



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending September 13, 2009

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Last week's weather was overall good, with the exception of a few rainy days. Primary field activities were: harvesting potatoes, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, and making hay. Fall plowing continues, and is 22% completed, behind last year's 23%, and the five year average of 28%.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 13, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
2	14	75	9

**Crop Progress:** Eighty-six percent of corn has reached the dough stage, behind last year's estimate of 93% and the five year average of 95%. Fifty-six percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind 69% last year, and the average of 78%. Eleven percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's 31%, and the average of 38%. Thirty-one percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate of 53% and the average of 55%. Barley planting has started and is now 8% completed. This is behind last year's 15% and the 16% average. Tobacco harvesting is 76% harvested. This is trailing last year's 85% and the average of 84%. Potatoes are 56% harvested, ahead of last year's 40% and the average of 42%. Third cutting alfalfa is 92% completed, behind last year's 100%, and the average of 95%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 34% completed. This is behind last year's 61%, and the average of 43%. Ninety-five percent of the second cutting of timothy clover is completed, which is behind last year's 99%, yet ahead of the average of 91%. Ninety-eight percent of the peach crop has been harvested, which is ahead of last year's estimate of 97% and the 96% average. Thirty-eight percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 35%, and behind the average of 41%.

**Crop Condition:** The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 53% good and 29% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 3% poor, 18% fair, 50% good, and 29% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 44% good, and 24% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 2% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 49% good and 19% excellent. The apple conditions are at 55% good and 45% excellent.

**Nationwide as of September 6, 2009:** Scattered showers developed in the Southwest, which has experienced a sub-par monsoon season, and the Pacific Northwest, which endured an unusually warm, dry summer. Elsewhere west of the Rockies, warmth promoted crop development and fieldwork, including

Northwestern small grain harvesting and planting activities. Farther east, scattered showers and thunderstorms slowed fieldwork but maintained generally favorable soil moisture levels from the central and southern Plains into the Southeast. In contrast, mostly dry weather prevailed from the northern Plains into the Northeast, although showers spread into the Midwest as far north and east as the middle Missouri and Mississippi Valleys. Growing conditions remained cool, but otherwise nearly ideal for the Midwest's developmentally delayed corn and soybeans. Weekly temperatures averaged as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit below normal from the east-central Plains into the central Corn Belt, while readings averaged at least 5 degrees Fahrenheit above normal across the northern High Plains and parts of the West. Early in the week, cool air settled across most areas east of the Rockies. Eastern records for September 1 dipped to 34 degrees Fahrenheit in Bradford, Pennsylvania. Later, daily-record warmth arrived in parts of the West. Locally heavy showers were also scattered across the south-central U.S. and from the east central Plains into the middle Mississippi Valley. Late in the week, a cold front triggered showers in the Pacific Northwest. **Corn:** Eighty-six percent of the Nation's corn acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 90 percent last year and 94 percent for the 5-year average. Acreage in the dent stage advanced 18 points during the week, leaving progress, at 50 percent, 9 points behind last year and 25 points, or over 1 week, behind normal. A week of mostly dry weather in the western and northern Corn Belt allowed fields to dry out and phenological development to progress rapidly. Eight percent of the corn acreage had reached maturity, 2 points behind last year and 15 points behind the average. Following developmental delays earlier in the growing season, maturation was behind normal in all estimating States except Colorado and North Carolina. Overall, 69 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but up 8 points from last year. **Soybeans:** Pod set was nearly complete, with 97 percent of this year's soybean acreage at or beyond the stage by September 6, one point ahead of last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Leaves had dropped in 7 percent of the soybean fields, 2 points behind last year and 11 points behind the average, with progress underway in all estimating States except Michigan, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Overall, 68 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 11 points better than last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers had begun seeding the 2010 winter wheat crop, with 5 percent in the ground by September 6, one point ahead of last year but on par with the 5-year average. **Small Grains:** Oat harvest reached 93 percent complete by week's end, 6 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Harvest was complete or nearly complete in all estimating States except Minnesota and North Dakota.

