



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending October 12, 2008

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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: The season's first frost has occurred in Pennsylvania, yet field work steadily continued. A total of 6 days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included making hay, spreading manure and lime, planting barley and wheat, picking apples, as well as harvesting grapes, soybeans, corn, and potatoes. Fall plowing continued and is 67 percent complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 12, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
17	20	62	1

Crops: Corn condition declined slightly throughout last week and is now 71 percent good or excellent, compared to 73% last week. Eight percent of the corn is in poor or very poor condition. The state's corn is 91% mature, and 35% harvested, compared with the five year average of 85% and 41% respectively. Seventy percent of the soybeans were rated as good or excellent, which is the same as last week. The soybean harvest is 32% complete, compared to the 22% average. Winter wheat planting is 61% completed, compared with a 54% average. Winter wheat is 23% emerged, compared with a 28% average. The corn silage harvest is 96% completed, compared to the 91% average. Barley planting is 76% complete, which is the same as average. Forty percent of the barley has emerged, which is 5 points behind the average. The potato harvest is 94% complete, which is the same as average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 89% complete, which is 14 points ahead of the average. The apple harvest is 70% complete, compared with last year's 81% and the average of 79%. The grape harvest is estimated as 70% complete, which is 17 points above the average.

Livestock: Pasture conditions declined slightly as 25% of the state's pastures were estimated as good or excellent condition. This is compared to last week's 28%. Forty-eight percent of the pastures were rated as poor or very poor, compared to last week's 43 percent. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 33% very poor, 15% poor, 27% fair, 24% good, and 1% excellent.

U.S. as of October 5, 2008: Warm weather in the West contrasted with near- to below-normal temperatures across the eastern half of the nation. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10 degrees F above normal across the northern High Plains and the Northwest, promoting the emergence of newly planted winter grains. Late in the week, the season's first significant storm arrived in the West, bearing locally heavy showers that aided pastures, rangeland, and emerging winter wheat. Local rainfall totals in excess of 2 inches were noted in northern California and the Pacific Northwest. Farther east, warm, dry weather across the nation's mid-section favored winter wheat planting and emergence, especially on the High Plains. Dry weather also allowed harvesting of corn to expand northward. Meanwhile,

cool weather accompanied scattered showers in the Midwest. Nevertheless, late-developing summer crops advanced toward maturity, while early-season harvesting of corn and soybeans proceeded. On October 4, a generally light freeze covered much of Wisconsin and Michigan, threatening immature summer crops. At the time of the freeze, however, nearly all of the freeze-affected corn was dented, while most of the soybeans were dropping leaves. Elsewhere, heavy rain subsided early in the week across the Northeast, while mild, dry weather favored early-autumn fieldwork in the Southeast. The exception was southern Florida, where locally heavy showers persisted through week's end.

Early in the week, heavy rain lingered across the Northeast in association with an unnamed storm that had made landfall near Myrtle Beach, SC, on the night of September 25-26. Daily-record rainfall totals for September 28 reached 3.83 inches in Allentown, PA. Later, locally heavy showers lingered across the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. Heavy showers lingered for several more days in southern Florida. Meanwhile, warm weather prevailed in the West in advance of a Pacific storm. On the last day of September, triple-digit, daily-record highs in southern California included 102 degrees F. Late-season heat also affected the south-central U.S. October opened on a hot note in southern California.

Corn: Portions of the central Corn Belt received rainfall during the week, while other areas were mostly dry. Average temperatures ranged between 45 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit, with the warmest temperatures to the south and west, and cooler temperatures to the east. Seventy-three percent of the crop was mature, twenty-two points behind last year and 16 points behind the 5-year average. Producers had harvested 14 percent of the acreage, 25 points behind last year and 16 points behind normal. Condition of the crop was rated 61 percent good to excellent, unchanged from last week.

Soybeans: Average temperatures were slightly below normal in nearly all soybean-producing areas. Little to no rain fell across the growing area, except for portions of the Corn Belt. Producers had harvested 31 percent of the crop by the end of the week, compared with 43 percent last year and 41 percent for the 5-year average. Condition of the crop was rated 57 percent good to excellent, the same as last week.

