



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Week Ending October 18, 2009

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**Fair Week for Field Work:** Wintery weather has arrived early this year. Measureable snowfall and killing frosts were common throughout the state. Farmers are yet again hoping for warm, dry weather to help dry out the fields. Farmers continue to closely monitor the weather forecasts for frost warnings. Pennsylvania had a total of 3 days suitable for field work. 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 59% completed, behind last year's estimate and the average of 69%.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 18, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	60	38

**Crop Progress:** Ninety-four percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind last year's estimate and the average, both of which are 100%. Eighty percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's 94% and the average of 95%. Twenty-five percent of the corn is harvested, behind both last year's 43% and the average of 50%. Eighty-four percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate and the average of 99%. Barley planting is 87% completed. This is ahead of last year's 85% and behind the average of 89%. Barley is 55% emerged, compared to last year's estimate and the average of 64%. Wheat planting is 61% completed. This is behind last year's 75% and the average of 71%. Wheat is 37% emerged, ahead of last year's 35%, and behind the average of 39%. Soybeans are 25% harvested, which is behind last year's 40%, and the average of 35%. Potatoes are 94% harvested, behind last year's 99% and the average of 98%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 87% completed. This is behind last year's 98%, but equal to the average. Ninety percent of Pennsylvania's apples are harvested, ahead of last year's 78%, and the average of 84%. Grapes are 50% harvested, which is behind last year's 79%, and behind the average of 73%.

**Crop Condition:** The state's corn condition is 1% very poor, 6% poor, 15% fair, 45% good, and 33% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 4% poor, 14% fair, 48% good, and 34% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 12% very poor, 10% poor, 32% fair, 39% good, and 7% excellent. Because of the messy wintry weather and lack of re-growth, the pasture conditions are declining. Cattle trails and holding areas are deteriorating the most rapidly. Pasture conditions are at 12% very poor, 7% poor, 21% fair, 47% good and 13% excellent.

### Nationwide as of October 11, 2009:

Flooding rains developed from the southeastern Plains into the middle Mississippi and lower Ohio Valleys in advance of a strong cold front. Weekly rainfall totaled 4 to 8 inches in the flood-affected areas, halting fieldwork and threatening the quality of un-harvested summer crops. Generally light to moderate rain fell across the remainder of the Midwest and South, hampering harvest activities. Crop-quality concerns persisted

in the Delta, where as much as 2 to 4 inches of rain fell. Toward week's end, some wet snow blanketed the upper Midwest. Late-week snow also fell across the northern half of the Plains, while torrential rain soaked the southeastern Plains. In general, the Plains' cool, wet conditions limited fieldwork and slowed the emergence and development of recently planted winter wheat. Weekly temperatures averaged 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit below normal across the Rockies, Plains, and upper Midwest. From October 9-12, freezes ended the 2009 growing season across much of the Plains and well over half of the Corn Belt. The Midwestern freezes halted the accumulation of grain mass in corn that was not fully mature, but adversely affected only a small percentage of soybeans since most of the crop was already dropping leaves. Elsewhere, cool weather also prevailed in the West, although significant precipitation was confined to the Rockies and Intermountain West. In the Far West, fieldwork included winter wheat planting and cotton and rice harvesting. **Corn:** Maturity advanced to 74 percent complete, 10 points behind last year and 18 points behind the 5-year average. Crop development to maturity was behind normal in all estimating States except North Carolina where maturity was complete. Producers had harvested 13 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 7 points behind last year and 22 points, or over 2 weeks, behind the average. Harvest was slow throughout much of the Corn Belt as cool temperatures and continued rainfall kept moisture levels in mature corn higher than normal. Overall, 70 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 8 points better than last year. **Soybeans:** Leaf drop had occurred on 89 percent of the 2009 soybean crop, 1 point behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delays remained in Mississippi where leaf drop was over 3 weeks behind normal. Producers had harvested 23 percent of the Nation's acreage by week's end, 26 points behind last year and 34 points behind the average. Harvest delays of 16 points or more were evident in all estimating States except Kansas and North Carolina where progress was 7 points and 1 point behind normal, respectively. Overall, 65 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, down 2 points from last week but 8 points better than last year. Soybean stands in the Delta States of Arkansas and Mississippi continued to deteriorate as most fields remained saturated. **Winter Wheat:** Seeding advanced to 64 percent complete, 5 points behind last year and the 5-year average. Despite a rapid seeding pace in Ohio during the week, overall progress fell to 14 points behind normal. Elsewhere, significant delays were evident in the eastern Corn Belt and Missouri where winter wheat will be seeded after the late harvest of double-cropped soybeans. Thirty-nine percent of the crop was emerged by October 11, three points behind last year and 1 point behind the average.

