



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 16, 2011

Issued weekly, April-November

Released October 17, 2011, 4 pm

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

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 3 days suitable for field work. There were some sunny and dry days during the earlier part of the week. However, the rains and cool temperatures returned to portions of the state later this week. This once again slowed the already delayed field work that had been progressing in the favorable weather. Precipitation levels varied for many areas throughout the state, with some counties seeing over an inch and a half or more towards the end of the week. Primary field activities for the week were harvesting of corn, fruit, and soybeans, spreading lime and wrapping haylage. Fall plowing is 42% complete, behind the 55% this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 63%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 16, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	48	52

Crop Progress: The corn crop is 86% mature, behind the 95% at this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 90%. The year's corn crop is 23% harvested, well behind the 51% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 40%. Corn for Silage harvest is 88% complete, behind the previous year's 98% and the 5-year average of 95%. Barley planting is 55% complete, behind the 85% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 83%. Barley is 31% emerged, behind the 59% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 55%. Winter wheat planting is 33% complete, compared to 59% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 66%. Winter wheat is 12% emerged, compared to 35% at this time last year and the average of 37%. The soybean harvest is 12% complete, compared to 38% last year and the average of 33%. The potato harvest is 86% complete, compared to 92% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 93%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 81% complete, behind the previous year's 91% and the 5-year average of 87%. Apple harvesting is 88% complete, behind the 90% last year, but ahead of the average of 85%. The grape harvest is 95% complete, ahead of the 81% at this time last year, and continues to be ahead of the average of 62%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 13% poor, 32% fair, 39% good, and 11% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 2% very poor, 4% poor, 24% fair, 51% good, and 19% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 6% very poor, 10% poor, 26% fair, 35% good and 23% excellent.