Winter Wheat: Producers had planted 59 percent of the winter wheat crop, 5 points ahead of last year's pace but 1 point behind the 5-year average. Producers were seeding within 13 points of the normal pace in all states. Emergence was 28 percent complete, which is 3 points ahead of last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 12, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 12, 2008					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	73	44	57	3	0.12	1	21.86	-2.30	81	2,966	400	4,802
Franklin	76	34	53	0	0.36	1	22.99	-3.01	90	2,497	139	4,322
Meadville	74	35	54	3	0.34	1	22.36	-3.75	86	2,495	335	4,321
Mercer	76	33	53	2	0.35	1	23.77	-0.98	93	2,470	134	4,306
Springboro	75	34	52	-3	0.31	1	28.49	5.13	89	2,267	-251	4,062
Warren	76	32	52	-1	0.23	1	24.73	-1.53	87	2,366	88	4,154
North Central												
Bradford Region	72	24	49	1	0.24	1	22.28	-3.86	104	1,758	122	3,444
Emporium	73	30	51	2	0.28	3	20.46	-5.20	96	2,359	496	4,159
Kane	74	26	47	-1	0.38	1	22.99	-3.69	89	1,730	132	3,417
Laporte	67	31	51	-2	0.05	1	27.23	3.08	94	2,064	-265	3,818
Lock Haven	74	33	54	2	0.03	1	19.16	-4.57	80	2,733	255	4,596
Port Allegany	75	28	50	0	0.13	1	18.32	-6.54	90	1,949	139	3,684
Renovo	75	33	53	1	0.02	1	19.20	-4.53	77	2,650	172	4,503
Ridgway	75	28	50	0	0.21	1	21.09	-4.70	88	1,963	100	3,713
Stevenson Dam	74	33	52	4	0.16	1	18.18	-7.61	81	2,476	613	4,295
Towanda	74	30	51	-2	0.02	1	23.20	3.12	83	2,433	86	4,240
Wellsboro	71	27	49	-1	0.07	1	20.38	0.12	90	1,907	155	3,628
Williamsport	75	33	55	2	0.00	0	24.05	0.63	80	2,985	252	4,871
Northeast												
Hawley	72	30	51	0	0.04	1	24.17	1.41	76	2,236	231	4,007
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	73	33	55	2	0.01	1	20.57	-1.55	76	2,784	193	4,621
Susquehanna	72	31	51	2	0.12	2	23.97	-0.40	90	2,322	426	4,122
West Central												
Butler	77	33	53	0	0.50	1	18.92	-5.55	98	2,426	-22	4,275
New Castle	80	35	56	4	0.53	1	21.30	-1.22	88	2,870	417	4,746
Slippery Rock	79	33	55	4	0.55	1	24.38	0.41	80	2,489	291	4,366
Central												
Altoona/Blair	73	32	54	1	0.00	0	19.96	-1.49	88	2,656	54	4,503
DuBois	74	32	54	3	0.37	1	21.85	-2.77	95	2,343	102	4,135
Lewistown	76	34	54	-1	0.01	1	24.40	1.40	77	2,868	9	4,727
Middletown	77	40	58	2	0.00	0	23.33	0.43	65	3,455	220	5,359
Prince Gallitzi	71	31	50	-2	0.08	1	23.42	-4.14	81	2,184	92	3,986
Selinsgrove	77	33	53	0	0.00	0	22.51	-1.47	74	2,772	108	4,626
State College	71	36	54	2	0.06	1	21.87	0.20	74	2,808	250	4,670
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	75	33	55	0	0.00	0	25.72	0.77	65	3,024	71	4,892
Lehighton	73	35	53	-3	0.05	2	23.45	-1.46	77	2,702	-141	4,550
Matamoras	75	34	53	-1	0.09	2	23.40	-1.72	84	2,520	-39	4,330
Mt_Pocono	69	29	51	3	0.07	1	24.20	-2.70	86	2,117	390	3,870
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	77	39	58	5	0.26	2	19.60	-3.16	81	3,051	427	4,945
Derry	75	35	54	2	0.21	1	26.48	2.81	93	2,584	108	4,448
Myersdale	77	29	52	-2	0.03	1	26.82	0.94	84	1,943	-501	3,721
Mount Pleasant	78	31	53	2	0.33	1	24.51	-2.47	83	2,550	338	4,426
Pittsburgh Intl	76	39	57	3	0.36	1	21.10	-0.19	78	2,980	233	4,871
Connellsville	78	39	57	4	0.30	1	27.73	2.67	90	2,944	143	4,837
Waynesburg	79	34	55	3	0.40	1	24.86	1.73	76	2,634	93	4,514
South Central												
Biglerville	76	38	56	-1	0.00	0	28.25	6.47	67	3,119	-44	5,002
Everett	78	30	53	-1	0.02	1	24.77	3.79	75	2,458	-141	4,294
Hanover	78	34	56	-1	0.00	0	28.00	6.22	72	3,078	-85	4,956
Harrisburg_AP	78	36	57	1	0.00	0	20.20	-2.70	55	3,360	115	5,267
South Mountain	74	34	53	-1	0.01	1	32.57	11.12	84	2,451	-143	4,278
York	78	33	56	-2	0.00	0	30.36	7.25	73	3,105	-51	5,004
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	37	56	2	0.01	1	27.52	3.37	74	3,164	342	5,054
Hamburg	76	38	56	4	0.02	1	20.42	-7.55	72	3,174	614	5,064
West_Chester	78	34	55	-2	0.08	1	23.44	-2.90	60	3,067	-81	4,944
Lancaster	76	36	57	2	0.00	0	23.67	-0.73	64	3,088	100	4,971
Neshaminy Falls	76	35	57	3	0.09	1	23.32	-4.59	61	3,160	213	5,052
New Holland	79	39	59	4	0.00	0	24.50	0.10	64	3,263	275	5,153
Philadelphia	77	44	61	3	0.05	1	19.60	-4.01	58	3,843	389	5,768
Philadelphia NE	77	41	61	3	0.03	1	19.89	-3.72	63	3,954	500	5,882
Reading	77	35	57	3	0.00	0	20.02	-5.95	69	3,325	396	5,217
Valley Forge Na	76	38	57	-2	0.06	1	27.03	1.68	68	3,079	-255	4,977
Willow Grove	75	38	58	4	0.05	1	23.12	-4.79	68	3,404	457	5,308

