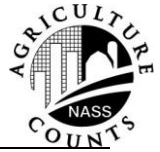




Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending October 23, 2011

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Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 3 days suitable for field work. Cooler temperatures and spotty precipitation were the themes for this week's weather episode. Many PA farmers took advantage of the breaks in weather to try and finish their fall harvesting, as it has become apparent the rain will only stay away for so long. Primary field activities for the week were harvesting of corn, fruit, and soybeans. Fall plowing is 44% complete, behind the 57% this time last year, and behind the 5-year average of 65%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Oct 23, 2011

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	48	52

Crop Progress: The corn crop is 92% mature, behind the 97% at this time last year, and slightly behind the 5-year average of 93%. The year's corn crop is 31% harvested, well behind the 62% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 49%. Corn for Silage harvest is 95% complete, behind the previous year's 99% and the 5-year average of 97%. Barley planting is 79% complete, behind the 96% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 91%. Barley is 52% emerged, behind the 76% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 68%. Winter wheat planting is 53% complete, compared to the 79% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 75%. Winter wheat is 32% emerged, compared to the 56% at this time last year and the average of 49%. The soybean harvest is 22% complete, compared to the 61% last year and the average of 47%. The potato harvest is 91% complete, compared to 98% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 97%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 83% complete, behind the previous year's 94% and the 5-year average of 92%. Apple harvesting is 93% complete, behind the 95% last year, but ahead of the average of 91%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 5% very poor, 13% poor, 29% fair, 42% good, and 11% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 3% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 51% good, and 20% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 6% very poor, 10% poor, 24% fair, 36% good and 24% excellent.

Nationwide as of October 16, 2011: Temperatures were near normal in many areas during the week, but readings averaged more than 10°F above normal in portions of the Great Lakes region and the Northeast. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather favored summer crop harvesting and small grain seeding throughout the Plains. Conversely, rainfall in the Ohio Valley limited not only corn and soybean harvesting, but winter wheat seeding as well.

Corn: By October 16, ninety-four percent of the corn was at or beyond the mature stage, 6 percentage points behind last year but slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Crop maturity advanced quickly in areas where progress was not already complete or nearly complete. By week's end, 47 percent of the corn crop was harvested, 19 percentage points behind last year but 6 points ahead of the 5-year average. Despite lingering rainfall in portions of the Midwest, fieldwork continued at a rapid pace in many of the major producing states. Conversely, delays of 17 percentage points or more were evident in Ohio and Pennsylvania, where adverse weather conditions limited fieldwork. Overall, 53 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 95 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage. This was 3 percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. Producers had harvested 69 percent of this year's soybean crop by October 16, twelve percentage points behind last year but 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest was 15 percentage points or more ahead of normal in three of the four largest soybean-producing states. **Winter Wheat:** Aided by improved weather conditions throughout much of the Great Plains, winter wheat seeding advanced quickly during the week. By week's end, 73 percent of the 2012 crop was in the ground, 7 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 44 percent complete by October 16, six percentage points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Recent rainfall coupled with late-season warmth promoted increased crop emergence in Oklahoma and Texas; however, significant delays persisted in both states.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 23, 2011