Nationwide as of October 9, 2011: The heart of the nation experienced warmer-than-normal weather during the week, while below average temperatures were recorded west of the Rocky Mountains and east of the Mississippi Valley. Most notably, average temperatures in portions of the northern Great Plains were more than 15°F above normal. Elsewhere, above average temperatures in the Midwest promoted a rapid crop maturation and harvest pace for corn and soybeans. With the exception of Florida and the Northeast, dry weather prevailed in many areas east of the Great Plains. Conversely, rainfall dominated the western half of the country, helping to alleviate unusually dry soil conditions and aiding winter wheat establishment throughout the Plains. Corn: Nationally, 89 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the mature stage by week's end. This was 8 percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Crop maturity was ahead of the average pace in four of the five largest corn-producing states. By October 9, producers had harvested one-third of this year's corn crop, 17 percentage points—or 9 days—behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Warmer-than-normal weather and little or no rainfall promoted a double-digit harvesting pace in many Midwestern States during the week. Overall, 53 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but 15 percentage points below the same time last year. Soybeans: By week's end, 90 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf-dropping stage. This was 4 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Warmer weather coupled with abundant sunshine promoted a double-digit crop development pace throughout most of the major producing region during the week. With an advance of 32 points during the week, producers had harvested 51 percent of this year's soybean crop by October 9. This was 12 percentage points behind last year but 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest progress of 23 points or more was evident in 12 of the 18 estimating states. Overall, 56 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from last week but 8 points below the same time last year. Winter Wheat: By October 9, producers had seeded 59 percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop, 10 percentage points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. In the three largest winter wheat-producing states, significant planting delays remained in Oklahoma and Texas, while progress in Kansas was slightly ahead of both last year and normal. By week's end, 28 percent of the winter wheat crop was emerged, 9 percentage points behind last year and 10 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delays were evident in Oklahoma and Texas.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 16, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 16, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	77	46	61	8	2.16	5	32.19	7.57	94	3,088	507	4,921
Franklin_AG	80	47	59	8	1.80	6	35.10	8.69	114	2,972	603	4,805
Meadville-Port	78	45	59	9	2.20	5	32.28	5.73	110	3,007	838	4,838
Mercer	80	46	59	8	1.50	5	33.48	8.34	125	2,929	582	4,784
Springboro	79	43	58	6	2.67	5	37.04	13.26	111	2,629	97	4,428
Warren	80	43	58	7	2.12	4	31.44	4.74	102	2,751	463	4,569
North Central												
Bradford Region	78	40	56	9	1.69	5	33.20	6.65	116	2,317	675	4,059
Oswayo	80	36	55	7	1.37	5	32.63	7.37	105	2,283	467	4,048
Kane	79	42	56	10	1.75	5	38.46	11.33	101	2,223	620	3,974
Laporte	77	42	57	7	1.97	5	61.03	36.48	111	2,402	63	4,167
Lock Haven	79	45	58	7	1.95	4	36.72	12.62	94	3,155	665	5,019
Port Allegany	79	43	57	9	1.38	5	32.69	7.43	109	2,457	641	4,234
Renovo	74	44	57	6	1.62	5	36.64	12.54	108	3,100	610	4,960
Ridgway	81	39	56	8	1.45	5	32.19	6.01	109	2,472	603	4,270
Stevenson Dam	77	43	57	9	1.20	4	35.96	9.78	91	2,958	1,089	4,799
Towanda	80	46	59	8	2.33	4	46.30	25.89	91	2,792	434	4,629
Wellsboro	80	42	55	7	1.54	5	36.05	15.48	104	2,370	612	4,121
Williamsport	78	44	61	9	2.11	4	49.19	25.37	97	3,397	652	5,294
Northeast												
Hawley	80	43	58	9	1.44	4	49.59	26.46	94	2,519	506	4,344
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	79	46	61	9	1.56	4	41.97	19.49	95	3,103	500	4,981
Susquehanna	80	45	59	11	1.38	4	46.81	22.01	99	2,649	747	4,480
West Central												
Butler	80	44	59	7	1.20	4	31.28	6.43	105	2,989	529	4,862
New Castle	87	45	60	9	1.37	4	34.16	11.30	102	3,330	865	5,208
Slippery Rock	87	44	60	10	1.91	5	35.02	10.67	106	3,055	848	4,924
Central												
Altoona/Blair	78	48	59	7	1.06	4	33.81	11.98	89	3,302	687	5,183
DuBois	78	42	57	7	1.64	5	34.50	9.50	106	2,803	553	4,626
Lewistown	82	46	60	7	2.25	5	42.19	18.83	95	3,406	532	5,305
Middletown	79	50	62	7	1.33	4	52.93	29.66	87	3,759	505	5,697
Prince Gallitzi	74	42	56	7	1.13	3	34.37	6.37	95	2,776	675	4,592
Selinsgrove	77	45	59	7	1.88	4	49.92	25.55	99	3,161	485	5,042
State College	78	48	58	6	1.38	4	35.81	13.77	92	3,160	590	5,017
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	86	46	63	10	1.18	4	47.31	21.98	87	3,553	585	5,474
Lehighton	76	44	59	6	1.83	3	42.15	16.84	95	3,030	172	4,928
Matamoras	81	45	60	8	1.31	4	53.94	28.43	100	2,734	163	4,596
Mt_Pocono	78	45	58	11	1.79	3	53.67	26.32	102	2,647	914	4,467
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	48	61	9	1.00	4	26.36	3.26	100	3,505	867	5,416
Indiana_PA	81	46	59	8	1.61	5	36.11	9.06	121	3,080	526	4,949
Myersdale	78	37	56	5	1.20	4	31.19	4.89	101	2,379	-77	4,182
Chalk_Hill	78	40	58	5	1.62	4	43.64	18.21	108	2,454	-363	4,266
Pittsburgh Intl	81	49	61	8	1.85	4	23.99	2.38	92	3,464	702	5,372
Connellsville	85	48	60	8	1.22	5	34.98	9.55	120	3,339	522	5,238
Waynesburg	81	44	59	8	1.77	4	43.81	20.32	98	3,097	544	4,996
South Central												
Biglerville	81	44	60	6	1.64	4	39.32	17.13	79	3,579	398	5,501
Everett	79	43	58	6	1.45	4	36.24	14.89	90	2,980	369	4,862
Hanover	80	46	61	7	2.05	4	36.87	14.68	90	3,529	348	5,440
Harrisburg_AP	80	50	63	8	2.24	4	51.99	28.72	80	3,772	508	5,708
South Mountain	76	45	57	5	1.38	4	35.91	14.08	90	2,908	302	4,767
York	80	45	61	6	1.61	4	41.42	17.93	91	3,548	373	5,478
Southeast												
Green Lane	83	48	63	10	1.51	4	41.01	16.50	88	3,555	719	5,483
Hamburg	84	45	61	10	1.71	4	44.55	16.14	94	3,463	892	5,375
West_Chester	84	40	62	7	2.12	4	42.56	15.80	76	3,576	410	5,502
Lancaster	82	45	62	8	1.42	4	39.32	14.54	91	3,657	653	5,584
Neshaminy Falls	82	44	62	8	0.40	3	46.60	18.28	76	3,733	770	5,664
New Holland	84	48	63	9	0.83	4	39.60	14.82	87	3,621	617	5,539
Philadelphia	85	53	67	10	0.55	4	43.17	19.20	71	4,298	822	6,256
Philadelphia NE	85	53	66	9	0.40	4	43.42	19.45	79	4,005	529	5,956
Reading	84	50	63	11	1.11	4	37.87	11.51	90	3,861	918	5,806
Sellersville	83	41	60	7	1.03	4	41.68	17.17	83	3,310	474	5,217
Doylestown_AG	83	48	64	10	0.86	4	47.24	18.92	89	3,718	755	5,658

