



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 11, 2009

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had a total of 4 days suitable for field work. The weather has quickly started to become cold. Farmers are closely monitoring the weather forecasts for frost warnings. Primary field activities were: making hay, planting barley and wheat, seeding alfalfa, filling silos, as well as harvesting corn, soybeans, grapes, potatoes, apples, and vegetables. Fall plowing continues, and is 51% completed, behind last year's 65%, and the five year average of 64%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 11, 2009

| Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 2 | 7 | 83 | 8 |

Crop Progress: Ninety-five percent of corn has reached the dough stage, behind the 100% estimates of last year and the five year average. Ninety percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind last year's 100% and the average of 99%. Sixty-two percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's 89% and the average of 90%. Eighteen percent of the corn is harvested, behind both last year's 34% and the average of 42%. Eighty-two percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate and the average of 95%. Barley planting is 82% completed. This is ahead of last year's 72% and the average of 76%. Barley is 46% emerged, compared to last year's 38% and the average of 45%. Wheat planting is 60% completed. This is ahead of last year's estimate and the average of 57%. Wheat is 36% emerged, ahead of last year's 22%, and the average of 28%. Soybeans are 20% harvested, which is behind last year's 29%, and the average of 23%. Potatoes are 76% harvested, well behind last year's 92% and the average of 94%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 86% completed. This is behind last year's 88%, but ahead of the average of 81%. Eighty-five percent of Pennsylvania's apples are harvested, ahead of last year's 68%, and the average of 78%. Grapes are 37% harvested, which is behind last year's 66%, and ahead of the average of 57%.

Crop Condition: The state's corn condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 12% fair, 51% good, and 33% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 4% poor, 14% fair, 45% good, and 37% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 1% very

poor, 19% poor, 28% fair, 41% good, and 11% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 5% very poor, 11% poor, 25% fair, 43% good and 16% excellent.

Nationwide as of October 4, 2009: Abnormally dry conditions persisted throughout the Southwest and returned to the central Great Plains and Southeast, allowing producers ample time to continue harvest activities and small grain seeding. Conversely, wet weather lingered in the northern Great Plains, Great Lakes, New England, eastern Texas, and the Delta dumping additional moisture on already saturated fields. In the west, rain and snow settled into the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains with precipitation totals upwards of 400 percent of normal. With the exceptions of Maine, most of the Southwest, and the southern halves of Texas and Louisiana, below average temperatures blanketed the country. **Corn:** Acreage at or beyond the dent stage reached 95 percent by week's end, 3 points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Double-digit delays remained in Illinois, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania as below average temperatures slowed crop development. Crop maturity advanced to 57 percent complete, 13 points behind last year and 27 points, or nearly 2 weeks, behind the average. By October 4, producers had harvested 10 percent of the Nation's corn crop, 3 points behind last year and 15 points behind normal. Overall, 70 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week and 9 points better than last year. **Soybeans:** Seventy-nine percent of the 2009 soybean acreage was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage, compared with 81 percent last year and 88 percent for the 5-year average. Despite cool temperatures, leaf drop remained active across most of the major soybean-producing States, but overall progress remained behind normal in all States. Nationally, 15 percent of the soybean crop was harvested, 13 points behind last year and 21 points behind the average. Overall, 67 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, a 1 point improvement from last week and 10 points better than ratings last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers had seeded 53 percent of their winter wheat acreage by week's end, 2 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Emergence reached 26 percent by October 4, one point ahead of last year but 1 point behind the average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 11, 2009

