



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 23, 2012

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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 an average of 4 days suitable for field work. Field activities for the week included filling silos, harvesting apples, corn for grain and corn silage. Fall plowing continues and is 47% complete, ahead of last year's 30% and ahead of the average of 36%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 23, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	15	76	6

Crop Progress: Corn is 95% at the dent stage, ahead of 87% at this time last year and the average of 85%. Corn is 69% at the mature stage; ahead of 33% at this time last year and the average of 46%. The harvest of corn for grain has begun and is 11% complete, ahead for last year's 3% but behind the average of 14%. The corn silage harvest continues at 80% complete, compared to 48% at this time last year and the average of 64%. Barley and winter wheat are now being planted. Thirty-eight percent of the barley crop has been planted, ahead of last year's 14% and the average of 33%. Winter wheat is now 27% planted, ahead of the last year's 6% and the average 14%. Tobacco harvest is 95% complete, ahead of the 82% at this time last year and the average of 90%. The potato harvest is 70% complete, ahead of last year's 31% and the average of 50%. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is 86% complete compared with 57% at this time last year and the average of 63%. The apple harvest is 71% complete, ahead of 53% at this time last year and the average of 56%. Grape harvest now at 50% complete, compared to 14% at this time last year and the average of 13%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 2% very poor, 10% poor, 25% fair, 48% good, and 15% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 19% fair, 55% good, and 22% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 12% very poor, 21% poor, 29% fair, 33% good and 5% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 16, 2012: Near- to below-normal temperatures prevailed across much of the country during the week, with readings averaging more than 6°F below normal in portions of the Southwest, Great Plains, and Mid-Atlantic States. Conversely, late-season warmth and

generally dry conditions in some western regions continued to support fieldwork, as producers finished harvesting their remaining small grains and began seeding winter wheat. Rainfall was mostly limited to the Four Corners States and central and southern Great Plains during the week. Most notably, portions of the Southwest accumulated weekly precipitation totaling more than 400 percent of normal.

