



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 26, 2010 ----- Issued weekly, April-November ----- Released September 27, 2010, 4 pm

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Excellent Week for Field Work: The state has been experiencing cooler temperatures for this week along with scattered showers and thunderstorms in certain counties, others still remained dry. Crop harvesting is in full swing around the state with some counties nearing completion of their corn silage harvest and others already pass the halfway mark with their apple crops. Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were harvesting vegetables, apples, corn silage, soybeans, and finding ways to salvage crops from the persistent stink bugs. Fall plowing continued, and is now 36% complete, slightly ahead of 35% last year, and behind the five year average of 42%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 26, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
38	36	25	1

Crop Progress: Corn is estimated to be 97% at the dough stage, ahead of last year's 93%, yet behind the five year average of 98%. Corn is 91% at the dent stage, ahead of 79% from last year and the 90% average. Corn is 69% mature, ahead of 34% from a year ago, and ahead of the 61% average. Corn harvested is at 30%, ahead of the 10% from a year ago and the 20% average. Corn silage is 89% harvested, ahead of 57% last year and the 76% average. Barley is 56% planted, ahead of last year's 37%, and the average of 43%. Barley emerged is at 17%, behind the 19% from a year ago and the 20% average. Winter wheat is 20% planted ahead of the 16% a year ago and even with the average of 20%. Soybeans are 14% harvested ahead of the previous year's 0% and the five year average of 4%. The tobacco harvest is 97% completed, ahead of 90% from a year ago and the 93% average. Potatoes are at 52% harvested, behind last year's 72% and the 67% average. The alfalfa fourth cutting is at 87% completed, ahead of 54% a year ago, and the 65% average. The apples are 72% harvested, above last year's 57%, and the average of 56%. The grape harvest has begun, and is 30% completed.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 4% very poor, 18% poor, 24% fair, 40% good, and 14% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 6% very poor, 14% poor, 23% fair, 42% good, and 15% excellent. The quality of hay made is 2% very poor, 2% poor, 13% fair, 48% good, and 35% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 30% very poor, 28% poor, 31% fair, 10% good and 1% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 19, 2010: While warmer than normal weather dominated much of the country during the week, temperatures in the northern Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, and Great Lakes region fell to as many as 8 degrees below average. Most

