



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 6, 2009

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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 a total of 7 days suitable for field work. Last week's weather was definitely appropriate for field work. Primary field activities were: harvesting potatoes, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, and making hay. Fall plowing continues, and is 12% completed, behind last year's 18%, and the five year average of 23%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 6, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	14	81	2

Crop Progress: Seventy-seven percent of corn has reached the dough stage, behind last year's 89% estimate of and the five year average of 91%. Forty-five percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind 60% last year, and the average of 67%. Six percent of the corn is mature, which is behind 24% last year, and the average of 26%. Nineteen percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate of 40% and the average of 36%. Tobacco harvesting is 65% harvested. This is compared to last year's 74% and the average of 68%. Potatoes are 48% harvested, ahead of last year's 35% and the average of 31%. Third cutting alfalfa is 91% completed, behind last year's 99%, and the average of 92%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 31% completed. This is behind last year's 51%, and the average of 34%. Ninety-four percent of the second cutting of timothy clover is completed, which is behind last year's 95%, yet ahead of the average of 87%. Ninety-two percent of the peach crop has been harvested, which is equal to last year's estimate and the average. Thirty-three percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 32%, and behind the average of 36%.

Crop Condition: The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 14% fair, 49% good and 31% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 0% very poor, 3% poor, 13% fair, 52% good, and 32% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 45% good, and 36% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 3% very poor, 8% poor, 20% fair, 56% good and 13% excellent. The apple conditions are at 0% very poor, 0% poor, 0% fair, 62% good and 38% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 31, 2009: At week's end, locally heavy showers lingered from the Great Lakes region into the Northeast. Above average temperatures combined with a

