



# 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](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending September 27, 2009

Issued weekly, April-November

Released September 28, 2009, 4 pm

*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. Late in the week, the rain arrived that will help recently seeded crops emerge. Primary field activities were: making hay, filling silos, as well as harvesting potatoes, apples, tobacco, fruits, and vegetables. Fall plowing continues, and is 35% completed, behind last year's 43%, and the five year average of 42%.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 27, 2009**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
2	13	77	8

**Crop Progress:** Ninety-three percent of corn has reached the dough stage, behind last year's estimate of 99% and the five year average of 100%. Eighty percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind 92% last year, and the average of 94%. Thirty-seven percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's 60%, and the average of 69%. Eleven percent of the corn is harvested, behind both last year's and the average of 24%. Fifty-nine percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate of 79% and the average of 81%. Barley planting is 39% completed. This is behind last year's 46% and the 47% average. Barley is 21% emerged, compared to 23% last year and the 21% average. Wheat planting is 17% completed. This is compared to 19% last year, and the 22% average. Wheat has begun to surface and is 6% emerged, compared to 6% last year, and the 5% average. Tobacco harvesting is 90% complete. This is trailing last year's 93% and the average of 95%. Potatoes are 72% harvested, behind last year's 75% and ahead of the average of 69%. Third cutting alfalfa is 99% completed, behind last year's 100%, and ahead of the average of 98%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 56% completed. This is behind last year's 80%, and the average of 64%. Fifty-eight percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 46%, and the same as the average. Grapes are 25% harvested, which is behind last year's 30%, and ahead of the average of 22%

**Crop Condition:** The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 16% fair, 46% good and 32% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 3% poor, 18% fair, 47% good, and 32% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very poor, 13% poor, 26% fair, 39% good, and 21% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 3% very poor, 10% poor, 30% fair, 45% good and 12% excellent.

**Nationwide as of September 20, 2009:** A slow-moving storm drenched the interior Southeast, halting harvest activities, triggering lowland flooding, and threatening the quality of open-boll cotton. As much as 4 to 8 inches of rain fell from northeastern Texas to the southern Appalachians. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather returned to southern Texas, following the previous week's drought-easing rainfall. Farther north, light rain reached the southern tier of the Corn Belt, but mild, dry weather elsewhere in the Midwest promoted corn and soybean maturation. Conditions were especially favorable in the upper Midwest, where weekly temperatures averaged as many as 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Remarkably warm weather (5 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit above normal) also prevailed across the northern Plains, where warmth aided late-developing summer crops in the Dakotas and encouraged small grain planting and harvesting efforts throughout the region. Fieldwork also advanced across the remainder of the Nation's mid-section, except on the southeastern Plains, where heavy showers lingered. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather across much of the West favored late-summer fieldwork, including Northwestern winter wheat planting and California's rice harvest. Significant Western precipitation was confined to the southern Rockies. Early in the week, record-setting warmth lingered in the Northwest. Meanwhile, a cold front reached the Pacific Coast, producing daily record totals for September 13. Locally heavy rain persisted in the Mid-South and spread into the Southeast. Warmth was most persistent across the northern Plains and northern Intermountain West, although heat also returned to Deep South Texas. **Corn:** Nationally, 97 percent of this year's corn acreage was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, slightly behind last year and the 5-year average. Denting advanced to 80 percent complete, 9 points behind last year and 13 points behind the average. Nine percent of the corn crop matured during the week, leaving progress, at 21 percent, 9 points behind last year and 34 points, or over 2 weeks, behind normal. Crop maturity was behind in all estimating States. Overall, 68 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 9 points better than last year. **Soybeans:** Leaf drop progressed at a rapid pace during the week, as ideal growing conditions prevailed throughout most of the major soybean-producing States. By September 20, leaves had dropped in 40 percent of the soybean fields, 1 point behind last year and 18 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 67 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down 1 point from last week but 10 points better than last year. **Winter Wheat:** Seeding of the 2010 winter wheat crop advanced 11 points to 24 percent complete by week's end, 4 points ahead of last year but 1 point behind the 5-year average. Mostly dry weather across much of the country west of the Great Plains continued to promote fieldwork.

