



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending November 2, 2008

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Fair week for Field Work: Preparing for winter is on the minds of many farmers due to the snow and freezing conditions throughout Pennsylvania last week. A total of 4 days were suitable for field work last week. Principal farm activities included spreading manure and lime, planting barley and wheat, picking apples, as well as harvesting grapes, soybeans, and corn. Farmers also conducted post harvest activities such as equipment maintenance, building repairs, and preparing for winter. Fall plowing continued and is 83 percent complete.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending November 2, 2008

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
9	17	71	3

Crops: The state's corn harvest is advancing nicely and is now 70% harvested, compared with the five year average of 64%. The soybean harvest remains ahead of schedule at 65% complete, compared to the 55% average. Winter wheat condition declined, as 74% was rated good or excellent, compared to the previous week's 82%. Winter wheat progress is also ahead of normal, as planting is 92% completed, compared with an 87% average. Winter wheat is 78% emerged, compared with a 66% average. Barley planting nears completion estimated at 95% complete, compared with the average of 96%. Eighty-four percent of the barley has emerged, which is 5 points behind the average. The apple harvest is almost complete at 97%, compared with last year's 94% and the average of 94%. The grape harvest is estimated as 85% complete, which is 7 percentage points behind average.

Livestock: Supplemental feed use was reported last week because of the poor pasture conditions. Pasture conditions declined again, as 41% of the state's pastures were estimated as poor or very poor. This is compared to the previous report of 32%. Overall, the state's pasture condition was estimated as follows: 27% very poor, 14% poor, 30% fair, 24% good, and 5% excellent.

U.S. as of October 26, 2008: A slow-moving storm produced widespread showers from the northern and central Plains to the East Coast. In addition, wind-driven snow briefly blanketed parts of the central Plains. The precipitation aided winter grains but slowed or temporarily halted harvest activities. Showers were especially beneficial for newly planted or emerging winter wheat

in drought-affected areas of the Ohio Valley and the Southeast. However, scattered locations from western Florida to coastal South Carolina experienced local flooding due to late-week rainfall totals in excess of 4 inches. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather promoted autumn fieldwork in Texas and throughout the West. Mid- to late-week warmth accompanied the dryness, allowing Northwestern winter grain planting to near completion. However, dry conditions remained a concern with respect to Northwestern wheat establishment. Weekly temperatures ranged from more than 5 degrees F below normal across much of the South and East to slightly above normal in California and the Desert Southwest. On October 23-24, freezes struck afar south as the southern High Plains, helping to defoliate mature cotton but threatening harm to the portion of the crop on which bolls had not yet begun to open. Early in the week, cold weather prevailed in the Northeast. Meanwhile, a developing storm across the nation's mid-section brought another round of heavy precipitation. As a result, October precipitation records were broken. On October 25, daily-record totals included 3.35 inches in Mt. Pocono, PA.

Corn: Areas of the western and central Corn Belt received patchy rainfall amounting of up to 5 inches in isolated areas. Temperatures across the region ranged between 45 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Ninety-six percent of the corn crop was mature, 4 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. The crop was within 6 points of full development in most states. Producers had harvested 39 percent of the crop, 31 points behind last year and 27 points behind the 5-year average. Condition of the corn crop improved 2 points from last week, reaching 64 percent good to excellent.

Soybeans: Average temperatures in soybean-growing areas ranged from as low as 35 degrees in the Dakotas to as warm as 60 degrees along the Mississippi River. Producers had harvested 76 percent of the soybean acreage, 5 points behind last year, and 7 points behind the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Planting of winter wheat was complete on 84 percent of the acreage, 2 points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-nine percent of the crop had emerged, 3 points ahead of last year, but the same as the 5-year average. The winter wheat crop was rated 65 percent good to excellent.