week of little to no rainfall promoted fieldwork and summer crop development across much of country west of the Great Plains. On the southern Plains, producers began field preparations for winter wheat seeding as ideal conditions prevailed. Below average temperatures and wet weather remained throughout much of the Corn Belt, yet crop development remained active for most summer crops. Tropical Storm Danny brought precipitation to much of the Atlantic Coast, dumping between 2 and 4 inches of rainfall in several areas from Maryland northward. **Corn:** Acreage at or beyond the dough stage reached 75 percent by week's end, 6 points behind last year and 13 points behind the 5-year average. Development to the dough stage was active across much of the growing region where cooler temperatures and readily available soil moisture continued to provide nearly ideal conditions. Nationally, acreage at or beyond the dent stage advanced to 32 percent complete, 10 points behind last year and 28 points behind the average. Progress to the dent stage was behind normal in all estimating States except Colorado and North Carolina. Lags of 33 points or more were evident in the Dakotas, Illinois, Indiana, and Minnesota. Acreage mature, at 5 percent, was 1 point behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. The crop was most mature in North Carolina and Texas. Overall, 69 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but an 8 point improvement from last year. **Soybeans:** Ninety-three percent of the 2009 soybean acreage was at or beyond the pod setting stage, on par with last year but 3 points behind the 5-year average. Pod development remained active across the major soybean-producing regions of the country despite below average temperatures. Leaf drop had occurred on 3 percent of the Nation's soybean acreage by August 30, one point behind last year and 5 points behind the average. Leaf drop was most advanced on acreage in the Delta; however, progress in Mississippi was 34 points behind normal. Overall, 69 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from a week ago but 8 points better than last year. **Small Grains:** Mostly dry weather in the Pacific Northwest and on the Plains allowed ample time for small grain harvest. Producers harvested 13 percent of their **oat** crop during the week, leaving progress, at 85 percent, 11 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Harvest was most active in North Dakota; however, progress remained 44 points behind normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 6, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 6, 2009						
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
Northwest													
Erie	75	47	62	-7	0.25	1	18.51	-0.65	71	2,150	-2	3,601	
Franklin	79	43	61	-6	0.04	1	24.33	2.64	74	2,044	22	3,489	
Meadville	76	44	61	-5	0.08	1	20.01	-1.56	75	1,995	142	3,432	
Mercer	78	42	60	-6	0.06	1	22.02	1.48	78	2,026	25	3,473	
Springboro	78	39	58	-10	0.15	1	19.89	0.95	75	1,794	-338	3,204	
Warren	80	42	62	-4	0.05	1	24.03	2.37	68	1,888	-77	3,314	
North Central													
Bradford Region	74	34	55	-6	0.09	1	23.72	2.03	77	1,440	-2	2,806	
Oswayo	79	38	58	-4	0.11	1	22.93	2.49	79	1,510	-77	2,884	
Kane	76	35	56	-5	0.06	1	27.21	5.19	74	1,424	9	2,786	
Laporte	73	42	59	-7	0.01	1	27.22	7.26	84	1,682	-334	3,096	
Lock Haven	81	47	63	-4	0.00	0	23.07	3.36	68	2,256	125	3,733	
Port Allegany	77	43	59	-3	0.05	1	21.63	1.19	72	1,624	37	3,016	
Renovo	81	46	63	-4	0.00	0	18.63	-1.08	74	2,141	10	3,609	
Ridgway	78	40	58	-5	0.02	1	21.69	-0.01	71	1,643	25	3,027	
Stevenson Dam	81	45	62	0	0.00	0	17.94	-3.76	68	2,035	417	3,479	
Towanda	80	44	62	-4	0.00	0	21.99	5.42	71	2,045	13	3,498	
Wellsboro	76	40	58	-4	0.00	0	22.18	5.55	74	1,551	20	2,942	
Williamsport	82	48	65	-3	0.00	0	21.42	1.98	70	2,527	178	4,051	
Northeast													
Hawley	80	47	63	0	0.03	1	27.03	8.12	68	1,861	117	3,295	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	42	63	-4	0.00	0	21.28	2.91	69	2,300	69	3,799	
Susquehanna	78	44	62	0	0.19	1	25.56	5.33	80	1,922	260	3,357	
West Central													
Butler	80	43	60	-7	0.04	1	21.45	0.82	78	1,995	-98	3,446	
New Castle	82	45	63	-4	0.00	0	18.77	0.10	69	2,287	194	3,756	
Slippery Rock	80	42	61	-4	0.04	1	21.81	1.75	72	2,087	199	3,537	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	79	44	61	-6	0.01	1	16.79	-1.04	74	2,170	-63	3,640	
DuBois	78	41	60	-4	0.02	1	23.51	2.81	81	1,937	-4	3,369	
Lewistown	83	45	63	-6	0.00	0	22.38	3.11	72	2,362	-84	3,855	
Middletown	82	52	67	-4	0.00	0	24.86	5.89	73	2,826	70	4,362	
Prince Gallitzi	80	39	58	-6	0.00	0	18.62	-4.37	73	1,815	17	3,217	
Selinsgrove	80	47	63	-4	0.00	0	23.97	4.18	61	2,298	5	3,775	
State College	78	46	62	-5	0.00	0	19.75	1.72	75	2,265	56	3,745	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	82	46	65	-4	0.00	0	25.03	4.30	68	2,495	-30	3,998	
Lehighton	78	46	61	-8	0.00	0	30.12	9.55	73	2,169	-273	3,651	
Matamoras	81	45	63	-3	0.00	0	22.77	1.92	61	2,041	-170	3,491	
Mt_Pocono	76	44	61	0	0.00	0	27.13	5.05	83	1,883	353	3,308	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	49	64	-3	0.00	0	16.85	-2.26	76	2,527	286	4,039	
Indiana_PA	79	45	61	-7	0.00	0	10.30	-11.94	57	2,160	-6	3,617	
Myersdale	79	36	57	-10	0.00	0	21.59	-0.06	75	1,652	-429	3,032	
Mount Pleasant	78	42	60	-6	0.00	0	23.56	0.91	75	2,208	317	3,685	
Pittsburgh Intl	81	48	63	-5	0.00	0	17.81	-0.21	70	2,522	178	4,030	
Connellsville	83	46	64	-5	0.00	0	24.17	2.87	78	2,426	41	3,931	
Waynesburg	81	42	61	-7	0.00	0	18.80	-1.00	76	2,182	7	3,664	
South Central													
Biglerville	81	49	65	-6	0.00	0	25.16	7.43	72	2,593	-98	4,100	
Everett	81	41	61	-7	0.00	0	20.31	2.91	70	2,111	-108	3,508	
Hanover	82	46	64	-7	0.00	0	23.72	5.99	67	2,610	-81	4,125	
Harrisburg_AP	83	48	66	-6	0.00	0	23.31	4.34	74	2,779	16	4,313	
South Mountain	78	42	60	-7	0.00	0	26.56	8.73	76	2,047	-179	3,509	
York	83	46	64	-7	0.01	1	21.19	1.92	65	2,595	-83	4,106	
Southeast													
Green Lane	83	50	66	-2	0.00	0	29.26	9.13	74	2,576	165	4,084	
Hamburg	82	50	65	-2	0.00	0	33.39	10.15	77	2,536	323	4,052	
West_Chester	85	48	67	-4	0.00	0	26.34	4.57	70	2,602	-67	4,093	
Lancaster	81	49	65	-4	0.00	0	22.10	1.75	70	2,649	101	4,156	
Neshaminy Falls	84	50	67	-3	0.00	0	28.09	4.68	67	2,658	139	4,169	
New Holland	82	50	66	-4	0.00	0	25.20	4.85	70	2,649	101	4,165	
Philadelphia	85	57	72	-1	0.00	0	27.12	7.21	72	3,164	253	4,720	
Philadelphia NE	84	53	69	-4	0.00	0	23.27	3.36	73	2,861	-50	4,396	
Reading	83	49	66	-4	0.01	1	25.35	3.68	75	2,763	257	4,285	
Sellersville	83	48	65	-4	0.00	0	28.54	8.41	71	2,400	-11	3,893	
Willow Grove	82	51	67	-3	0.00	0	44.16	20.75	71	2,746	227	4,269	