### Weather Data For Week Ending September 13, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 13, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	79	52	68	3	0.05	1	18.56	-1.65	72	2,279	18	3,800
Franklin	79	50	65	2	0.32	4	24.65	2.00	78	2,148	32	3,663
Meadville	82	50	65	3	0.27	3	20.28	-2.27	78	2,102	162	3,609
Mercer	79	50	65	2	0.31	3	22.33	0.81	81	2,131	36	3,648
Springboro	79	45	64	-2	0.04	2	19.93	0.08	77	1,896	-340	3,376
Warren	78	51	64	2	0.39	3	24.42	1.78	71	1,986	-67	3,482
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	73	43	58	-1	0.34	4	24.06	1.39	81	1,496	-5	2,932
Oswayo	76	45	59	-1	0.22	3	23.15	1.75	82	1,576	-77	3,020
Kane	74	44	58	0	0.35	4	27.56	4.52	78	1,483	11	2,915
Laporte	72	49	59	-4	0.79	3	28.01	7.14	87	1,749	-355	3,233
Lock Haven	78	54	64	0	1.18	2	25.19	4.61	70	2,353	125	3,900
Port Allegany	76	48	61	2	0.21	2	21.84	0.44	74	1,702	49	3,164
Renovo	79	52	64	-1	1.03	1	19.66	-0.92	75	2,242	14	3,780
Ridgway	76	47	61	1	0.33	2	22.02	-0.58	73	1,721	31	3,175
Stevenson Dam	78	52	64	4	1.08	2	19.02	-3.58	70	2,131	441	3,645
Towanda	78	52	63	1	0.78	2	22.77	5.43	73	2,140	20	3,663
Wellsboro	74	48	59	0	0.75	3	22.93	5.53	77	1,619	24	3,080
Williamsport	79	55	66	1	1.06	2	22.48	2.22	72	2,639	183	4,233
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	75	47	62	1	0.42	3	27.45	7.70	71	1,944	124	3,448
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	50	64	-1	1.28	3	22.56	3.37	72	2,398	67	3,967
Susquehanna	76	49	62	3	0.26	1	25.82	4.75	81	2,006	275	3,511
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	81	48	64	-1	0.08	2	21.53	0.04	80	2,091	-100	3,612
New Castle	84	49	66	3	0.12	3	18.89	-0.62	72	2,411	219	3,950
Slippery Rock	82	50	66	4	0.23	4	22.04	1.14	76	2,200	225	3,720
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	77	53	63	-2	0.56	5	17.35	-1.25	79	2,264	-70	3,804
DuBois	77	50	63	0	0.30	2	23.81	2.22	83	2,028	2	3,530
Lewistown	79	54	64	-2	1.56	3	23.59	3.55	74	2,466	-93	4,029
Middletown	80	57	66	-3	2.50	4	27.36	7.55	77	2,943	59	4,549
Prince Gallitzi	76	45	60	-3	0.51	6	19.13	-4.84	79	1,882	2	3,354
Selinsgrove	78	53	64	-2	1.29	3	25.26	4.56	64	2,396	-1	3,943
State College	77	54	64	-2	1.02	3	20.77	1.97	78	2,362	55	3,912
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	77	54	65	-3	1.77	4	26.80	5.09	72	2,598	-42	4,171
Lehighton	74	54	63	-3	1.73	4	31.85	10.31	77	2,265	-286	3,817
Matamoras	76	50	62	-3	0.59	2	23.36	1.56	63	2,126	-182	3,646
Mt_Pocono	72	51	61	2	2.03	4	29.16	6.03	87	1,959	368	3,454
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	51	66	2	0.37	4	17.22	-2.66	80	2,640	295	4,222
Indiana_PA	75	48	63	-3	0.10	3	10.40	-12.82	60	2,250	-18	3,777
Myersdale	75	44	60	-6	0.11	3	21.70	-0.86	78	1,722	-459	3,172
Mount Pleasant	80	48	64	2	0.71	3	24.27	0.66	78	2,310	329	3,857
Pittsburgh Intl	83	52	67	1	0.26	3	18.07	-0.67	73	2,640	187	4,218
Connellsville	82	53	66	0	0.57	4	24.74	2.60	82	2,542	45	4,117
Waynesburg	80	48	65	0	0.56	4	19.36	-1.21	80	2,288	12	3,840
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	80	55	65	-3	1.64	4	26.80	8.23	76	2,702	-115	4,279
Everett	80	49	64	-2	0.47	5	20.78	2.68	75	2,209	-114	3,676
Hanover	80	56	65	-4	2.09	4	25.81	7.24	71	2,714	-103	4,299
Harrisburg_AP	80	57	66	-3	2.32	4	25.63	5.82	78	2,892	1	4,496
South Mountain	76	53	61	-4	1.45	5	28.01	9.41	81	2,129	-198	3,661
York	80	56	65	-3	2.45	5	23.64	3.56	70	2,706	-97	4,287
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	77	55	65	-2	2.31	4	31.57	10.53	78	2,681	158	4,259
Hamburg	80	55	65	0	1.19	4	34.58	10.36	81	2,640	328	4,226
West_Chester	79	55	64	-5	2.88	4	29.22	6.44	74	2,703	-94	4,264
Lancaster	79	56	66	-2	2.33	4	24.43	3.21	74	2,761	94	4,338
Neshaminy Falls	80	48	65	-3	2.24	4	30.33	5.88	71	2,764	128	4,345
New Holland	79	54	64	-4	2.43	4	27.63	6.41	74	2,748	81	4,334
Philadelphia	78	58	68	-3	2.18	4	29.30	8.55	76	3,291	239	4,917
Philadelphia NE	76	56	67	-5	1.80	3	25.07	4.32	76	2,980	-72	4,585
Reading	78	56	66	-2	1.62	4	26.97	4.32	79	2,874	251	4,466
Sellersville	77	53	63	-3	2.71	4	31.25	10.21	75	2,496	-27	4,059
Willow Grove	75	55	65	-3	2.09	4	46.25	21.80	75	2,853	217	4,446