### Weather Data For Week Ending October 18, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 18, 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	51	28	41	-13	0.53	3	23.74	-1.12	87	2,547	-44	4,365
Franklin	51	32	39	-13	0.93	4	27.88	1.27	100	2,364	-11	4,154
Meadville	51	31	39	-12	0.62	3	24.60	-2.17	95	2,300	125	4,082
Mercer	53	32	40	-11	0.69	4	26.91	1.59	99	2,352	-1	4,150
Springboro	51	25	38	-15	0.50	2	24.75	0.75	93	2,081	-459	3,834
Warren	51	30	38	-13	0.92	5	28.67	1.76	90	2,188	-106	3,951
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	47	25	35	-12	0.61	5	28.08	1.33	103	1,610	-35	3,279
Oswayo	54	25	36	-13	0.59	2	27.59	2.13	102	1,687	-133	3,359
Kane	48	26	36	-11	0.94	5	31.75	4.41	98	1,599	-6	3,261
Laporte	52	30	36	-15	0.85	5	32.60	7.86	106	1,868	-477	3,601
Lock Haven	58	31	40	-12	1.75	4	29.46	5.18	86	2,595	99	4,432
Port Allegany	50	27	36	-13	0.95	5	25.74	0.28	95	1,839	19	3,550
Renovo	57	32	40	-12	1.54	4	24.60	0.32	92	2,464	-32	4,290
Ridgway	50	29	37	-11	1.00	4	26.06	-0.31	90	1,882	9	3,580
Stevenson Dam	56	32	40	-8	1.31	5	23.00	-3.37	85	2,342	469	4,143
Towanda	58	30	40	-12	0.84	4	25.48	4.91	89	2,322	-42	4,119
Wellsboro	53	27	35	-13	1.10	5	26.79	6.06	95	1,734	-28	3,433
Williamsport	61	34	45	-8	1.45	3	26.29	2.27	84	2,940	188	4,850
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	56	27	38	-12	0.40	4	30.66	7.35	87	2,076	59	3,834
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	56	32	42	-11	0.56	3	24.94	2.30	87	2,625	16	4,474
Susquehanna	55	29	39	-10	0.67	5	26.01	0.99	96	2,167	261	3,939
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	54	31	40	-11	0.74	4	25.20	0.17	98	2,322	-144	4,127
New Castle	56	33	42	-10	0.50	3	22.59	-0.43	89	2,688	217	4,518
Slippery Rock	58	34	41	-10	0.74	4	26.19	1.66	96	2,457	244	4,268
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	57	30	40	-12	1.38	4	21.86	-0.15	95	2,516	-107	4,348
DuBois	52	29	39	-11	0.67	4	28.32	3.14	102	2,232	-23	4,000
Lewistown	61	32	41	-13	2.21	4	28.80	5.26	87	2,743	-139	4,608
Middletown	64	37	46	-10	2.85	3	31.84	8.39	89	3,304	40	5,229
Prince Gallitzi	54	30	39	-12	0.97	4	24.04	-4.16	93	2,068	-39	3,802
Selinsgrove	61	32	42	-11	1.97	3	29.80	5.25	77	2,640	-42	4,483
State College	56	31	40	-12	1.91	5	24.72	2.50	92	2,597	21	4,439
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	62	33	45	-10	1.01	3	29.52	4.01	83	2,879	-98	4,764
Lehighton	61	34	43	-11	1.44	4	36.58	11.07	95	2,463	-404	4,314
Matamoras	60	29	41	-11	0.30	3	26.37	0.68	77	2,313	-264	4,117
Mt_Pocono	55	30	39	-9	0.56	4	30.71	3.14	104	2,135	400	3,897
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	57	35	43	-9	1.03	4	20.93	-2.33	100	2,950	304	4,832
Indiana_PA	55	32	40	-13	1.09	4	14.85	-12.38	77	2,486	-76	4,296
Myersdale	55	30	38	-14	0.93	4	25.65	-0.83	96	1,917	-545	3,625
Mount Pleasant	58	32	43	-7	0.72	4	28.24	0.63	97	2,582	354	4,422
Pittsburgh Intl	56	35	43	-10	0.50	4	20.80	-0.95	89	2,955	185	4,834
Connellsville	60	36	44	-9	0.81	4	30.04	4.43	101	2,883	58	4,769
Waynesburg	62	35	44	-8	0.72	3	24.63	0.98	97	2,561	2	4,413
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	63	36	44	-11	2.41	4	31.13	8.76	88	3,008	-183	4,895
Everett	62	30	42	-11	1.35	4	25.29	3.76	89	2,475	-144	4,242
Hanover	65	33	44	-11	2.78	4	30.20	7.83	86	3,032	-159	4,926
Harrisburg_AP	65	36	46	-10	2.78	3	29.85	6.40	87	3,247	-27	5,171
South Mountain	59	30	40	-13	2.60	4	32.72	10.71	94	2,358	-256	4,184
York	64	32	45	-11	2.80	3	27.99	4.31	85	3,033	-153	4,930
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	64	36	45	-9	1.69	4	35.15	10.46	95	2,981	137	4,872
Hamburg	61	36	43	-8	1.19	3	38.61	9.98	95	2,908	331	4,799
West_Chester	68	35	45	-11	3.06	3	34.07	7.12	86	2,985	-191	4,856
Lancaster	65	34	45	-9	2.48	3	28.98	4.02	88	3,088	75	4,983
Neshaminy Falls	65	35	44	-10	1.76	4	34.67	6.17	85	3,073	102	4,960
New Holland	64	35	44	-11	2.91	3	32.27	7.31	87	3,074	61	4,970
Philadelphia	68	39	49	-8	1.81	3	32.70	8.57	90	3,742	253	5,701
Philadelphia NE	68	38	47	-10	1.44	3	29.73	5.60	89	3,366	-123	5,298
Reading	64	36	46	-8	1.33	3	30.30	3.76	93	3,226	275	5,139
Sellersville	63	32	43	-10	1.48	3	34.76	10.07	90	2,747	-97	4,613
Willow Grove	65	37	46	-9	3.26	4	52.09	23.59	90	3,207	236	5,119