notably, cool, wet weather throughout much of Montana slowed fieldwork but boosted soil moisture reserves in preparation for upcoming winter wheat establishment. Elsewhere, warm, dry conditions across much of the South and West promoted harvest and summer crop maturation. In contrast, tropical storm systems in the Gulf of Mexico delivered abnormally wet weather to areas of Texas. Much of the southern half of the State received 200 percent or more of its normal precipitation, with locations in the Coastal Bend totaling 5 inches or more during the week. In addition, higher than normal precipitation also fell across the Pacific Northwest and central Plains. **Corn:** Nationally, 98 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dented stage by week's end, 19 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all estimating States except Texas. Crop maturation continued at a rapid pace as warm, mostly dry weather prevailed throughout much of the major producing areas during the week. By September 19, sixty-nine percent of the crop was at or beyond the mature stage, 49 percentage points, or 20 days, ahead of last year and 21 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Crop maturity was 58 percentage points or more ahead last year and 30 percentage points or more ahead of the 5-year average in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio. Producers had harvested 18 percent of the Nation's corn crop by week's end, 14 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Most notably, harvest advanced 20 points in Illinois during the week, leaving overall progress 37 percentage points ahead of last year and 26 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 68 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from both last week and the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By September 19, leaves were dropping on 60 percent of the soybean acreage, 24 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Aided by mostly hot temperatures, leaf drop was rapid throughout much of the major soybean-producing areas. By week's end, harvest was underway in all estimating States except North Carolina and Wisconsin. Nationwide, harvest had advanced to 8 percent complete, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 63 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but down 4 percentage points from the same time last year. **Small Grains:** Barley harvest reached 88 percent complete by September 19, slightly behind last year and 7 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Harvest in Montana remained slow as cool, wet weather hampered fieldwork, allowing producers just 3 days to harvest 4 percent of their crop.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 26, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 26, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	89	48	67	6	0.10	2	20.23	-1.88	67	3,065	637	4,753
Franklin	89	45	65	6	0.05	1	22.64	-1.67	72	2,827	574	4,516
Meadville-Port	86	47	65	8	0.13	1	22.29	-1.95	78	2,742	677	4,425
Mercer	88	45	64	5	0.16	2	22.28	-0.90	81	2,854	622	4,554
Springboro	87	42	63	3	0.22	2	26.79	5.27	78	2,550	158	4,190
Warren	89	44	64	7	0.16	2	18.21	-6.20	67	2,658	477	4,328
North Central												
Bradford Region	82	34	61	7	0.14	2	21.44	-2.96	73	2,055	474	3,664
Oswayo	85	32	59	4	0.08	2	22.11	-0.98	76	2,073	329	3,674
Kane	85	36	60	7	0.05	1	20.86	-3.96	67	2,050	502	3,654
Laporte	81	41	61	3	0.27	2	19.42	-3.05	78	2,415	184	4,066
Lock Haven	88	44	66	7	0.50	2	18.14	-3.98	58	3,036	666	4,764
Port Allegany	86	38	61	7	0.20	1	19.61	-3.48	74	2,300	556	3,931
Renovo	90	43	66	7	0.39	3	17.97	-4.15	68	2,924	554	4,650
Ridgway	87	37	61	6	0.17	2	19.36	-4.79	74	2,306	514	3,948
Stevenson Dam	88	43	65	9	0.21	1	17.47	-6.68	61	2,766	974	4,473
Towanda	88	36	63	5	0.05	2	14.30	-4.40	60	2,638	391	4,329
Wellsboro	83	34	60	5	0.13	2	18.63	-0.14	65	2,197	512	3,845
Williamsport	89	40	68	7	0.71	2	17.54	-4.19	60	3,329	716	5,087
Northeast												
Hawley	87	36	61	5	0.05	1	20.58	-0.65	60	2,391	463	4,045
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	90	40	67	8	0.07	2	11.49	-9.13	54	3,126	648	4,836
Susquehanna	87	38	62	7	0.10	1	19.33	-3.30	71	2,569	742	4,249
West Central												
Butler	88	44	66	7	0.01	1	25.54	2.56	70	2,813	476	4,512
New Castle	92	47	68	9	0.02	1	23.28	2.26	63	3,171	831	4,885
Slippery Rock	91	44	67	10	0.00	0	21.30	-1.10	71	2,963	862	4,674
Central												
Altoona/Blair	90	41	69	9	0.29	2	19.94	-0.04	65	3,036	552	4,756
DuBois	86	42	65	8	0.01	1	18.62	-4.48	73	2,698	549	4,399
Lewistown	94	44	69	8	0.00	0	16.85	-4.59	56	3,247	519	4,998
Middletown	93	47	72	9	0.02	1	19.56	-1.77	49	3,761	682	5,532
Prince Gallitzi	88	43	66	9	0.19	1	20.36	-5.41	61	2,477	476	4,165
Selinsgrove	91	40	67	7	0.42	1	14.01	-8.29	50	3,114	564	4,853
State College	88	45	67	8	0.00	0	16.06	-4.13	55	3,072	623	4,800
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	40	69	7	0.44	1	21.17	-2.20	49	3,342	529	5,082
Lehighton	84	42	65	4	0.19	2	18.85	-4.35	55	2,947	236	4,680
Matamoras	87	40	64	5	0.06	1	17.46	-6.01	56	2,693	243	4,390
Mt_Pocono	85	38	64	11	0.28	2	16.37	-8.61	68	2,595	923	4,267
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	90	50	71	11	0.34	1	18.21	-3.07	66	3,458	958	5,191
Indiana_PA	86	45	68	8	0.22	1	21.91	-3.08	76	2,811	391	4,520
Myersdale	86	38	63	3	0.12	1	16.32	-7.88	65	2,222	-108	3,877
Mount Pleasant	89	42	69	10	0.12	1	19.58	-5.68	56	2,964	852	4,670
Pittsburgh Intl	89	47	70	9	0.06	1	18.05	-1.97	63	3,367	749	5,096
Connellsville	90	50	71	10	0.17	3	21.94	-1.65	72	3,287	621	5,016
Waynesburg	90	46	69	9	0.32	2	18.69	-3.16	52	3,060	633	4,770
South Central												
Biglerville	92	44	70	7	0.42	1	14.47	-5.66	43	3,484	475	5,235
Everett	92	40	67	7	0.02	1	17.27	-2.15	59	2,857	379	4,572
Hanover	92	42	70	7	1.07	1	16.35	-3.78	50	3,432	423	5,180
Harrisburg_AP	93	45	72	9	0.02	1	22.11	0.78	53	3,640	554	5,404
South Mountain	88	42	67	8	0.15	1	14.37	-5.61	51	2,812	335	4,518
York	93	40	71	7	0.51	1	17.90	-3.61	53	3,373	376	5,116
Southeast												
Green Lane	89	45	70	9	0.51	1	15.78	-6.85	52	3,473	781	5,233
Hamburg	88	44	69	9	0.62	1	19.94	-6.09	57	3,388	933	5,142
West_Chester	91	41	70	7	0.05	1	20.45	-4.14	44	3,394	402	5,144
Lancaster	91	45	72	10	0.00	0	15.75	-7.02	51	3,543	697	5,294
Neshaminy Falls	91	44	69	8	0.27	2	12.83	-13.38	50	3,573	762	5,340
New Holland	94	47	71	9	0.14	1	17.64	-5.13	54	3,535	689	5,285
Philadelphia	92	54	75	10	0.15	1	16.46	-5.75	48	4,251	981	6,038
Philadelphia NE	90	50	73	9	0.36	1	14.23	-7.98	58	3,960	690	5,738
Reading	92	44	72	11	0.15	1	15.40	-8.93	52	3,757	962	5,526
Sellersville	89	41	68	7	0.73	1	16.62	-6.01	50	3,225	533	4,959
Willow Grove	92	57	74	12	0.34	1	16.92	-9.29	47	3,738	927	5,507