Weather Data For Week Ending November 2, 2008

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - November 2, 2008						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	70	32	48	-2	0.66	4	24.05	-2.65	89	3,060	424	5,051	
Franklin	65	29	42	-4	0.59	4	24.94	-3.23	99	2,544	140	4,465	
Meadville	64	30	42	-3	0.90	3	24.90	-3.72	95	2,556	356	4,498	
Mercer	65	28	42	-4	0.55	4	25.82	-0.93	103	2,526	146	4,474	
Springboro	66	28	42	-6	1.23	4	31.26	5.54	99	2,314	-264	4,208	
Warren	65	30	42	-4	0.31	4	26.36	-2.24	95	2,401	82	4,288	
North Central													
Bradford Region	59	21	39	-3	0.19	3	24.31	-4.00	112	1,796	141	3,568	
Emporium	64	26	41	-3	0.45	4	22.61	-5.16	106	2,399	514	4,289	
Kane	62	23	38	-4	0.57	4	25.50	-3.52	100	1,760	146	3,519	
Laporte	55	25	39	-6	1.54	3	31.40	5.13	102	2,103	-269	3,934	
Lock Haven	68	28	45	-2	0.13	2	20.47	-5.26	86	2,791	266	4,772	
Port Allegany	64	25	39	-4	0.33	4	20.30	-6.75	101	1,986	150	3,797	
Renovo	67	28	44	-3	0.19	3	20.80	-4.93	87	2,705	180	4,673	
Ridgway	63	24	40	-4	0.96	4	23.76	-4.14	99	1,996	111	3,821	
Stevenson Dam	67	26	43	-1	0.12	3	19.94	-7.96	89	2,528	643	4,454	
Towanda	65	27	41	-4	1.22	2	26.14	4.29	89	2,477	84	4,377	
Wellsboro	64	26	40	-4	0.50	3	22.68	0.67	99	1,950	170	3,743	
Williamsport	67	29	46	-2	0.28	3	26.37	0.64	88	3,053	268	5,074	
Northeast													
Hawley	61	23	39	-6	1.67	2	27.23	2.45	81	2,275	237	4,129	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	61	28	43	-4	1.30	2	23.08	-0.94	83	2,843	203	4,800	
Susquehanna	63	26	40	-3	1.87	3	28.01	1.28	98	2,359	436	4,247	
West Central													
Butler	65	27	43	-4	0.34	4	20.68	-5.71	109	2,478	-17	4,430	
New Castle	72	28	44	-2	0.33	3	22.41	-1.88	97	2,933	434	4,942	
Slippery Rock	65	29	44	-2	0.50	3	26.03	0.05	89	2,545	307	4,549	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	67	30	45	-2	0.05	2	20.79	-2.58	94	2,733	76	4,703	
DuBois	62	26	42	-3	0.33	4	23.94	-2.62	106	2,402	125	4,304	
Lewistown	69	27	46	-3	0.18	2	26.03	0.97	83	2,928	8	4,916	
Middletown	70	31	47	-4	0.30	2	25.23	0.32	69	3,541	227	5,606	
Prince Gallitzi	61	23	37	-9	0.37	3	24.69	-5.10	88	2,215	86	4,092	
Selinsgrove	67	28	44	-3	0.62	3	24.91	-1.18	79	2,826	113	4,800	
State College	65	31	45	-2	0.06	1	23.44	-0.17	79	2,874	269	4,862	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	64	26	43	-6	1.41	2	28.62	1.63	70	3,090	67	5,094	
Lehighton	65	28	43	-6	1.59	2	27.00	-0.06	81	2,748	-164	4,705	
Matamoras	63	28	41	-6	2.07	2	27.83	0.57	90	2,557	-51	4,465	
Mt_Pocono	63	26	40	-2	1.23	2	28.53	-0.91	91	2,163	418	4,019	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	67	30	45	-2	0.26	4	21.08	-3.54	90	3,147	465	5,178	
Derry	66	27	43	-4	0.43	4	28.01	2.50	103	2,639	113	4,612	
Myersdale	66	23	41	-6	0.25	3	27.63	-0.29	91	1,981	-510	3,853	
Mount Pleasant	67	24	43	-2	0.07	2	25.77	-3.39	89	2,607	354	4,592	
Pittsburgh Intl	66	27	45	-3	0.31	4	22.58	-0.30	87	3,070	261	5,095	
Connellsville	68	26	44	-5	0.27	3	29.14	2.16	98	3,019	152	5,042	
Waynesburg	71	24	43	-4	0.22	2	26.25	1.36	81	2,700	113	4,686	
South Central													
Biglerville	71	30	46	-4	0.20	1	30.14	6.32	71	3,197	-43	5,223	
Everett	73	24	45	-2	0.03	1	25.81	2.81	78	2,515	-136	4,458	
Hanover	72	28	46	-4	0.29	2	29.82	6.00	77	3,148	-92	5,159	
Harrisburg_AP	70	30	48	-3	0.34	2	22.60	-2.31	59	3,451	127	5,516	
South Mountain	68	30	43	-5	0.08	1	34.35	10.98	87	2,503	-144	4,436	
York	72	26	46	-5	0.38	2	32.03	6.83	77	3,179	-60	5,212	
Southeast													
Green Lane	67	29	45	-4	1.61	4	29.97	3.81	80	3,234	353	5,265	
Hamburg	67	29	44	-2	1.49	3	23.76	-6.70	77	3,240	637	5,264	
West_Chester	73	27	45	-6	1.37	2	26.02	-2.49	64	3,139	-86	5,150	
Lancaster	69	29	46	-4	0.80	2	25.75	-0.70	68	3,167	112	5,198	
Neshaminy Falls	67	25	44	-6	1.97	2	26.30	-3.74	64	3,226	214	5,252	
New Holland	72	32	47	-2	1.16	2	26.66	0.21	67	3,355	300	5,400	
Philadelphia	71	36	49	-3	0.79	2	21.11	-4.29	63	3,973	419	6,079	
Philadelphia NE	71	33	50	-3	1.62	2	22.25	-3.15	66	4,083	529	6,191	
Reading	67	30	46	-3	0.95	2	22.17	-5.88	74	3,410	420	5,456	
Valley Forge Na	68	30	46	-6	1.40	2	29.68	2.32	72	3,155	-272	5,201	
Willow Grove	68	32	47	-2	1.78	3	25.65	-4.39	72	3,498	486	5,560	