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)** - There was a heavy frost this morning. Corn silage is still being cut. The later planting of corn is now being harvested. Soybeans continue to be harvested for grain. There are still a lot of crops in the field to be harvested. The harvesting is now being halted because of the recent rainfall. Wheat was also being seeded last week, until the rains came. Barley, wheat, and new seedings of hay are looking pretty good. Those crops could use some sunshine. The apple harvest continues, with larger sized apples and good coloring. The apple harvest is slowing a bit, due to the lack of apple bins. Most vegetable crops are done, due to the frost. Pumpkins continue to be marketed. The producers are servicing equipment and catching up on paperwork until it dries off enough to get back into the fields.

**BRADFORD COUNTY, Kelly E. Sundy (FSA)** - The county received first measurable snowfall this past week, which is very early in the season. There was widespread killing frost today.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)** - The heavy rain over the weekend will keep combines on the sidelines for several days. Reports are coming in of lodged corn, even in triple stacked hybrids. There have also been reports of heavy ear molds in some fields. A few of the early harvested soybean fields yielded well. This has been a very challenging year to grow crops in Bucks County, due to the excessive rainfall throughout the growing season.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - Field work slowed as the week progressed. Four inches of wet snow caused some crops to go down.

**CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA)** - The weather slowed down fall harvesting. It rained most of the week. On Friday and Saturday there was snow fall. Corn silage harvesting is in full swing.

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William Clouser** - The recent, untimely winter storm will likely stop corn growth and cause harvest problems. Locally, corn that has not achieved black layer will likely not mature. This could add significantly to the acreage harvested for silage.

**CLINTON COUNTY, Judy Bergenstock (FSA)** - The early, wet snow damaged some of the soybean crop in our area. Several inches of heavy snow in some areas of Clinton and Centre Counties flattened the crop.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - Continued wet and cold weather last week kept field work to a minimum. The prolonged wet weather has caused cattle lanes and holding areas to deteriorate quickly. Pasture conditions are also becoming weaker due to a slow growth rate.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - It was a very wet and cold week, with little or no field work accomplished. The apple harvest continued, though many of the farmers are finishing up now. It appears like this will be one of the best seasons in several years. Yield and size are above average. Some cover crop seeding was done early in the week.

**INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff** - We are just waiting for some nice weather to start the picking and shelling of corn. The soybeans will be ready in 10 to 14 days

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - What a week! There was over two inches of wet & white snow. Where is October's bright blue weather?

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT)** - Corn has not been drying down well. Many varieties are starting to go down.

**MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust** - We need some sunny days to dry out the fields. This is in order for the rest of the wheat to be planted, if it is not too late for proper germination. Grapes are producing very low yields and low sugar content due to the lack of sunshine. In one area, a sweet corn producer is still harvesting.

**POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman (EXT)** - We have had a couple of hard frosts that have ended the growing season. We had four inches of snow on Friday of last week.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - There were cloudy skies at the beginning of the week. Heavy rain, along with wet, heavy snow at the end of the week curtailed nearly all of the planned field activities. The snow severely lodged some soybean fields, along with the corn that was still green. There was over two inches of rain, and from zero to five inches of snow fell. These weather conditions will undoubtedly affect the harvest of corn and soybeans. Hopefully, there will be a better report next week.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - It was cold and rainy all week. There was no harvesting or wheat planting progress. There is still no frost or freeze.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 18, 2009**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	59	69	69
Corn, dent	94	100	100
Corn, mature	80	94	95
Corn, harvested	25	43	50
Corn silage, harvested	84	99	99
Barley, planted	87	85	89
Barley, emerged	55	64	64
Wheat, planted	61	75	71
Wheat, emerged	37	35	39
Soybeans, harvested	25	40	35
Potatoes, harvested	94	99	98
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	87	98	87
Apples, harvested	90	78	84
Grapes, harvested	50	79	73

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 18, 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	6	15	45	33
Soybeans	0	4	14	48	34
Quality of hay made	12	10	32	39	7
Pasture	12	7	21	47	13

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