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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Internet 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 (FSA) - Adams County had a nice week of weather that started off in the 60's. We had frost on Tuesday morning. Wednesday and Thursday had daytime temperatures in the 60's, with Friday through Monday's highs into the 70's. Morning temperatures were in the high 40's most days. Corn silage continues to be harvested. Corn for grain and soybeans are also being harvested. Hay, taking a long time to dry out, and haylage were made last week. Barley seeding is complete with ½ emerged. After corn or soybeans are harvested, the wheat continues to be seeded. Some corn and soybeans that were planted late are still green. Unless we get a killing frost, we are still hoping for a nice crop off of these. Apples continue to be harvested. The quality issues caused by the wet spring weather are apparent. Apples are of nice size and quantity. Most pumpkins are now harvested, while other vegetable harvests are completed. Overall the county producers are very busy in the fields with their multiple tasks. With the great weather conditions the past two weekends, the Upper Adams area had a lot of visitors to The National Apple Harvest Festival.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - The apple harvest continues in full swing in south-central PA. Ideal temperatures have made for better than average color on red varieties. The Red and Golden Delicious harvest is mostly complete with Romes, Yorks, and Fuji harvest now occurring.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Corn harvest is progressing nicely with cooperative weather. Yields are highly variable. The soybean harvest has started. Wheat is being planted. Soil moisture is good, but we'll need a shower soon to help the wheat germinate. Many farmers are very concerned with the recent drop in commodity prices, especially with the high input costs forecast for next year.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Harvesting corn silage followed by planting cover crops were the main activities of the week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Last week had nice fall weather, with lots of work completed in the fields.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The killer frost arrived on Sunday. Most farmers have above normal quantity of feed and quality. Manure storage systems are being emptied and getting ready for winter.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - A mild and dry week allowed for continued fall harvest of corn, soybeans, and apples. Winter wheat planting is continuing, while barley planting is nearly finished. Corn harvest includes some shelled corn for drying as well as high moisture ear corn. Yields are less than normal in most areas of the county.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Frost has occurred in some areas, but most of the county's frost sensitive vegetables were not significantly damaged. It has been an excellent week for all aspects of harvesting and marketing.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - It was a very good week for field work. Farmers were very busy making the last cutting of hay, liming fields, planting small grain, attending fairs, and harvesting corn and soybeans.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - The bulk of the corn is only now at desirable moisture contents. Expect the mills to be very busy receiving corn and soybeans this week. Many producers are also taking a last cut of alfalfa.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA) - Corn silage yields are above normal and most silage has been harvested. Some nice fourth cutting hay was harvested this past weekend.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The low temperatures at the beginning of the week ranged from 28 to 34 degrees. This put an end to the growing season. The corn silage harvest is nearing an end, while the corn and soybean harvest is beginning. The fall seeded grain is looking good; however, there are weed seedlings beginning to show up. The main activities for the week were grain sowing, harvesting of corn and soybeans, and hay making.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Some nice later cutting alfalfa is being baled. Because of the late planting and early-season wet conditions, the corn and soybeans are slow to mature and dry down

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 12, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	67	63	61
Corn, mature	91	90	85
Corn, harvested	35	38	41
Corn silage, harvested	96	96	91
Barley, planted	76	69	76
Barley, emerged	40	46	45
Wheat, planted	61	61	54
Wheat, emerged	23	35	28
Soybeans, harvested	32	31	22
Potatoes, harvested	94	93	94
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	89	80	75
Apples, harvested	70	81	79
Grapes, harvested	70	50	53

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 12, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	8	21	49	22
Soybeans	0	5	25	58	12
Pasture	33	15	27	24	1

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