9 points behind the 5-year average. Warmer-than-normal weather in the Ohio Valley advanced the crop in Indiana and Ohio by 27 percentage points or more. Overall, 50 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week but 17 points better than the same time last year. Winter Wheat: By week’s end, producers had sown 12 percent of the nation’s intended 2014 acreage. This was 2 percentage points ahead of last year but on pace with the 5- year average. In Washington State, winter wheat seeding moved along but precipitation made it necessary for some acreage to be replanted due to crusting. Other Small Grains: By week’s end, 96 percent of the barley crop was harvested, 2 percentage points behind last year but 6 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 22, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 22, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	79	40	62	-2	2.06	3	28.75	7.20	75	2,716	334	4,315
Franklin_AG	78	39	59	-2	1.59	3	25.41	1.59	83	2,540	324	4,130
Meadville-Port	76	40	61	2	1.55	4	22.54	-1.19	83	2,593	562	4,202
Clarion	76	38	57	-4	1.35	3	24.38	-0.44	80	2,223	-6	3,789
Springboro	75	35	58	-5	2.44	3	30.91	9.89	76	2,275	-74	3,839
Warren	79	36	58	-2	1.24	3	21.65	-2.24	78	2,379	232	3,957
North Central												
Bradford Region	80	31	58	3	1.19	3	19.95	-3.94	86	2,115	555	3,686
Oswayo	76	31	52	-5	0.68	2	20.23	-2.35	71	1,804	84	3,329
Kane	78	33	56	1	1.11	3	23.87	-0.43	74	1,858	330	3,388
Laporte	77	35	54	-7	1.05	2	29.27	7.28	77	1,987	-210	3,532
Lock Haven	81	37	58	-4	0.72	2	19.66	-2.00	66	2,646	314	4,263
Coudersport_1SW	78	31	53	-5	0.74	2	21.90	-0.68	84	1,900	180	3,439
Renovo	81	37	58	-4	1.02	2	18.04	-3.62	66	2,641	309	4,249
Ridgway	78	31	55	-3	0.89	3	23.33	-0.35	77	2,170	405	3,728
Stevenson Dam	80	38	58	0	0.52	2	20.06	-3.62	67	2,439	674	4,023
Towanda	79	38	57	-4	0.80	2	21.97	3.67	62	2,363	150	3,952
Wellsboro	76	33	53	-5	1.66	3	23.44	5.07	77	1,937	276	3,489
Williamsport	80	38	60	-3	0.33	2	17.33	-3.96	61	2,930	359	4,582
Northeast												
Hawley	77	35	55	-4	0.66	2	27.22	6.43	70	2,157	257	3,714
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	79	36	60	-3	0.96	2	15.15	-5.03	63	2,821	382	4,457
Susquehanna	77	36	56	-3	0.70	2	26.74	4.59	66	2,259	457	3,839
West Central												
Butler	78	40	60	-3	1.20	2	24.61	2.07	79	2,504	206	4,098
New Castle	78	41	60	-2	0.89	3	23.14	2.56	71	2,602	302	4,206
Slippery Rock	82	41	61	2	1.33	3	22.32	0.36	68	2,666	599	4,262
Central												
Altoona/Blair	79	40	60	-2	0.95	3	17.11	-2.47	77	2,760	317	4,399
DuBois	78	36	60	0	0.99	3	18.75	-3.91	68	2,565	449	4,169
Lewistown	80	41	60	-4	0.50	2	16.99	-4.04	67	2,976	294	4,637
Middletown	80	43	63	-3	0.91	3	18.23	-2.66	73	3,236	211	4,921
Prince Gallitzi	78	33	56	-4	0.71	2	21.93	-3.30	70	2,405	436	4,007
Selinsgrove	80	40	58	-4	0.77	3	22.46	0.64	65	2,700	192	4,338
State College	77	41	58	-4	0.91	3	22.23	2.44	68	2,691	280	4,323
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	79	40	60	-4	0.76	3	28.73	5.84	66	3,009	243	4,678
Lehighton	74	39	55	-9	0.73	3	26.79	4.08	69	2,489	-179	4,130
Matamoras	78	39	58	-4	0.79	1	28.09	5.12	68	2,618	206	4,248
Mt_Pocono	73	35	56	-1	0.81	1	30.43	6.00	68	2,214	563	3,778
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	45	63	2	1.44	2	23.83	2.96	74	3,035	577	4,691
Indiana_PA	79	43	61	-1	1.19	3	25.62	1.15	88	2,694	316	4,324
Myersdale	77	34	56	-6	0.68	3	26.41	2.69	85	2,120	-169	3,692
Chalk_Hill	77	36	56	-8	1.48	4	31.67	8.52	84	2,137	-483	3,710
Pittsburgh Intl	79	46	63	1	1.17	2	21.41	1.77	66	3,008	435	4,651
CConnellsville	82	46	63	-1	1.42	4	31.56	8.41	95	2,779	159	4,405
Waynesburg	77	41	61	-2	1.23	5	24.24	2.77	82	2,619	233	4,237
South Central												
Biglerville	81	41	60	-6	1.03	3	19.88	0.23	64	3,020	64	4,689
Everett	79	32	56	-7	0.79	3	17.82	-1.20	74	2,461	25	4,082
Hanover	79	39	59	-7	0.99	3	17.93	-1.72	75	2,938	-18	4,604
Harrisburg_AP	81	42	63	-3	0.92	3	17.50	-3.39	73	3,222	190	4,912
South Mountain	76	38	56	-6	1.03	3	23.36	3.78	75	2,405	-31	4,027
York	80	39	61	-5	1.30	3	21.70	0.63	70	3,026	83	4,680
Southeast												
Green Lane	78	40	59	-5	0.76	3	27.40	5.23	70	2,972	326	4,641
Hamburg	78	41	59	-3	1.11	3	23.58	-1.90	75	2,928	511	4,593
West_Chester	80	38	59	-7	1.29	2	32.93	8.88	68	2,943	5	4,605
Lancaster	79	41	61	-4	1.01	3	19.95	-2.35	65	3,007	210	4,667
Neshaminy Falls	80	40	60	-4	1.34	3	28.03	2.34	63	3,124	360	4,806
New Holland	79	41	62	-3	1.14	2	24.26	1.96	62	3,174	377	4,860
Philadelphia	80	48	65	-3	1.17	2	34.70	12.92	60	3,626	416	5,334
Philadelphia NE	80	46	64	-4	1.30	2	25.47	3.69	67	3,396	186	5,085
Reading	80	42	62	-3	0.67	3	23.49	-0.35	65	3,266	517	4,957
Sellersville	78	38	58	-6	1.02	3	30.86	8.69	63	2,798	152	4,446
Doylestown_AG	79	41	60	-5	1.26	2	32.25	6.56	65	3,097	333	4,775