Corn: Ninety-seven percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the dent stage by week's end, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. Favorable weather conditions promoted double-digit crop maturation in most of the major producing states during the week, with nationwide progress advancing to 76 percent by September 16. This was 36 percentage points ahead of last year and 35 points ahead of the 5-year average. This represents the quickest maturity pace since 1987, when 80 percent of the nation's corn crop was at or beyond the mature stage. By week's end, 26 percent of the corn crop was harvested, 18 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 24 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from last week but 27 points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 57 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf drop stage, 29 percentage points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Despite cooler weather during the week, leaf drop was rapid in most estimating states. In Iowa, several producers had completed corn harvest and switched their focus to soybeans during the week, as cool, dry conditions provided ample time for fieldwork. Nationally, 10 percent of the soybean crop was harvested by September 16, six percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Overall, 33 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but 20 percentage points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** Warm, dry weather favored Northwestern fieldwork during the week, while beneficial rainfall boosted soil moisture levels ahead of seeding in portions of the Great Plains. Nationwide, producers had sown 11 percent of the intended 2013 winter wheat acreage by September 16, on par with last year but 3 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 23, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 23, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	75	48	62	-1	1.68	4	16.16	-5.57	55	2,982	576	4,574
Franklin_AG	75	40	58	-3	1.21	5	17.93	-6.03	73	2,734	499	4,323
Meadville-Port	71	44	59	0	1.90	4	20.18	-3.70	64	2,818	769	4,422
Clarion	72	38	56	-5	1.73	6	21.40	-3.56	68	2,396	148	3,967
Springboro	72	38	56	-7	2.00	4	20.46	-0.73	66	2,430	59	3,984
Warren	74	41	58	-2	0.93	4	19.53	-4.51	69	2,562	397	4,135
North Central												
Bradford Region	71	34	57	3	1.82	4	21.21	-2.83	68	2,258	687	3,810
Oswayo	70	30	52	-5	1.51	5	19.59	-3.15	64	1,951	219	3,476
Kane	73	35	56	2	1.59	4	23.13	-1.31	70	2,045	507	3,577
Laporte	71	42	56	-5	2.52	4	30.80	8.67	74	2,216	1	3,779
Lock Haven	78	43	60	-2	1.42	4	21.03	-0.77	74	2,927	575	4,585
Coudersport_1SW	73	34	54	-3	1.70	5	24.51	1.77	79	2,083	351	3,609
Renovo	76	43	60	-1	2.22	4	26.19	4.39	70	2,854	502	4,503
Ridgway	75	34	57	-1	2.42	4	19.55	-4.26	71	2,395	616	3,969
Stevenson Dam	75	40	59	2	1.96	4	23.75	-0.06	64	2,727	948	4,358
Towanda	75	41	58	-2	1.31	4	22.62	4.21	70	2,629	398	4,220
Wellsboro	70	34	54	-3	3.33	4	20.45	1.95	66	2,132	459	3,688
Williamsport	78	43	63	2	2.15	3	19.60	-1.81	71	3,164	571	4,835
Northeast												
Hawley	74	39	56	-2	3.97	3	21.86	0.95	66	2,338	424	3,906
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	77	44	61	1	2.16	3	21.46	1.15	72	2,995	536	4,624
Susquehanna	74	40	58	1	1.71	3	26.03	3.75	67	2,507	692	4,085
West Central												
Butler	75	38	57	-4	1.39	4	19.12	-3.53	64	2,757	439	4,384
New Castle	78	40	59	-3	1.12	4	22.64	1.94	62	2,998	678	4,636
Slippery Rock	80	39	59	-1	1.24	4	21.80	-0.27	62	2,875	790	4,505
Central												
Altoona/Blair	75	40	61	-1	1.25	3	20.01	0.34	64	2,985	521	4,653
DuBois	73	40	58	-2	1.88	4	18.02	-4.75	61	2,564	431	4,168
Lewistown	80	43	62	-2	1.79	3	21.86	0.71	78	3,134	429	4,826
Middletown	81	47	64	0	2.72	2	25.89	4.88	66	3,498	446	5,211
Prince Gallitzi	75	34	56	-4	1.21	5	21.10	-4.27	64	2,494	509	4,104
Selinsgrove	81	44	60	-2	2.65	2	22.99	1.03	72	2,983	453	4,636
State College	74	42	59	-3	1.45	4	22.45	2.56	77	2,901	470	4,559
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	80	45	64	2	2.08	3	24.69	1.67	67	3,252	462	4,938
Lehighton	74	45	59	-3	6.20	2	30.99	8.13	72	2,738	48	4,391
Matamoras	75	43	60	-2	2.74	3	26.56	3.45	85	2,816	384	4,472
Mt_Pocono	75	41	59	4	5.17	3	27.12	2.53	77	2,407	745	4,007
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	77	44	62	1	1.64	4	17.81	-3.17	65	3,344	865	5,023
Indiana_PA	75	43	60	-2	1.61	5	21.74	-2.87	90	2,863	463	4,496
Myersdale	76	35	56	-6	1.29	3	20.47	-3.36	72	2,202	-108	3,790
Chalk_Hill	75	34	54	-10	1.66	3	22.97	-0.28	72	2,257	-386	3,852
Pittsburgh Intl	76	40	61	-3	1.25	4	19.82	0.09	63	3,218	623	4,888
Connellsville	76	40	58	-5	1.38	3	23.33	0.08	74	2,932	289	4,612
Waynesburg	76	38	58	-4	1.23	3	17.79	-3.76	59	2,873	466	4,529
South Central												
Biglerville	81	44	62	-3	2.88	2	24.30	4.52	63	3,250	268	4,950
Everett	78	35	57	-5	1.65	2	21.07	1.95	69	2,666	208	4,312
Hanover	80	42	61	-5	3.65	2	24.93	5.15	67	3,185	203	4,874
Harrisburg_AP	81	45	64	-1	1.72	2	25.32	4.31	66	3,535	476	5,250
South Mountain	74	40	57	-5	2.49	2	28.24	8.57	71	2,617	160	4,254
York	80	41	63	-3	3.61	2	23.06	1.88	69	3,191	221	4,865
Southeast												
Green Lane	80	46	62	0	2.92	2	27.92	5.62	66	3,220	550	4,920
Hamburg	79	45	61	1	4.92	3	27.59	1.94	72	3,148	711	4,835
West_Chester	82	42	61	-4	1.77	3	24.41	0.20	50	3,186	221	4,864
Lancaster	81	44	63	-1	1.79	3	21.13	-1.30	56	3,333	512	5,022
Neshaminy Falls	84	46	64	1	1.07	2	23.83	-1.99	69	3,339	552	5,057
New Holland	81	47	64	2	1.43	2	24.28	1.85	54	3,414	593	5,136
Philadelphia	85	55	68	3	1.25	3	20.95	-0.93	49	3,909	669	5,648
Philadelphia NE	82	50	66	-1	1.25	3	25.34	3.46	58	3,573	333	5,293
Reading	83	46	65	3	2.34	3	21.53	-2.44	68	3,531	758	5,239
Sellersville	80	44	61	-3	2.58	2	26.73	4.43	55	2,979	309	4,638
Doylestown_AG	80	46	63	0	1.48	3	24.56	-1.26	59	3,348	561	5,051

