



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 4, 2011

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

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. Many producers across the state spent time this week assessing the damage done caused by the tumultuous weather of the past couple of weeks. Some areas of the state that experienced heavy rains and high winds saw noticeable damage to crops and fields. Primary field activities for the week included seeding of forage crops, baling hay, chopping silage and pumping excess water out of manure pits. Fall plowing is 23% complete which is ahead of the 20% this time last year and the 5-year average of 19%.

reaching well into the triple digits throughout the Great Plains and across much of the southern half of the country. Sunny skies promoted a rapid fieldwork pace, but the continued dry conditions negatively impacted row crops across the South and in portions of the Corn Belt. Elsewhere, Hurricane Irene dumped heavy rain along the Atlantic Coast from eastern North Carolina into New England. Most notably, coastal portions of North Carolina and Virginia accumulated more than 10 inches of rain in a 2-day period beginning early Saturday morning.

Corn: By week's end, 88 percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 6 percentage points behind last year but 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm weather in most of the major producing regions promoted a rapid development pace. Denting advanced 20 percentage points during the week to 53 percent complete by August 28. This was 17 percentage points, or over a week, behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. The most significant delays were evident in Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. Nationwide, 9 percent of the corn crop was mature by week's end, 8 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 54 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week and 16 points below the same time last year. Soybeans: By August 28, pods were setting on 93 percent of the nation's soybean acreage. This was 3 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Leaves were dropping on 2 percent of this year's crop, 5 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in Mississippi, where producers were gearing up to begin harvesting early-planted soybean fields. Overall, 57 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week and 7 points below the same time last year. Winter Wheat: Producers had harvested 97 percent of the 2011 winter wheat crop by August 28, on par with last year but 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Small Grains: Oat producers had harvested 89 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 7 percentage points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Despite producers utilizing nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 21 percent of their crop, progress in North Dakota remained more than 2 weeks behind normal. Forty-six percent of the barley crop was harvested by August 28, eighteen percentage points behind last year and 24 points behind the 5-year average. Progress was behind normal in all estimating states, with double-digit delays evident everywhere except Minnesota. Overall, 66 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 04, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	17	64	18

Crop Progress: Corn is 80% at the dough stage, slightly behind the 82% a year ago and the 5-year average of 85%. Corn is 46% at the dent stage, behind the 62% last year and the average of 57%. The corn crop is 7% mature, behind the 12% at this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 17%. Corn has reached a measurable height of 88 inches, compared to 88 inches last year, and an average of 81 inches. Corn for Silage harvest is 19% complete, behind the previous year's 42% and the 5-year average of 31%. The tobacco harvest is 45% complete, compared to the 73% last year and the average of 59%. The potato harvest is 22% complete, compared to 20% at this time last year and the 5 year average of 27%. The third cutting of alfalfa is 95% complete, compared to the 96% last year and the 5-year average of 93%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 28% complete, behind the previous year's 54% and the 5-year average of 36%. Timothy/Clover second cutting is 92% complete, behind last year's 95%, but ahead of the 5-year average of 90%. Peach harvesting is 89% complete, compared to 95% at this time last year and the average of 92%. Apple harvesting is 35% complete, behind the 56% last year, and the average of 39%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 4% very poor, 13% poor, 33% fair, 39 % good, and 11% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 22% fair, 57% good, and 16% excellent. Quality of Hay made is 4% very poor, 6% poor, 31% fair, 50% good, and 9% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 17% very poor, 21% poor, 35% fair, 23% good and 4% excellent. Apple conditions are; 6% very poor, 11% poor, 19% fair, 52% good and 12% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 28, 2011: Unusually hot weather blanketed many areas during the week, with daytime highs