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

Producers put in some long hours harvesting corn for grain and silage. Harvests continued at the beginning of the week until the rains came again. More rain came on Friday and cooler temperatures over the weekend. Saturday and Sunday were pretty windy but that helped in drying up some of the soil however still too wet for fieldwork. Some corn is sprouting due to excessive moisture. Soybeans were harvested, haylage was made and wrapped, and wheat was seeded where ground conditions were fit. Producers don't know what the future will bring weather wise. The apple harvest continued, with producers having a hard time getting workers to pick their crop this year. More and more of the pickers have chosen to work at other companies, where other benefits can be earned. Because of this, they are choosing not to return to picking fruit on the farms. Stink bugs, rust and scab are also apparent, affecting the apple quality this year. This is causing producers to sell to processing markets instead of fresh markets. Most vegetable crops are done for the year. Overall, the producers are anxious to get their crops harvested, but have to deal with the weather conditions that have made it an interesting year.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

More rain mid week slowed harvest progress. Corn yields continue to be highly variable with varying quality. Soybean harvest has started slowly, but yields have been good thus far. Wheat planting is behind schedule on most farms.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

First three days were good harvesting days, then rain for the rest of the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Rains returned, received 1 & 7/8 inch rainfall, some field work completed early in the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

We are waiting on good weather to start harvesting grain crops. They appear to be less in yield compared to last year. Some folks are spreading lime.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

This week conditions turned wet and harvesting slowed due to muddy fields. Weekend weather was absolutely horrible with intense rains and high winds. Some areas received over 3 inches of year over the weekend.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

More rain again limited field work. Apple harvest is continuing with some quality problems due to cracking. Yields are off considerably due to delay in harvest and some dropping before harvest due to the rains.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Another crappie farming week. My rain gauge was broke this week, but I think we got over an inch of rain. Have not got a frost yet, but most of the corn is matured and the moisture is coming down with all of the wind we have had this past week. The soybeans are doing the same too. Just pray for a frost and dry weather for the next week or two. We did get about 25 round bales of 2nd cut in last week too. Well hope everyone has a safe farming week!

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

The week started with sun or part sun. Farmers were able to continue progress with harvesting corn, soybeans, and making hay. Manure hauling continued. The end of the week brought showers over several days and another 1.5 inches of rain total.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Sunday thru Tuesday saw many fields of hay baled dry and chopped for fall grass silage with Sunday being the best drying day of the eight days of no rain. Grape growers needed those bright sunny days to improve the sugar content before harvest. A local sweet corn grower picked his last sweet grower this week which means winter is around the corner. Sunday thru Tuesday also saw grain drills planting wheat and combines harvesting soybeans all at a fast pace throughout the western PA counties. The last of the pumpkins are being gathered from the patches all to the excitement of children.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola K Pflieger

Another wet week - had 2 inches more of rain. Can't believe I would ever complain about rain since we have had so many droughts in years past.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The soil during the beginning of the week was in a condition where a few field activities could be undertaken; such as, silo filling, seeding winter grain and hay making. A few fields of soybean and corn have been harvested. However, there is some concern with the quality of the soybeans. Later in the week we had over three inches of rain and put a halt to any further activities.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl

The mold damage that has shown up in early harvested soybeans appears to not be a problem in later maturities, so far.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 16, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	42	55	63
Corn, mature	86	95	90
Corn, harvested	23	51	40
Corn silage, harvested	88	98	95
Barley, planted	55	85	83
Barley, emerged	31	59	55
Wheat, planted	33	59	66
Wheat, emerged	12	35	37
Soybeans, harvested	12	38	33
Potatoes, harvested	86	92	93
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	81	91	87
Apples, harvested	88	90	85
Grapes, harvested	95	81	62

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 16, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	13	32	39	11
Soybeans	2	4	24	51	19
Pasture	6	10	26	35	23

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