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 another week of cooler temperatures in the early mornings of the week. Wednesday afternoon, bad thunderstorms with fierce lightning and wind went through the area. Some areas received 0.5 inch of rainfall with this storm. Lightning from the storm also caused a large hay pile to catch fire and destroy 150-200 big square bales around Gettysburg. Wind damage was throughout the county with some trees being uprooted, and in other places branches were on power lines etc. Corn silage continues to be harvested in the county and will be completing here in next week as corn stalks are drying down too fast. Corn for grain continues to be harvested in the county. The moisture level is falling below 18% on a regular basis, which is surprising to producers this early in the fall. Soybeans are also being harvested in the county. Haybaling is almost complete for regrowth. Wheat, barley and rye are being seeded for harvest next year. Stink bugs are apparent on grain crops.

Apple harvest continues ahead of schedule. Stink bugs are still affecting yields on apples. Apple harvest is about two weeks earlier than normal. The Upper Adams area is gearing up for the National Apple Harvest Festival the first and second weekends in October. Held in Arendtsville, PA by the Upper Adams Jaycees, the festival celebrates the harvesting of the apples. Overall, producers have been busy in the fields doing various jobs from harvesting, preparing soil to planting, etc.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier

Corn harvest continued unabated. Yields are highly variable, but generally are below average year. Moisture in the harvested corn is low compared to recent years. Some corn is being picked in the 13-16% moisture range, so producers are saving on drying costs. Soybean harvest is just beginning. Most producers are holding off on planting wheat until we get some rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

It was good week for fall field work. We received only .25 inches of rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Farmers are working on fall soil preparation for winter wheat and barley, continuing harvesting of corn silage. Soil moisture is falling short of desired levels.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum

Received 0.6" of rain, but did little to help soil moisture.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Showers passed us by again this week; only had one good rain since early June. Corn and all crops are significantly affected. Some soybean fields have been abandoned. Apples are being harvested well ahead of normal due to early crop and dry weather. Yields are adversely affected by the drought and stink bugs. As much as 40% of the crop will be juice due to the bugs. Conditions seem to be worse now that it is hot and dry.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

We had another week without any rain. The corn and soybeans are maturing the best they can without any rain. There has been some corn shelling going on by other local farmers. The ground is really dry. Need some rain to keep the dust down in the fields while harvesting. The grass pretty much has stopped growing for the most part. Well, everyone have a safe work week!

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Corn silage harvesting for the Amish is complete. No rain was received this week. Sweet corn producers still have some late plantings as long as there is no frost. Ground preparation for plantings of wheat is at full speed.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Corn harvest is well underway; yields are around 2/3 of average and moistures in the teens. Soybeans: many fields have lost most of their leaves but I have yet to see a field harvested or hear of any yields. Thunderstorms Wednesday gave between 2 and 7 tenths of an inch. A few inches of rain are forecasted for this Monday and Tuesday.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The heat and drought has slowed the growth of anything still growing. Corn and soybean harvest is beginning, and reports of yields being respectable. So far the newly seeded grain is looking good; however, there are spots that it is slow at emerging. Main activities for the week were seeding and harvesting.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 26, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	36	35	42
Corn, dough	97	93	98
Corn, dent	91	79	90
Corn, mature	69	34	61
Corn, harvested	30	10	20
Corn silage, harvested	89	57	76
Barley, planted	56	37	43
Barley, emerged	17	19	20
Wheat, planted	20	16	20
Soybeans, harvested	14	0	4
Tobacco, harvested	97	90	93
Potatoes, harvested	52	72	67
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	87	54	65
Apples, harvested	72	57	56
Grapes, harvested	30	21	19

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 26, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	4	18	24	40	14
Soybeans	6	14	23	42	15
Quality of hay made	2	2	13	48	35
Pasture	30	28	31	10	1

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