Weather Data For Week Ending September 4, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 4, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	90	53	73	6	0.89	3	24.40	5.54	74	2,562	444	3,978
Franklin_AG	93	49	69	4	0.84	3	26.72	5.30	84	2,494	501	3,919
Meadville-Port	90	51	71	7	0.98	3	24.79	3.50	86	2,546	719	3,967
Mercer	92	50	70	5	0.98	3	26.57	6.31	98	2,482	510	3,929
Springboro	91	47	69	2	1.75	3	28.09	9.41	86	2,209	109	3,599
Warren	95	48	70	6	0.17	2	24.57	3.20	78	2,303	366	3,715
North Central												
Bradford Region	90	38	66	6	0.09	3	26.57	5.16	87	1,970	547	3,324
Oswayo	90	40	66	5	1.68	3	24.25	4.07	76	1,951	385	3,325
Kane	90	40	65	5	0.06	2	28.96	7.24	74	1,877	480	3,244
Laporte	79	47	64	-2	1.50	1	40.49	20.78	84	2,050	62	3,432
Lock Haven	90	50	68	3	0.52	2	23.62	4.16	70	2,671	570	4,127
Port Allegany	90	43	67	6	0.51	3	26.41	6.23	81	2,094	528	3,474
Renovo	92	51	69	3	0.23	2	24.93	5.47	80	2,617	516	4,067
Ridgway	91	44	66	4	0.11	1	22.35	0.91	79	2,108	512	3,514
Stevenson Dam	92	50	69	7	0.53	1	24.86	3.42	65	2,505	909	3,936
Towanda	89	48	66	1	0.96	1	31.13	14.78	70	2,349	345	3,774
Wellsboro	89	43	64	3	0.50	2	24.36	7.93	78	2,032	521	3,400
Williamsport	85	50	70	3	0.17	2	29.97	10.75	72	2,844	528	4,324
Northeast												
Hawley	86	39	64	0	0.25	1	37.27	18.60	71	2,112	392	3,524
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	84	50	67	1	0.38	1	28.29	10.14	74	2,601	401	4,062
Susquehanna	85	48	66	4	1.52	1	32.91	12.92	75	2,230	590	3,645
West Central												
Butler	92	49	70	4	0.88	3	23.94	3.57	80	2,539	476	4,004
New Castle	99	52	74	8	1.02	3	27.77	9.34	80	2,790	727	4,257
Slippery Rock	97	48	71	7	2.40	3	26.59	6.77	79	2,557	695	4,015
Central												
Altoona/Blair	90	47	69	3	0.43	2	21.68	4.05	68	2,804	602	4,279
DuBois	88	47	69	5	0.41	3	25.11	4.67	79	2,383	468	3,808
Lewistown	89	51	70	2	0.13	2	27.29	8.24	68	2,864	452	4,354
Middletown	83	56	70	-1	0.10	3	32.60	13.87	64	3,156	440	4,679
Prince Gallitzi	91	43	67	4	0.56	2	21.73	-0.98	70	2,385	613	3,803
Selinsgrove	82	49	67	-2	0.61	2	28.11	8.58	74	2,674	413	4,144
State College	87	50	68	2	0.17	2	24.13	6.32	67	2,693	514	4,149
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	50	69	0	0.05	1	32.53	12.08	65	2,944	455	4,445
Lehighton	81	50	66	-3	0.22	2	31.81	11.52	71	2,544	136	4,024
Matamoras	84	48	65	-2	1.54	1	39.53	18.94	75	2,261	80	3,703
Mt_Pocono	84	46	65	4	0.72	2	38.43	16.65	80	2,214	704	3,630
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	92	55	74	7	0.30	1	19.84	0.95	78	2,973	764	4,475
Indiana_PA	90	48	70	3	0.77	3	26.16	4.20	95	2,601	466	4,067
Myersdale	90	44	66	-2	0.78	1	22.10	0.70	77	2,043	-7	3,464
Chalk_Hill	88	44	66	-3	0.42	2	32.99	11.93	83	2,107	-244	3,541
Pittsburgh Intl	95	51	74	7	0.39	1	17.79	-0.02	70	2,939	629	4,437
Connellsville	95	51	72	5	0.27	1	24.81	3.75	91	2,803	452	4,298
Waynesburg	93	48	70	4	0.91	1	32.58	13.00	75	2,639	496	4,133
South Central												
Biglerville	83	52	69	-2	0.45	2	24.69	7.20	59	3,013	360	4,521
Everett	91	45	67	-1	0.37	1	23.81	6.61	67	2,511	324	3,987
Hanover	81	50	68	-3	0.70	3	20.72	3.23	62	2,972	319	4,474
Harrisburg_AP	81	53	70	-2	0.33	3	29.75	11.02	59	3,147	424	4,668
South Mountain	79	47	65	-3	0.53	2	21.20	3.57	66	2,476	281	3,940
York	82	48	68	-3	0.10	3	24.63	5.59	66	2,969	329	4,488
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	54	69	1	0.03	1	28.43	8.56	63	2,947	570	4,455
Hamburg	81	52	68	2	0.22	2	29.55	6.59	70	2,914	732	4,410
West_Chester	86	51	68	-3	0.06	1	28.42	6.93	54	2,969	339	4,480
Lancaster	82	52	69	-2	0.14	3	24.46	4.35	68	3,053	542	4,565
Neshaminy Falls	85	53	70	2	0.00	0	35.94	12.83	53	3,094	611	4,605
New Holland	84	53	69	-2	0.22	2	26.62	6.51	65	3,008	497	4,511
Philadelphia	85	59	72	-1	0.00	0	31.77	12.10	52	3,524	656	5,062
Philadelphia NE	84	56	71	-2	0.06	1	33.01	13.34	58	3,299	431	4,830
Reading	83	53	70	2	0.16	2	23.60	2.21	69	3,215	745	4,741
Sellersville	83	51	69	1	0.00	0	31.37	11.50	61	2,766	389	4,254
Doylestown_AG	83	55	70	1	0.08	1	34.17	11.06	64	3,076	593	4,596