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - October 11, 2009 | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|----------------------------|--------|------|--------------|------|----------|--|
| | Temperature | | | | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | Base 40F | |
| | High | Low | Average | DFN | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | Total | |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 63 | 43 | 53 | -4 | 0.79 | 4 | 23.21 | -0.81 | 84 | 2,547 | -7 | 4,347 | |
| Franklin | 64 | 35 | 49 | -5 | 0.66 | 6 | 26.95 | 1.04 | 96 | 2,364 | 14 | 4,147 | |
| Meadville | 64 | 36 | 49 | -4 | 0.68 | 5 | 23.98 | -2.02 | 92 | 2,300 | 148 | 4,075 | |
| Mercer | 64 | 36 | 50 | -4 | 0.70 | 4 | 26.22 | 1.53 | 95 | 2,352 | 24 | 4,139 | |
| Springboro | 64 | 36 | 49 | -7 | 0.86 | 5 | 24.25 | 1.02 | 91 | 2,081 | -427 | 3,830 | |
| Warren | 63 | 38 | 50 | -4 | 0.82 | 5 | 27.75 | 1.60 | 85 | 2,188 | -82 | 3,949 | |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 59 | 30 | 46 | -4 | 0.83 | 5 | 27.47 | 1.42 | 98 | 1,610 | -22 | 3,275 | |
| Oswayo | 62 | 30 | 46 | -4 | 0.69 | 6 | 27.00 | 2.24 | 100 | 1,688 | -116 | 3,360 | |
| Kane | 62 | 30 | 46 | -3 | 0.92 | 6 | 30.81 | 4.23 | 93 | 1,599 | 5 | 3,261 | |
| Laporte | 59 | 36 | 48 | -5 | 0.73 | 4 | 31.75 | 7.70 | 101 | 1,868 | -453 | 3,598 | |
| Lock Haven | 66 | 39 | 53 | -2 | 0.42 | 3 | 27.71 | 4.06 | 82 | 2,595 | 125 | 4,419 | |
| Port Allegany | 62 | 35 | 48 | -3 | 0.56 | 6 | 24.79 | 0.03 | 90 | 1,839 | 35 | 3,550 | |
| Renovo | 66 | 40 | 52 | -2 | 0.41 | 5 | 23.06 | -0.59 | 88 | 2,464 | -6 | 4,279 | |
| Ridgway | 63 | 31 | 47 | -4 | 0.60 | 5 | 25.06 | -0.64 | 86 | 1,882 | 24 | 3,579 | |
| Stevenson Dam | 62 | 37 | 51 | 1 | 0.42 | 4 | 21.69 | -4.01 | 80 | 2,342 | 484 | 4,130 | |
| Towanda | 66 | 34 | 51 | -3 | 0.24 | 3 | 24.64 | 4.63 | 85 | 2,322 | -17 | 4,110 | |
| Wellsboro | 60 | 31 | 47 | -4 | 0.38 | 5 | 25.69 | 5.52 | 90 | 1,734 | -12 | 3,432 | |
| Williamsport | 67 | 40 | 56 | 2 | 0.49 | 3 | 24.84 | 1.52 | 81 | 2,940 | 217 | 4,813 | |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 67 | 32 | 49 | -4 | 0.90 | 5 | 30.26 | 7.58 | 83 | 2,076 | 77 | 3,830 | |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 67 | 33 | 53 | -2 | 0.71 | 3 | 24.38 | 2.35 | 84 | 2,625 | 43 | 4,457 | |
| Susquehanna | 65 | 34 | 51 | 2 | 0.46 | 5 | 25.34 | 1.06 | 91 | 2,167 | 277 | 3,935 | |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 64 | 35 | 50 | -4 | 0.43 | 3 | 24.46 | 0.06 | 94 | 2,322 | -117 | 4,114 | |
| New Castle | 67 | 36 | 51 | -3 | 0.52 | 3 | 22.09 | -0.37 | 86 | 2,688 | 244 | 4,502 | |
| Slippery Rock | 69 | 34 | 51 | -2 | 0.65 | 5 | 25.45 | 1.55 | 92 | 2,457 | 267 | 4,252 | |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 73 | 37 | 54 | -1 | 1.49 | 3 | 20.48 | -0.90 | 91 | 2,516 | -76 | 4,331 | |
| DuBois | 63 | 33 | 49 | -4 | 0.54 | 5 | 27.65 | 3.10 | 98 | 2,232 | -2 | 3,990 | |
| Lewistown | 67 | 39 | 54 | -2 | 0.99 | 3 | 26.59 | 3.68 | 83 | 2,743 | -106 | 4,585 | |