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** - Corn silage harvest has started but most corn is still too green. The corn and soybeans continue to grow and look like a decent crop. Some barley and wheat has been seeded with more to come once the corn silage is harvested. Hay continues to be made. Fall plowing is occurring for small grain seeding. Peaches are still being harvested. A nice crop is being reported. Apples are doing fine, with larger size. Since we have cooler weather, they are coloring nicely. More varieties are being harvested as the days go on. Scab disease is apparent from wet weather this spring. Sweet corn and vegetables continue to be harvested with good yields being reported. This is a reminder that in order to receive coverage for small grains and forage crops for the 2010 crop, farmers need to contact a crop insurance (RMA) agent before September 30th. Any small grains not covered by crop insurance needs 2010 NAP coverage purchased through your local FSA Office before September 30th. Overall, the crops are fairing pretty well since we started off with a wet spring. Producers are looking forward to a good harvest and small grain seeding season.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - Most of the fruit area received .75" of rain this past week. Apple harvest is progressing, with Galas to be completed shortly. The Honeycrisp harvest is in progress, as well as harvesting of Golden Delicious for processing. The favorable weather is promoting some good color on the red varieties. Some of the early varieties have been picked due to better than average fruit size.

**BERKS COUNTY, Melissa Reidenhour** - Little fieldwork was completed this past week due to the rain and drizzle that totaled approximately 1.5 inches since the Labor Day weekend. New seedings such as alfalfa look good since getting the precipitation. New plantings of timothy will begin this week. Chopping for corn silage will probably also begin shortly.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Overcast days made hay making difficult. There was a total of 1.2 inches of rainfall in my gauge.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner** - Farmers are completing their 3rd and 4th hay crop harvesting. Producers are topping off haylage bunkers and silos. The corn crop needs another 2 to 3 weeks for corn silage. Corn for grain is appearing to be a month later than normal for harvest. Soybeans appear to be a good crop.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum** - It was getting dry, but we received 1.75" of rain Friday and Saturday.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - There were some light rains early in the week, but overall it was a productive work week. Contractors have been busy trying to complete farm projects before the weather starts to turn.

**ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis** - Warm temperatures and lack of rainfall has contributed to excellent conditions for harvesting second cuttings of hay. The third cutting is being mowed.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Showers late in the week aided the new fall grass seeding. Peach harvest is nearly completed, with excellent results. Apples are still sizing, and are expected to be a very good crop. There is a large heavy crop which is causing some limb breakage.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - It was another great week for the corn and soybeans to grow and mature. Looks like this coming week it is going to be really nice. We are just waiting for the corn and soybeans to mature. We hope that the county does not get an early frost.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - The rain slowed field work for most of the week. Corn silage is coming off. Farmers are getting ready to harvest grain soon. Pastures are still looking good with all the rain.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - Last week was another excellent week temperature wise, as field corn inches its way towards maturity and dry down. Our area is in need of some rain for the new seedings of alfalfa.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pflieger** - There was only one inch of rain this past week.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton, (FSA)** - It was another wet week for the summer. Some haylage and dry hay was harvested at the end of the week. Corn silage still looks a few weeks away from harvest, due to the lack of heat. Snap bean harvest is about complete and sweet corn will start soon.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - There was a limited amount of field activities undertaken during the week. This was due to overcast skies during the early part of the week and heavy rainfall at the end of the week. Silo filling, haymaking, and seeding of alfalfa and small grains were the majority of the activities. The corn and soybeans are looking good at this point; however, warm temperatures and sunny skies are needed to mature the crops before season ending frosts arrive.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - Good growing conditions continue. It is a little dry in places.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS)** - Last week had cloudy weather with not much rain in the gauge. There were a couple of days with drizzly rain. It did not do much to help with the dry conditions that are developing.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 13, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	22	23	28
Corn, dough	86	93	95
Corn, dent	56	69	78
Corn, mature	11	31	38
Corn silage, harvested	31	53	55
Barley, planted	8	15	16
Tobacco, harvested	76	85	84
Potatoes, harvested	56	40	42
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	92	100	95
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	34	61	43
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	95	99	91
Peaches, harvested	98	97	96
Apples, harvested	38	35	41

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 13, 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	3	14	53	29
Soybeans	0	3	18	50	29
Quality of hay made	1	5	26	44	24
Pasture	2	4	26	49	19
Apples	0	0	0	55	45

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