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 nice week of weather. Most morning temperatures were in the 50's with some mornings dipping into the 40's. Daytime temperatures were in the 70's and sunny most days and no humidity. Corn and soybeans continue to grow. Corn silage harvest will soon be started in the next week. Corn is still at different maturity levels within fields due to wet weather earlier this year. Field preparations are being made for small grain seedings. Hay continues to be baled. Peaches and apples continue to be harvested. A good crop is being reported. Some scab due to earlier wet weather is apparent in the apples. Some hail marks from earlier hail storms in the county will affect quality. Sweet corn continues to be harvested. Other vegetables continue to do well this year. Overall, the crops are doing well in Adams County. Producers are busy working in the fields with the nice weather we've been having. Farmers are also preparing equipment for the fall harvest season.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Peach harvest is almost complete. Apple harvest is beginning with Gala harvest to be completed shortly. Early volumes have exceeded estimates as fruit size has been much better than normal. Soil moisture is okay with the last significant rains on Aug. 28th. Recent weather has been favorable for apple color and maturity development. The bright sunny days coupled with cool overnight temperatures are conducive to good quality apples.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Lisa Shanks - It was a great week for field work!

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for field work.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - The weather this past week was great. Many acres of third and fourth crop hay were harvested. The hay was good quality. Corn and soybean crops are shaping up for a decent yield. Many silage growers are getting ready to start harvesting next week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Last week was an excellent week for field work, finally a week of sunshine! Most producers were taking advantage of the good weather to finish haymaking.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - No rain this week allowed growers to get into fields for corn silage harvest and hay making. Silage tonnage is really mounting up quickly. It appears that there will be ample feed for the coming year. There will be more than normal corn harvested for grain this year. Peach harvest is over and growers were pleased with yield, quality, and price.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - It was a great week to make hay.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Last week was the best week of the summer for making hay. There were outstanding hay yields on those fields that had been topdressed after the last cutting.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor - Last week was the first week without rain. This was a blessing this year, but not in a normal year.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - It was a very good week for many field activities. Hay making, silo filling, spreading lime and seeding alfalfa were the main activities. The sunny and warm temperatures are causing the soybeans to show signs of maturing with the leaves beginning to turn yellow and the corn to denting.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Last week was the first week for 2009 with no rain. A lot of acres of hay were harvested last week, and some early silage was chopped.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Dry conditions all week made for the best hay making week of the season. Some excellent late-season forage was harvested. For the first time in months, growing crops are in need of rain.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 6, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	12	18	23
Corn, dough	77	89	91
Corn, dent	45	60	67
Corn, mature	6	24	26
Corn silage, harvested	19	40	36
Tobacco, harvested	65	74	68
Potatoes, harvested	48	35	31
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	91	99	92
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	31	51	34
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	94	95	87
Peaches, harvested	92	92	92
Apples, harvested	33	32	36

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 6, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	5	14	49	31
Soybeans	0	3	13	52	32
Quality of hay made	1	2	16	45	36
Pasture	3	8	20	56	13
Apples	0	0	0	62	38

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