| Middletown | 68 | 41 | 59 | 2 | 0.18 | 3 | 28.99 | 6.17 | 86 | 3,302 | 79 | 5,188 | |
| Prince Gallitzi | 67 | 31 | 49 | -4 | 1.63 | 3 | 23.07 | -4.43 | 89 | 2,068 | -17 | 3,793 | |
| Selinsgrove | 67 | 39 | 53 | -2 | 0.78 | 3 | 27.83 | 3.95 | 74 | 2,640 | -15 | 4,463 | |
| State College | 65 | 40 | 53 | -2 | 0.34 | 2 | 22.81 | 1.22 | 87 | 2,597 | 47 | 4,424 | |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 71 | 36 | 56 | 1 | 0.49 | 1 | 28.51 | 3.63 | 80 | 2,879 | -62 | 4,728 | |
| Lehighton | 68 | 36 | 53 | -4 | 0.91 | 3 | 35.14 | 10.33 | 91 | 2,463 | -369 | 4,290 | |
| Matamoras | 71 | 35 | 53 | -2 | 0.80 | 2 | 26.07 | 1.01 | 74 | 2,313 | -237 | 4,103 | |
| Mt_Pocono | 65 | 33 | 52 | 3 | 0.03 | 3 | 30.15 | 3.35 | 100 | 2,135 | 412 | 3,887 | |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 69 | 40 | 54 | -2 | 0.84 | 4 | 19.90 | -2.78 | 96 | 2,945 | 330 | 4,802 | |
| Indiana_PA | 67 | 37 | 50 | -5 | 1.04 | 4 | 13.76 | -12.84 | 73 | 2,486 | -45 | 4,282 | |
| Myersdale | 75 | 29 | 48 | -7 | 1.16 | 4 | 24.72 | -1.09 | 92 | 1,917 | -518 | 3,614 | |
| Mount Pleasant | 72 | 34 | 51 | -3 | 1.23 | 4 | 27.52 | 0.61 | 93 | 2,580 | 376 | 4,395 | |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 69 | 38 | 53 | -3 | 0.67 | 3 | 20.30 | -0.96 | 85 | 2,951 | 213 | 4,804 | |
| Connellsville | 74 | 38 | 53 | -3 | 2.49 | 4 | 29.23 | 4.23 | 97 | 2,883 | 92 | 4,736 | |
| Waynesburg | 73 | 35 | 51 | -3 | 1.25 | 3 | 23.08 | -0.01 | 94 | 2,556 | 24 | 4,380 | |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 75 | 41 | 56 | -2 | 0.29 | 2 | 28.72 | 7.03 | 84 | 3,007 | -144 | 4,864 | |
| Everett | 77 | 34 | 53 | -2 | 1.21 | 3 | 23.94 | 3.04 | 85 | 2,475 | -114 | 4,220 | |
| Hanover | 81 | 39 | 57 | -1 | 0.23 | 2 | 27.42 | 5.73 | 82 | 3,031 | -120 | 4,896 | |
| Harrisburg_AP | 69 | 40 | 58 | 1 | 0.17 | 2 | 27.07 | 4.25 | 84 | 3,245 | 13 | 5,129 | |
| South Mountain | 76 | 37 | 53 | -2 | 0.35 | 3 | 30.12 | 8.74 | 90 | 2,358 | -226 | 4,167 | |
| York | 80 | 36 | 59 | 2 | 0.25 | 4 | 25.19 | 2.15 | 82 | 3,033 | -110 | 4,894 | |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 72 | 38 | 57 | 2 | 0.18 | 4 | 33.46 | 9.38 | 91 | 2,980 | 168 | 4,837 | |
| Hamburg | 69 | 38 | 55 | 2 | 0.90 | 4 | 37.42 | 9.56 | 92 | 2,908 | 356 | 4,772 | |
| West_Chester | 76 | 36 | 56 | -2 | 0.22 | 4 | 31.01 | 4.75 | 83 | 2,982 | -154 | 4,821 | |
| Lancaster | 74 | 38 | 58 | 2 | 0.30 | 3 | 26.50 | 2.18 | 85 | 3,087 | 110 | 4,944 | |
| Neshaminy Falls | 79 | 37 | 57 | 2 | 0.13 | 3 | 32.91 | 5.07 | 81 | 3,069 | 132 | 4,929 | |
| New Holland | 75 | 43 | 57 | 1 | 0.12 | 3 | 29.36 | 5.04 | 84 | 3,073 | 96 | 4,939 | |
| Philadelphia | 80 | 44 | 62 | 4 | 0.08 | 3 | 30.89 | 7.32 | 87 | 3,730 | 291 | 5,636 | |
| Philadelphia NE | 78 | 41 | 61 | 2 | 0.11 | 4 | 28.29 | 4.72 | 86 | 3,360 | -79 | 5,245 | |
| Reading | 71 | 38 | 59 | 4 | 0.37 | 3 | 28.97 | 3.06 | 90 | 3,225 | 307 | 5,097 | |
| Sellersville | 74 | 36 | 55 | -2 | 0.08 | 3 | 33.28 | 9.20 | 87 | 2,747 | -65 | 4,586 | |
| Willow Grove | 76 | 42 | 60 | 5 | 0.11 | 4 | 48.83 | 20.99 | 86 | 3,205 | 268 | 5,077 | |