### Weather Data For Week Ending September 27, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 27, 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	78	53	67	7	1.64	3	20.20	-2.05	75	2,484	45	4,145
Franklin	80	44	64	6	0.27	5	24.92	0.49	83	2,331	70	3,986
Meadville	78	42	64	6	0.69	2	20.98	-3.38	81	2,274	201	3,921
Mercer	80	48	65	6	1.61	4	24.03	0.73	86	2,321	80	3,978
Springboro	78	40	63	3	0.90	3	20.83	-0.81	80	2,054	-348	3,674
Warren	77	42	63	5	0.71	4	25.13	0.59	75	2,154	-35	3,790
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	73	41	59	6	1.03	4	25.10	0.58	86	1,602	16	3,177
Oswayo	77	30	58	3	1.01	4	24.18	0.97	87	1,676	-73	3,259
Kane	75	32	58	5	0.76	4	28.32	3.37	82	1,586	34	3,158
Laporte	74	40	58	0	0.71	2	29.41	6.82	91	1,851	-388	3,475
Lock Haven	83	44	63	4	0.93	3	26.27	4.04	74	2,538	159	4,225
Port Allegany	78	41	60	5	0.86	4	22.70	-0.51	78	1,820	71	3,422
Renovo	82	40	62	3	1.45	3	21.11	-1.12	78	2,416	37	4,094
Ridgway	77	37	60	5	0.94	4	22.94	-1.32	76	1,860	62	3,454
Stevenson Dam	81	42	63	7	1.13	2	20.15	-4.11	72	2,302	504	3,956
Towanda	82	40	60	3	0.68	1	23.62	4.82	76	2,283	28	3,946
Wellsboro	77	35	58	4	0.78	3	23.71	4.84	80	1,720	30	3,321
Williamsport	84	47	66	5	0.73	2	23.27	1.43	75	2,846	223	4,580
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	82	36	57	1	0.64	1	28.73	7.39	74	2,047	113	3,689
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	46	63	3	0.38	2	23.16	2.44	75	2,556	69	4,265
Susquehanna	80	39	59	4	0.85	2	24.00	1.25	79	2,131	298	3,776
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	80	49	65	6	0.96	5	22.49	-0.59	85	2,284	-62	3,945
New Castle	82	44	66	7	1.06	4	19.95	-1.18	76	2,632	283	4,311
Slippery Rock	82	46	65	8	1.12	5	23.16	0.65	81	2,413	304	4,073
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	81	54	65	6	1.17	4	18.54	-1.54	84	2,452	-41	4,132
DuBois	76	48	63	6	1.45	4	25.26	2.05	87	2,193	36	3,835
Lewistown	83	43	65	4	1.20	2	24.84	3.30	77	2,670	-69	4,373
Middletown	83	52	67	5	1.18	3	28.76	7.32	82	3,177	86	4,923
Prince Gallitzi	80	40	62	5	1.19	2	20.32	-5.58	81	2,041	33	3,653
Selingsgrove	80	46	63	4	0.98	2	26.38	3.96	67	2,577	18	4,264
State College	79	43	64	5	0.86	2	21.63	1.34	80	2,547	89	4,237
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	80	45	64	3	0.70	1	27.79	4.30	75	2,782	-42	4,495
Lehighton	76	43	61	0	0.99	3	33.76	10.44	83	2,414	-307	4,106
Matamoras	81	39	60	0	0.78	1	24.62	1.03	66	2,258	-201	3,918
Mt_Pocono	77	42	60	7	0.77	3	30.08	4.97	93	2,083	406	3,718
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	82	57	68	8	0.86	6	18.09	-3.29	87	2,876	366	4,598
Indiana_PA	79	55	66	7	0.63	3	11.03	-14.08	63	2,450	20	4,117
Myersdale	81	40	62	3	1.33	4	23.04	-1.28	83	1,887	-452	3,477
Mount Pleasant	82	56	67	9	0.98	6	25.25	-0.13	84	2,520	400	4,207
Pittsburgh Intl	81	58	68	7	0.94	4	19.01	-1.10	77	2,881	253	4,599
Connellsville	85	58	70	10	0.90	6	25.64	1.95	88	2,807	130	4,522
Waynesburg	84	49	67	7	1.15	6	20.88	-1.06	86	2,510	74	4,202
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	85	48	66	4	1.43	3	28.42	8.18	81	2,915	-106	4,632
Everett	85	41	65	5	1.36	3	22.24	2.72	79	2,410	-78	4,017
Hanover	84	47	66	4	1.08	4	27.13	6.89	77	2,926	-95	4,651
Harrisburg_AP	83	53	67	5	1.01	1	26.86	5.42	81	3,128	30	4,872
South Mountain	81	44	63	4	1.57	3	29.71	9.63	86	2,302	-184	3,974
York	84	49	66	3	0.96	3	24.82	3.20	75	2,918	-91	4,639
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	81	46	65	4	1.40	2	33.01	10.27	82	2,880	178	4,598
Hamburg	79	48	64	5	1.42	2	36.25	10.09	85	2,834	370	4,560
West_Chester	82	40	65	2	1.27	2	30.52	5.80	77	2,896	-108	4,597
Lancaster	81	50	66	5	1.15	3	26.11	3.23	79	2,974	117	4,691
Neshaminy Falls	82	47	65	4	1.80	3	32.29	5.96	75	2,962	140	4,683
New Holland	82	47	66	5	1.28	2	28.99	6.11	78	2,962	105	4,688
Philadelphia	83	54	70	5	1.15	3	30.46	8.15	80	3,556	272	5,322
Philadelphia NE	83	50	68	3	2.17	2	27.62	5.31	79	3,212	-72	4,957
Reading	83	49	67	6	1.45	2	28.49	4.04	83	3,097	291	4,829
Sellersville	80	45	63	3	1.55	2	32.84	10.10	79	2,674	-28	4,377
Willow Grove	81	48	66	5	1.50	2	47.78	21.45	79	3,068	246	4,801