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 23, 2011					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	60	41	51	-2	1.97	5	34.16	8.70	99	3,103	493	4,998
Franklin_AG	66	34	49	0	0.96	5	36.06	8.95	119	2,983	595	4,872
Meadville-Port	66	38	49	1	0.87	3	33.15	5.78	113	3,019	833	4,902
Mercer	65	34	49	2	0.85	5	34.33	8.56	130	2,942	577	4,851
Springboro	67	37	49	-2	1.28	5	38.32	13.77	116	2,641	85	4,495
Warren	67	29	47	-2	0.82	5	32.26	4.80	107	2,758	453	4,620
North Central												
Bradford Region	62	28	45	0	1.16	5	34.36	7.11	121	2,320	670	4,100
Oswayo	61	29	45	-2	1.44	5	34.07	8.11	110	2,285	458	4,087
Kane	73	35	49	5	1.54	6	39.43	11.54	105	2,214	604	4,010
Laporte	61	36	48	-1	1.01	4	62.04	36.80	115	2,410	53	4,223
Lock Haven	69	35	52	4	1.03	3	37.73	13.00	96	3,182	673	5,107
Port Allegany	63	33	48	2	1.58	5	34.27	8.31	114	2,462	635	4,290
Renovo	67	35	51	2	1.03	4	37.67	12.94	112	3,120	611	5,039
Ridgway	66	31	48	3	0.94	6	33.13	6.26	115	2,480	601	4,327
Stevenson Dam	66	36	50	4	1.41	4	37.37	10.50	95	2,972	1,093	4,870
Towanda	64	36	50	2	0.76	4	47.06	26.09	95	2,804	427	4,702
Wellsboro	60	34	47	2	1.56	4	37.61	16.48	108	2,374	604	4,174
Williamsport	68	36	53	4	0.91	2	50.10	25.53	99	3,427	660	5,386
Northeast												
Hawley	66	39	51	4	1.05	2	50.64	26.88	96	2,534	507	4,420
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	67	37	54	4	0.26	3	42.23	19.14	98	3,140	517	5,079
Susquehanna	63	38	50	5	0.45	2	47.26	21.69	101	2,662	748	4,554
West Central												
Butler	68	34	51	2	0.81	5	32.09	6.61	110	3,007	528	4,937
New Castle	69	33	52	3	0.52	3	34.68	11.26	105	3,353	869	5,291
Slippery Rock	70	33	51	3	0.90	5	35.92	10.94	111	3,074	850	5,000
Central												
Altoona/Blair	70	34	53	3	0.46	4	34.27	11.81	93	3,332	694	5,273
DuBois	64	32	49	1	0.73	4	35.23	9.60	110	2,816	551	4,688
Lewistown	73	38	54	4	1.00	2	43.07	19.05	97	3,442	543	5,408
Middletown	71	39	56	3	0.49	2	53.42	29.52	89	3,805	519	5,808
Prince Gallitzi	65	28	49	1	0.91	4	35.28	6.58	99	2,789	672	4,654
Selinsgrove	70	37	53	4	0.58	3	50.50	25.45	102	3,193	497	5,134
State College	68	32	51	3	1.08	4	36.89	14.22	96	3,185	596	5,098
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	71	38	55	4	1.09	3	48.40	22.44	90	3,599	603	5,583
Lehighton	69	39	53	2	0.86	4	43.01	17.00	99	3,058	172	5,021
Matamoras	71	38	53	4	0.67	1	54.17	27.99	100	2,745	154	4,673
Mt_Pocono	66	35	51	6	1.51	4	55.18	27.04	106	2,672	932	4,547
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	68	34	52	3	0.59	5	26.95	3.25	105	3,536	874	5,504
Indiana_PA	64	30	51	1	0.78	4	36.89	9.21	125	3,104	527	5,027
Myersdale	71	27	47	-3	0.76	4	31.95	5.01	105	2,390	-85	4,235
Chalk_Hill	72	27	49	-3	0.85	5	44.49	18.43	113	2,468	-375	4,326
Pittsburgh Intl	68	34	52	2	0.27	4	24.26	2.16	96	3,492	705	5,457
Connellsville	71	36	53	2	0.94	5	35.92	9.86	125	3,369	526	5,328
Waynesburg	71	32	52	3	0.58	4	44.39	20.34	102	3,124	552	5,078
South Central												
Biglerville	73	36	54	2	1.14	1	40.46	17.63	80	3,615	403	5,602
Everett	72	31	53	3	0.31	2	36.26	14.26	92	3,008	374	4,953
Hanover	72	34	54	2	0.56	2	37.44	14.61	93	3,565	353	5,538
Harrisburg_AP	72	38	56	4	0.46	2	52.45	28.55	82	3,819	523	5,821
South Mountain	69	35	52	2	1.13	3	37.04	14.58	93	2,933	304	4,850
York	72	32	55	2	0.39	2	41.81	17.63	93	3,589	380	5,582
Southeast												
Green Lane	70	39	56	5	0.71	2	41.72	16.58	90	3,598	738	5,593
Hamburg	69	35	53	5	0.45	3	45.00	15.80	97	3,496	907	5,470
West_Chester	73	32	55	3	0.81	2	43.37	15.92	78	3,617	420	5,605
Lancaster	70	35	55	3	0.51	3	39.83	14.39	94	3,701	670	5,689
Neshaminy Falls	73	37	55	4	1.21	2	47.81	18.82	78	3,772	783	5,770
New Holland	71	40	56	5	0.71	2	40.31	14.87	89	3,670	639	5,654
Philadelphia	73	42	59	5	0.93	2	44.10	19.57	73	4,365	849	6,393
Philadelphia NE	71	41	58	4	0.95	2	44.37	19.84	81	4,062	546	6,083
Reading	72	38	57	6	0.54	3	38.41	11.41	93	3,912	944	5,924
Sellersville	70	36	53	3	1.13	2	42.81	17.67	85	3,340	480	5,310
Doylestown_AG	72	41	57	6	1.11	2	48.35	19.36	91	3,768	779	5,778