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 (FSA) - Cooler temperatures are coming. When the frost hits, it will affect some later corn and soybeans. Barley is about done emerging. Wheat is still emerging. Haylage continues to be made. All varieties of apples have nice size and color due to moisture and cool nighttime temperatures. Pumpkins were reported as good for some and not so good for others. Other vegetables harvested will come to a halt with the colder temperatures arriving. Overall, the crops look pretty good. Harvesting is keeping producers very busy.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick A. Decker - It was a good week for fall field work. There were several wet days. There was 0.375 inches in my gauge for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA) - The rain has slowed fall crop harvesting. Digging potatoes is difficult with the mud. There is some corn silage harvesting. Many farmers are cleaning out manure storage systems.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Continued wet weather last week made field work difficult. There were a few days that producers were harvesting corn silage and combining soybeans. After two weeks of rain, the benefits from no-till planting are very evident. Corn silage would almost be impossible to harvest if conventional tillage was used.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Crops are maturing very well. Soybean harvest has begun, with good yields being reported and with variable moisture. There are some lodging issues. Corn silage harvest is nearly complete, with excellent yields. High moisture corn harvest, planting small grains and cover crops, manure hauling and taking final cuttings of alfalfa and grass fields are keeping producers busy.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA) - The lack of sun has caused a decreased sugar level in the grapes. Harvesting is behind by two weeks due to grapes not yet making sugar. Grape producers are under pressure to harvest grapes before the first frost. Producers with fields that have poor drainage are having difficulty harvesting corn for silage.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was a good week for field work. Corn is now maturing for harvest as dry shelled corn, but drying is still required. Apple harvest is nearing completion, with excellent size and volume reported. The quality, due to scab, has caused a shift in marketing some from fresh to processing.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - We are waiting on the soybeans and corn to mature to be ready for picking, shelling, and combining. We had over 1/2" of rain this past week. There was a good frost on the 5th of October. The frost should help speed up the drying process for the corn and soybeans.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - We need some sunny days to dry out the fields, in order for the rest of the wheat acreage to be planted. The area Amish are busy hand picking field corn. Field corn is drying down. We had three light frosts this past week, not killing much yet. Sunday night was anticipated to be a heavy frost.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) - This week we are harvesting corn silage, corn grain and soybeans. Also, we are planting cover crops and small grain. Apple harvest is almost complete.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill (EXT) - Corn has been slow to dry down. The soybean harvest has been at full steam the latter part of the week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The winter barley and wheat is off to a good start, with a good stand. Harvesting of corn and soybeans has begun with reports of good yields. The strong wind early in the week lodged some of the corn that was disease stressed. Silo filling is near completion. There was over one inch of rain for the week. The main activities for the week were harvesting, seeding, and applying fertilizer.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega (NRCS) - There was cool and cloudy weather with scattered frost this week. Corn silage harvest is progressing. Pastures are improving with cooler temperatures.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 11, 2009

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Fall plowing | 51 | 65 | 64 |
| Corn, dough | 95 | 100 | 100 |
| Corn, dent | 90 | 100 | 99 |
| Corn, mature | 62 | 89 | 90 |
| Corn, harvested | 18 | 34 | 42 |
| Corn silage, harvested | 82 | 95 | 95 |
| Barley, planted | 82 | 72 | 76 |
| Barley, emerged | 46 | 38 | 45 |
| Wheat, planted | 60 | 57 | 57 |
| Wheat, emerged | 36 | 22 | 28 |
| Soybeans, harvested | 20 | 29 | 23 |
| Potatoes, harvested | 76 | 92 | 94 |
| Alfalfa, 4th cutting | 86 | 88 | 81 |
| Apples, harvested | 85 | 68 | 78 |
| Grapes, harvested | 37 | 66 | 57 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 11, 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 | 12 | 51 | 33 |
| Soybeans | 0 | 4 | 14 | 45 | 37 |
| Quality of hay made | 1 | 19 | 28 | 41 | 11 |
| Pasture | 5 | 11 | 25 | 43 | 16 |

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