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 harvesting continues. Other corn continues to mature and dry down. Soybeans are still pretty green, with some change in the color of leaves last week. Wheat and barley continue to be seeded after corn silage is harvested. Hay for haylage continues to be made. The peach harvest is completed, with good yields being reported. Apples continue to be harvested, with nice size and coloring due to the cooler nighttime temperatures. Pumpkins are being harvested, with some good, and some not so good yields. Producers are busy harvesting while the weather is fit. Hopefully, the prices will be good so producers have something to show for all their hard work. The National Apple Harvest Festival will be held the first and second weekends in October.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter** - Apple harvest continues with most growers picking Golden Delicious, Jonagolds, and Red Delicious. Gold harvest should be almost complete by the end of the coming week. Red Delicious harvest will continue to be active throughout the coming week as well. Most areas received rain with intermittent showers, and the soil moisture is good.

**BRADFORD COUNTY, Lisa Shanks** - The cool weather has prevented the corn silage from drying down.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael P. Fournier** - The corn silage harvest from the early planted corn is about complete. Rain over the weekend has delayed chopping for a few days. Some corn has been combined, mainly to check equipment and dryers. The corn grain harvest won't start in earnest for a couple of weeks. The soils are still wet from a full summer of rain.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - It was a good week for field work. Rain by the end of the week totaled 1.2 inches.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner** - Corn for silage is ready for harvesting. Many acres of potatoes were harvested this past week. Wheat and barley planting is ahead of last year.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - It was a good week for field work. Dry weather has jump started corn silage harvest with quite a few acres being chopped this week. The last of the hay was being either chopped for silage or wrapped for haylage. Rain over the weekend has slowed progress for the upcoming week.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - Several days of rain are holding up the ground work, but fall seedings and pastures are doing well. It is hard to get the barley and wheat planted with the wet conditions. Apple harvest is progressing with excellent fruit size.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - There have been some very, very disappointed people when the corn harvest started. Expected yields and forage quality are not there.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS)** - We are harvesting corn silage and some corn grain. Lining fields and pastures, and planting cover crops were some of the activities.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - We received several inches of much needed rain over the weekend. The new alfalfa seedings will have a better chance of pre-winter growth now.

**POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman** - We had our first frost on the 20th of Sept.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The main activities for the week were silo filling and sowing winter grain. The barley has emerged and is looking good. The soybeans are yellow and many fields have dropped the leaves exposing the pods, and they look pretty good. Several corn fields are showing signs of leaf diseases.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr** - An all day rain on Saturday was the first significant moisture in September. Before the rain, good progress was made on corn silage harvest.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 27, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	35	43	42
Corn, dough	93	99	100
Corn, dent	80	92	94
Corn, mature	37	60	69
Corn, harvested	11	24	24
Corn silage, harvested	59	79	81
Barley, planted	39	46	47
Barley, emerged	21	23	21
Wheat, planted	17	19	22
Wheat, emerged	6	6	5
Tobacco, harvested	90	93	95
Potatoes, harvested	72	75	69
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	99	100	98
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	56	80	64
Apples, harvested	58	46	58
Grapes, harvested	25	30	22

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 27, 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	16	46	32
Soybeans	0	3	18	47	32
Quality of hay made	1	13	26	39	21
Pasture	3	10	30	45	12

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