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 started the week with 60 degrees morning and some rain showers. Not much accumulation. Corn silage continues to be harvested with good tonnage being reported. Corn for dry shelled corn is also being harvested with some being 19% moisture. Corn yields are looking good and storage problems will occur. Some soybeans were also harvested in the county this week. Most soybeans look pretty good but the double cropped soybeans are not doing so good due to lack of rain this past month. Hay continues to be made and with cooler morning temperatures it takes a little more time to dry off the fields. Wheat and barley are starting to be planted and more will be planted as corn and soybeans are harvested. Pastures are suffering a little due to lack of rainfall this past month.

Peach harvest will be finished this week with good yields being reported. The prices have been low due to everyone's peaches all coming ripe at the same time and not being able to market to other states prior to their own peaches maturing. Apple harvest continues with some producers having nice crop and others having not good yields due to spring temperature. Pumpkins are being harvested with most having nice crop. Sweet corn harvest is winding down with nice yields being reported. Overall the county's soil moisture level is not adequate at this time due to lack of rainfall. Producers are busy harvesting their crops.

BUTLER County, L Fritz

Corn silage harvest in full swing, some producers making late hay. Ideal conditions for fall herbicide and lime applications. Soybean and corn harvest coming soon.

CAMBRIA County, Dolly Little

Good week for field work. Activities include harvesting silage and potatoes. Spreading lime, preparing fields for next crop, and planting fall crops. Heavy rain on Saturday.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Good week for field work, very dry conditions. 0.6 inches rainfall on Saturday.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Harvesting of corn silage.

CRAWFORD County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

It was a good week to harvest corn silage since field conditions were dry and moisture levels were dropping. Last of the hay and haylage was also being cut.

FRANKLIN County, Thomas Kerr

Decent week for all fall planting and harvesting. Corn drying down in a hurry this week. Apple harvest is moving ahead rapidly and some of the smaller operations are nearing completion of harvest. Late cool down has helped color. Many areas got beneficial rains over 1/2 inch on Saturday which will help the fall seedings.

LEBANON County, Charlene

Corn silage harvest is about finished. The remaining corn is drying down rapidly and so are the soybeans. Alfalfa was cut and baled. Manure pits are being emptied.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

This past week we received 1.5 inches of rainfall. Silage harvesting is at a fast pace since corn has dried down quickly. Wheat planting also was full speed this past week.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Very dry soil conditions is having an adverse effect on the late planted corn and soybeans. Corn and soybeans harvest will soon begin. Main activities for the week were silo filling, haymaking and seeding barley.

UNION County, James Brubaker

Shelled the first corn this week, 19% moisture, a 96 day corn that went 186bu acre dry basis. Looks like we can do some beans this week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 22, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	48	44	36
Corn, dent	88	93	84
Corn, mature	48	65	43
Corn, harvested	11	10	11
Corn silage, harvested	58	77	64
Barley, planted	55	35	32
Wheat, planted	29	25	15
Tobacco, harvested	98	94	90
Potatoes, harvested	77	68	54
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	98	98	97
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	69	85	68
Apples, harvested	69	69	56
Grapes, harvested	20	48	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 22, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	1	9	42	47
Soybeans	0	0	18	62	20
Quality of hay made	0	3	22	49	26
Pasture	1	21	32	37	9

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