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 started the week with cool temperatures and a few showers; however, some producers were able to work in the fields during the early part of the week through Wednesday afternoon. The evening had heavy rains amounting to at least 1-1.5 inches for the county. Corn silage continues to be harvested and also dry corn, as well as soybeans. Not enough good days to harvest any hay. Apple harvest continues with some smaller growers finishing but others are awaiting for additional pickers and will have another 2-3 weeks of harvest. Overall, the producers are trying to harvest what they can and when the field conditions permit. They are frustrated with not being able to get to the fields due to the weather conditions.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Wet conditions continue - 1.5 inches of rain fall. Dry days needed to complete fall harvest.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Harvesting of corn for grain and some soybean.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig

Bean and corn harvest progressing slowly, limited by weather conditions and availability of custom harvesters who have completed their own harvest. Yields are variable but definitely not bin busters. Corn and beans going down in many areas. Final harvest of alfalfa and grasses taking place when weather permits. Summer seeded oats for forages look good. Need good weather to allow harvests. A busy time between rains for field work.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Light frost but not a killing frost, so could make some hay yet if weather would cooperate. Some corn and beans harvested. Apple harvest is winding down with most of the small operations done and many expected to finish this week. Yields in general were less than normal and fresh quality fruit was difficult to come by. Western and northern Franklin County was especially hard hit due to hail and other quality problems.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

I did about 12 acres of soybeans last week. The rest of them are not quite ready and the fields are still a little bit too muddy and wet. Got over .40" of rain last week too. Had a good frost on the 22nd - was down to 25 degrees. That should get the corn to dry down more and the rest of the soybeans to mature and dry down too. Hope to do more beans this week. Hope everyone has a safe farming week.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

There was an on and off drizzle last week which limited field work and harvest. Some soybeans and corn were combined and cover crop seeded. The ground is still very wet in areas. Some locations have fields that are "ponded".

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Most pumpkin growers have removed all pumpkins from the fields to avoid volunteer plants in 2012. Several local growers had considerable hail damage from the August 19th hail storm - the green pumpkins at that time had many sizeable pit marks from the hail storm. Those damaged pumpkins are being fed to cattle by dumping them in the pastures. We saw very little soybean harvesting done this week as it rained most of the week. Many fields of 3rd and 4th cutting hay have not been harvested also because of the rain, and with short daylight hours the cuttings are probably lost for 2011.

SNYDER COUNTY, William c. Sheaffer

Rainfall in the range of .5 to 2.0 inches, slowed the field activities for the week. Soybean harvest is beginning and there is concern of the quality, discolored and moldy beans; however, the yields are respectful. The winter grain has emerged and is looking good. The field activities for the week were silo filling, harvesting and sowing grain.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 23, 2011

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	44	57	65
Corn, mature	92	97	93
Corn, harvested	31	62	49
Corn silage, harvested	95	99	97
Barley, planted	79	96	91
Barley, emerged	52	76	68
Wheat, planted	53	79	75
Wheat, emerged	32	56	49
Soybeans, harvested	22	61	47
Potatoes, harvested	91	98	97
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	83	94	92
Apples, harvested	93	95	91

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 23, 2011

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	5	13	29	42	11
Soybeans	3	4	22	51	20
Pasture	6	10	24	36	24

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