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 morning temperatures around 48 degrees and rose to 78 daytime and was mostly sunny until afternoon, then clouds moved in. Tuesday morning early the rain moved in and we had parts of county receiving 3-5 inches of rain. Wednesday morning was 60 degrees and daytime into 70's, Thursday was 41 degrees morning and sunny and rose to 70's. Some corn silage got harvested Monday before the rains on Tuesday moved in.

Corn continues to mature. Some has been harvested for grain, but moisture is still high not too far from being harvested. Soybeans are maturing early soybeans leaves are changing color and will soon be falling off. Some hay baled on Monday. Some barley and wheat have been planted but most will be planted after corn and soybeans are harvested in next few weeks. Apples continue to be harvested. Dr. Tara Baugher said the quality this year is the best it has been in a few years. Harvesting is earlier for all varieties. Harvesting slowed down with heavy rains and winds on Tuesday and also made it hard for tractors to haul apples from orchard rows to loading areas because of rains. The prices of apples are higher this year due to surrounding states not having hardly any apple crop. The Upper Adams Jaycees are busy getting ready to hold the 48th National Apple Harvest Festival October 6-7, 13-14 held in Arendtsville. Overall, the producers are still busy doing fieldwork when conditions permit.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Cool nights have improved color on Red apples. Active harvest continues for Red, Golden Delicious, Empires, and Jonagolds.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Just about complete with potato harvest. Yields vary by type and planting time. Corn silage is just finishing up. Corn for grain still needs to dry down some before harvest. Corn and soybean yields are looking good. The winter wheat that was planted is up.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Fall field work continued with silo filling and barley and wheat field preparation. We received 1.9 inches of rainfall for the week.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Heavy rains this week slowed up field work, however corn is maturing very rapidly and some grain harvest has begun. Silage harvest is nearly finished. Barley planted as cover is looking good. Wheat is just now being planted. Pastures are excellent for this time of year. Apple harvest is progressing ahead of normal.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Initial soybean yields have been excellent; corn is more of a mixed bag with both good and poor yields reported.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler

Fall is officially here and the corn is being monitored for maturity in order to be shelled. Soybean harvest has begun. On some farms, a fifth cutting of alfalfa has been cut and baled. There was heavy rain all day Tuesday. The topsoil did not become overly wet allowing farmers to continue their harvest.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Grape picking is in full swing in the Pennsylvania - New York counties along Lake Erie. Many vineyards are not picking due to no grapes resulting from the March-April freezes that damaged the grapes. Many apple varieties are either low yielding or zero yield also due to the spring freezes. Silo filling is winding down this past week. Some early maturing field corn has been shelled then wheat is to be planted. A chance of frost is possible for Monday morning in our area. The house plants are being given some protection tonight which is not a good thing.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Rainfall at the beginning of the week ranging from 2 to 4 inches was a boost to the crops, while putting a temporary halt to harvesting corn silage. The activities for the week were preparing for fall seeding, fall harvest and spraying.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker

We shelled the first corn on 9-17 planted April 30 yielded 157bu. @15%. I expect this field to be our worst corn as it was on some thin soil, most of the balance of the crop will likely be near 200. First beans 9-21 and yielded 66 bushel. Yields are much higher than I expected with the drought that we experienced in June and early July.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 23, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	47	30	36
Corn, dent	95	87	85
Corn, mature	69	33	46
Corn, harvested	11	3	14
Corn silage, harvested	80	48	64
Barley, planted	38	14	33
Winter wheat, planted	27	6	14
Tobacco, harvested	95	82	90
Potatoes, harvested	70	31	50
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	86	57	63
Apples, harvested	71	53	56
Grapes, harvested	50	14	13

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 23, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	10	25	48	15
Soybeans	0	4	19	55	22
Pasture	12	21	29	33	5

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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