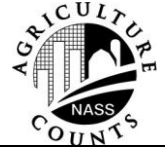




Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 30, 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 corn for grain and corn silage, and cutting haylage. Fall plowing continues and is 52% complete, ahead of last year's 30% and ahead of the average of 41%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 30, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	4	85	10

Crop Progress: Corn is 78% at the mature stage; ahead of 44% at this time last year and the average of 62%. The harvest of corn for grain has begun and is 18% complete, ahead for last year's 6% but behind the average of 20%. The corn silage harvest continues at 87% complete, compared to 54% at this time last year and the average of 75%. Barley and winter wheat are now being planted. Forty-seven percent of the barley crop has been planted, ahead of last year's 21% and the average of 45%. The barley crop is 27% emerged ahead of last year's 13% and the average of 23%. Winter wheat is now 36% planted, ahead of the last year's 9% and the average 23%. Winter wheat is 16% emerged ahead of last year's 4% and the average of 9%. Soybean harvest is underway and is 7% complete, compared to 1% last year and the average of 7%. The potato harvest is 90% complete, ahead of last year's 46% and the average of 65%. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is 88% complete compared with 64% at this time last year and the average of 70%. The apple harvest is 86% complete, ahead of 67% at this time last year and the average of 65%. Grape harvest now at 85% complete, compared to 40% at this time last year and the average of 31%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 2% very poor, 8% poor, 22% fair, 51% good, and 17% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 15% fair, 57% good, and 24% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 6% very poor, 13% poor, 33% fair, 39% good and 9% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 23, 2012: As fall arrived and a cold front pushed through, cooler weather blanketed most areas from the Great Plains eastward during the week. Thunderstorms associated with the cold front dumped above-average rainfall from the Delta to New England, with portions of eastern Tennessee accumulating more than 5 inches of moisture. In parts of the eastern Corn Belt and the Great Lakes region, temperatures averaged more than 6°F below normal. Conversely, hot, dry weather in the West—with temperatures

more than 6°F above normal—favored summer crop maturation but slowed small grain sowing and seed germination.

Corn: By week's end, 88 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the mature stage, 30 percentage points ahead of last year and 31 points ahead of the 5-year average. Cool, dry weather in most of the corn-producing region allowed for rapid crop maturation, and provided ample time for fieldwork during the week. Producers had harvested 39 percent of the nation's crop by September 23, twenty-seven percentage points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of the 5-year average. In Iowa, harvest progress was reported as being over 3 weeks ahead of normal, with the moisture content of harvested corn reported at 18 percent. Overall, 24 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 28 percentage points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** Seventy-three percent of this year's soybean crop was at or beyond the leaf dropping stage by September 23. This was 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of the 5-year average. Pods in some soybean fields in Indiana were reported as mature; however, producers were forced to slow combining speeds due to stalks being too green. By week's end, 22 percent of the soybean crop was harvested, 18 percentage points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest in Iowa was over a week ahead of normal. Overall, 35 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from last week but 18 points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** Producers had sown one-quarter of the 2013 winter wheat crop by week's end, 3 percentage points ahead of last year but 2 points behind the 5-year average. Improved soil moisture levels in portions of Texas prompted wheat seeding by many producers during the week, while others were busy plowing and applying pre-plant fertilizers. Early-sown wheat was beginning to emerge in some areas. **Sorghum:** By September 23, eighty-one percent of the sorghum crop was at or beyond the coloring stage, 5 percentage points ahead of last year but 5 points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in New Mexico, where overall progress was 40 percentage points behind normal. Nationally, crop maturity advanced to 48 percent complete by week's end, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Cool weather and light precipitation allowed producers in Kansas to harvest 3 percent of their sorghum during the week. Nationwide, harvest remained slow but steady during the week, advancing to 31 percent complete by week's end. This was 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 24 percent of the sorghum crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from both last week and the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 30, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 30, 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 46 degrees and a brief shower, then turned sunny and into the 70's. Tuesday morning was 38 degrees and sunny into 70's. Wednesday started low 60's some clouds and sun, but by mid afternoon mid 70's and cloudier as evening came and some showers. Thursday was 64 degrees and 0.3" early the cloudy all day, then evening a few showers early then heavier rains came during the night. York Springs had total of 1.8" and Hampton just few miles south had 4" of rainfall since yesterday morning.

Corn continues to be harvested as silage and for grain. Some corn is still pretty green but starting to dry down. Tonnage is pretty decent and grain yields are all over the board. Some soybeans are started to be harvested. Some hay is still being made but weather is playing a role with doing that. Some barley and wheat have been seeded but more to be seeded once corn and soybeans are harvested. Apple harvest continues and good quality is being reported and most growers have decent yields. Some apples are being purchased from other states like Michigan, Virginia, New York as those states did not have hardly any apple crop. Prices are higher for both fresh and processing apples this year. The Upper Adams Jaycees are preparing for the 48th Annual National Apple Harvest Festival to be held October 6-7, 13-14 near Arendtsville. Normally about 20,000 folks a day visit the festival with all kinds of food made from apples and other food too, and arts and crafts and antique cars and tractor displays.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Finishing potato harvest. Now gearing up to pick corn, still needs to dry down a little.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Showers limited field work, but were good for the water table. We received 1.8 inches for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Activities for the week included capping of silos with corn silage, and making 4th and 5th cutting of hay for haylage.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Some heavy showers again this week. Fall seedings of grain and hay are looking very good at this time. Still able to get some corn and soybeans harvested this week. Yields are excellent in the soybeans. Apple harvest is nearly over the peak and some smaller growers nearly finished.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Chris Burkhart

Harvest is well under way thanks to ideal weather conditions. Corn yields have turned out to be better than expected and harvest is progressing well. Soybeans have heavy insect feeding and look rough; with double crop beans looking almost as good or better than full season beans. Oats and rye are being planted for forage and cover crop. Barley and wheat will start to be planted soon.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Zeigler

Harvest time is here - corn and soybeans were combined this week. Corn has held its own this year, and though not exceptional will give an overall fair yield. Soybeans will do better.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Grape picking is winding down 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. The tomato producers are picking the last of their tomato crop. Early maturing field corn is being shelled in a few areas.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Rain during mid-week, put a halt to the field activities, which were silo filling, grain seeding, and corn harvesting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Heavy rains slowed corn silage harvest. Corn for grain harvest is about to begin with soybean combining delayed waiting on drier conditions.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 30, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	52	30	41
Corn, mature	78	44	62
Corn, harvested	18	6	20
Corn silage, harvested	87	54	75
Barley, planted	47	21	45
Barley, emerged	27	13	23
Winter wheat, planted	36	9	23
Winter wheat, emerged	16	4	9
Soybeans, harvested	7	1	7
Potatoes, harvested	90	46	65
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	88	64	70
Apples, harvested	86	67	65
Grapes, harvested	85	40	31

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 30, 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	8	22	51	17
Soybeans	0	4	15	57	24
Pasture	6	13	33	39	9

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