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 pretty good week of weather. Morning temperatures were in the 50's and daytime in the 70's Monday through Wednesday. Thursday and Friday started in the 60's and daytime into the 70's. Corn and soybeans continue to grow and are making some grain. Some corn is being harvested for silage with more to come in upcoming weeks. Crop insurance adjusters are busy adjusting corn due to drought earlier this summer. Soybeans seem to be doing ok for now but the big question is will they mature before first frost? Hay continues to be made that has now re-grown from other cuttings. Other forage crops continue to be harvested also. Soil preparation is occurring for small grain seedings this fall. New seedings of hay are now emerging with recent rainfall and sunshine. Apples and peaches suffered some losses due to heavy rains last weekend and also the windy conditions knocked fruit off of trees. Some apples are splitting due to rainfall and some varieties are not holding up very good and breaking down causing them to rot. Growers are seeing some affects of the stinkbugs on fruit crops but not as bad as they had earlier predicted. Producers are still busy with getting harvesting equipment in shape for this fall's harvest and also preparing soil for fall seedings.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Peach harvest is winding down with many growers having completed it. The apple harvest was active this past week with peak harvesting on Galas and Honeycrisp. Size has been good. Quality is variable with much more apple scab than normal. Hail is also a factor in northern Adams Co. Rainfall from Irene was generally 1-2". Some orchards have many trees laid over from the wind and trees with crop in soft soil.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Good week for late summer field work. We received .25 inches of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Farmers starting to harvest corn silage. The corn is drying down very fast. Fall planting of new seedings, barley, and wheat.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, David Reedy

Everyone will have to wait to see how big an impact the July heat wave along with a lot of late planted spring crops has on actual corn and soybean yields. Short season vegetable crops were certainly affected. Forage yields are varied throughout the region.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Soil is in good condition, however a little more rain would help the fall seeded grasses. Reports of quality of corn being harvested for silage indicate a yield less than 50% of normal from the Southwestern part of the county. Apple crop is coming up short as well and quality is poor. Irene did not have much effect in the county. Milk production is now coming back from the effects of the heat.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

The corn and soybeans are growing and maturing well. Just hope there is not an early frost. Some of the corn and beans that were planted late during the dry spell back in July need a little longer to

grow. Made some nice 2nd cutting of alfalfa early in the week before the rain came on Thursday-Friday and Sunday. Got 1" of rain. Looks like a chance of rain everyday this week coming. Hope everyone has a safe farming week!

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler

We may have had 6 days for field work but only 2 for baling dry hay.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger

Last weekend's hurricane flattened some corn fields and damaged foliage of produce crops around the region. Hail storms from the previous week completely destroyed vegetable crops on a few isolated farms in Luzerne County. The excessive rainfall has lowered the quality of some produce but harvest continues as expected.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart

While the crops still look good overall in southern Lancaster & Chester counties, many acres of corn are now flattened and tangled due to Irene's high winds. It's going to be a long slow Fall harvest for many farmers.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler

Hurricane Irene hit Lebanon County in the beginning of last week. Rain in excess of 3 inches saturated the fields and the wind lodged many acres of corn. The least damaged corn has shredded leaves from the wind. Areas of the county were out of electricity until Thursday. After the hurricane passed by the sun came out and the humidity was low. Alfalfa was mowed but did not dry as expected. Corn silage harvest continued. Manure pits had to be pumped due to the excess water. Rain came again at the end of the week.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Follow up from the Friday, August 19, 2011 severe hail storm: tomato and pumpkin growers are reporting that their crops are 100% pitted, vines 100% pitted with fruit rotting and stems-vines open to disease and die back. Peppers, gourds, melons and other vegetable crops had similar damage. Several local farmers harvested oats after the hail storm and one reported only 30 bu. from 6 acres - hail removed the oats from the heads. More and more reports of apple scab are coming in with damage so bad that many growers are wondering if harvest is feasible. On Thursday we received 2.7 inches of rain in a short period of time resulting in much runoff. I attended the New York State Fair in Syracuse NY this week and was very impressed with their agricultural standards in the exhibits of livestock and crops.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Recent rains have helped the corn and soybeans. Most of the corn is in the dent to mature stage, and the soybeans are beginning to turn yellow. Fourth cutting of alfalfa looks good. Main activities for the week were haymaking, spreading fertilizer and cutting silage.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Dry hay season has come to an abrupt end. Ground conditions are less than desirable for field work. We need some warm sunny days to finish the corn crop.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 4, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, dough	80	82	85
Corn, dent	46	62	57
Corn, mature	7	12	17
Corn average height, inches	88	88	81
Corn silage, harvested	19	42	31
Tobacco, harvested	45	73	59
Potatoes, harvested	22	20	27
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	95	96	93
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	28	54	36
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	92	95	90
Peaches, harvested	89	95	92
Apples, harvested	35	56	39

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 4, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	13	33	39	11
Soybeans	0	5	22	57	16
Quality of hay made	4	6	31	50	9
Pasture	17	21	35	23	4
Apples	6	11	19	52	12

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