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. Monday started out with cold temperatures in the 30's, with frost. Tuesday and Wednesday had some rain and very windy conditions with daytime temps only in the 40's. Thursday was sunny and in the 50's. Friday morning was in the 30's, with sunny conditions into the 60's during the daytime. Saturday morning was warmer and sunny into the 70's. Sunday was in the 60's, but cloudy. Corn and soybeans continue to be harvested. There is still a fair amount left to harvest. The corn silage harvest also continues. Some corn got frosted the other week and is still a little green. Wheat seeding continues after corn and soybeans are harvested. Barley and early sown wheat look ok for now. Some haylage is still being made in the county. The apple harvest continued, with the majority of the producers within a week of completion. Wet weather during the spring, and summer hailstorms led to quality issues. Fall weather conditions have been good for harvesting apples. Overall, Adams County producers are busy harvesting their crops before the weather changes occur.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Apple harvest is virtually complete with growers now transitioning from harvest to other fall tasks.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Two inches of rain last week kept some of the combines sidelined, but the no-tillers barely skipped a beat. The corn and soybean harvest continues. There was a lot of deer damage observed. Corn yields are highly variable. Wheat looks good, but the migrant geese have arrived and are causing serious damage to many small grain stands.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Harvesting corn and soybeans were the main activities last week. The weekend weather was beautiful, and perfect for harvesting corn and soybeans. Snow fell in Cambria County on Wednesday, with as much as 5 inches in some areas. Other areas reported 2 to 3 inches.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - The cool weather tells us we are nearing winter. There was ½ inch of rain in my gauge for the week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - At least 6 inches of snow hit parts of Crawford County on Wednesday and continued into Thursday. This brought thoughts of winter to everyone's minds. Needless to say, the weather put a halt to harvesting corn and beans. The weekend started to dry out, with the temperatures hitting the 60's. This should get the combines rolling again. Pasture conditions are declining rapidly, with most producers offering supplemental feed.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Corn and soybean yields are well above previous years. Many acres of corn are yet to be shelled, and soybeans are pretty much harvested. Activities for the week were fall manure spreading and getting ready for the winter.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Windy weather happened last week, but this did not hinder field work. Corn yields are still coming in as average. Most of the soybean producers are finished harvesting, or will be by the end of this week, with yields less than optimal. Apples will be finished this week. Frost and freezing temperatures put an end to the hay making.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) Harvesting crops, planting small grains, liming fields, and hauling manure were some of the activities in Lancaster County last week. Some farmers are green chopping oats, while others are still planning to plant cover crops. This shows how variable the crop dry down has been this fall. This is probably a result of how wide the planting window was this past spring.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - The cool and damp weather during the last couple of weeks has seen the harvest drag out this year.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The rains from last Saturday, along with the rain and snow showers early in the week, slowed the field work dramatically. The wheat and barley look good at this point. Limited corn harvest and mowing late hay or haylage were the main activities for the few days that it was suitable to work in the fields.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Favorable harvest conditions are continuing with seasonable temperatures and no significant rainfall. Even some late-season alfalfa is being harvested. Early in the week, some snow accumulated on grassy areas.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - Very dry conditions continue. Unseasonably warm weather occurred last week allowing for good progression of corn and soybean harvests. Recent rain during the previous week combined with warm conditions allowed small grain growth to improve.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending November 2, 2008

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	83	77	76
Corn, harvested	70	62	64
Barley, planted	95	96	96
Barley, emerged	84	84	89
Wheat, planted	92	90	87
Wheat, emerged	78	73	66
Soybeans, harvested	65	66	55
Apples, harvested	97	94	94
Grapes, harvested	85	85	92

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending November 2, 2008

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	1	24	64	10
Pasture	27	14	30	24	5

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