



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Northeastern Regional Field Office

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Week Ending September 15, 2013

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. This week had a mixture of all types of weather in Pennsylvania. The week started out as warm with the middle of the week getting very hot and humid but much need rain and cool temperatures were present later in the week. Corn and soybeans are starting to show signs of stress with the little rain that we have received. There is a lot of corn that is starting to turn brown and dry up while there are reports of the soybeans starting to dry down and revealing pods. Corn silage harvest is well underway. Farmers are starting to plant barley and winter wheat for the winter cover crop and harvest next year. Tobacco harvest is nearly complete and these weather conditions are great for drying and curing the tobacco. Potato harvest is still underway. Grape harvest is starting and will continue for several weeks while apple harvest is still continuing. The rain this week helped the dry soil conditions but everything is still very dry and more rain is needed, especially for the crops that are being planted now for next year. The weather for the week ahead should be cooler with temperatures in the 70s most days and showers predicted for the weekend. Field activities for the week included cutting alfalfa, timothy and other forage; harvesting corn silage, tobacco, potatoes, peaches, apples and grapes, planting barley and winter wheat, applying fertilizer, mowing pastures, spraying herbicides and pesticides and applying lime to fields.

harvested. Grapes are 15% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 32% but ahead of the 5-year average of 11% harvested.

Crop Condition: Corn conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 12% fair, 44% good, and 40% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 63% good, and 20% excellent. Quality of Hay made conditions are; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 27 fair, 50% good and 19% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 5% very poor, 17% poor, 33% fair, 38% good and 7% excellent. Apples conditions are; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 13% fair, 68% good and 19% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 8, 2013: Hot, mostly dry weather covered areas from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi Valley, with temperatures averaging to more than 12°F above normal in some locations during the week. In contrast, temperatures in the Ohio Valley and Northeast were slightly below normal during the week. Much of the Pacific Northwest welcomed above-average rainfall and normal temperatures during the week, which helped boost soil moisture levels. Corn: Ninety-two percent of this year's corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by week's end, 7 percentage points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Above-normal temperatures advanced the corn crop in dough stage in Minnesota and North Dakota by 17 percentage points or more. Nationwide, 64 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dent stage by September 8, twenty-eight percentage points behind last year and 11 points behind the 5-year average. By week's end, 9 percent of the corn crop was mature, 46 percentage points behind last year and 19 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 54 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week but 32 points better than the same time last year. Soybeans: Ninety-seven percent of the crop was setting pods by September 8, two percentage points behind last year and slightly behind the 5-year average. In Iowa, some of the earliest-planted soybeans have begun to drop leaves. Nationwide, 11 percent of the crop was at or beyond the leaf-dropping stage by September 8, twenty-three percentage points behind last year and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 52 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week but 20 points better than the same time last year. Winter Wheat: By week's end, producers had sown 5 percent of the nation's intended 2014 acreage, slightly ahead of last year but on pace with the 5-year average. In Washington State, producers were in high gear seeding winter wheat. Other Small Grains: Nationally, producers had harvested 97 percent of this year's oat crop by September 8, three percentage points behind last year and identical to the 5-year average. By week's end, 89 percent of the barley crop was harvested, 6 percentage points behind last year but 7 points ahead of the 5-year average.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 15, 2013

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
13	20	65	2

Crop Progress: Fall plowing is 35% plowed, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 28% and the 5-year average of 26% plowed. Corn is 97% doughed, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 95% and the 5-year average of 92% doughed. Corn is 71% dent, which is behind progress at this time last year of 82% and the 5-year average of 73% dent. Corn is 28% mature, which is behind progress at this time last year of 41% and the 5-year average of 29% dent. Corn silage is 36% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 59% and the 5-year average of 50% harvested. Barley is 25% planted, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 15% and the 5-year average of 16% planted. Winter wheat is 11% planted, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 9% and the 5-year average of 6% planted. Tobacco is 90% harvested, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 88% and the 5-year average of 82% harvested. Potatoes are 59% harvested, which is ahead of progress at this time last year of 57% and the 5-year average of 44% harvested. Alfalfa third cutting is 94% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 98% and the 5-year average of 96% cut. Alfalfa fourth cutting is 48% cut, which is behind progress at this time last year of 77% and the 5-year average of 61% cut. Apples are 55% harvested, which is behind progress at this time last year of 59% but ahead of the 5-year average of 49%

Weather Data For Week Ending September 15, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 15, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	49	68	3	0.90	3	26.69	6.18	72	2,632	342	4,161
Franklin_AG	92	42	65	3	0.22	2	23.82	0.91	80	2,474	334	3,994
Meadville-Port	89	45	66	4	0.38	2	20.99	-1.83	79	2,517	555	4,056
Clarion	88	39	63	0	0.50	3	23.03	-0.81	77	2,171	18	3,667
Springboro	90	44	64	-1	0.47	2	28.47	8.36	73	2,216	-47	3,710
Warren	91	41	64	2	0.43	3	20.41	-2.51	75	2,321	245	3,829
North Central												
Bradford Region	88	34	63	6	0.47	3	18.76	-4.19	83	2,058	543	3,560
Oswayo	87	31	60	1	1.74	4	19.45	-2.22	68	1,795	126	3,254
Kane	89	33	62	5	0.78	3	22.76	-0.56	71	1,817	331	3,278
Laporte	85	39	59	-4	1.04	6	28.22	7.09	75	1,953	-173	3,433
Lock Haven	92	43	66	3	0.35	3	18.94	-1.88	64	2,588	335	4,135
Coudersport_1SW	88	35	61	2	1.64	5	21.16	-0.51	82	1,875	206	3,345
Renovo	93	43	65	2	1.40	3	17.02	-3.80	64	2,585	332	4,123
Ridgway	88	36	63	3	1.26	3	22.44	-0.40	74	2,131	423	3,620
Stevenson Dam	90	41	65	6	1.10	4	19.54	-3.30	65	2,383	675	3,897
Towanda	94	38	63	2	0.61	3	21.17	3.61	60	2,315	173	3,834
Wellsboro	86	34	60	2	1.46	4	21.78	4.16	74	1,913	302	3,398
Williamsport	94	43	68	4	0.77	4	17.00	-3.50	59	2,857	373	4,439
Northeast												
Hawley	92	36	62	3	0.43	4	26.56	6.57	68	2,123	283	3,610
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	95	38	67	4	0.51	3	14.19	-5.22	61	2,752	395	4,318
Susquehanna	91	39	63	4	2.09	3	26.04	4.73	64	2,217	468	3,727
West Central												
Butler	89	42	66	3	0.64	4	23.41	1.68	77	2,433	216	3,957
New Castle	90	43	66	3	1.31	3	22.25	2.50	68	2,528	310	4,062
Slippery Rock	94	41	68	7	1.26	3	20.99	-0.15	65	2,585	588	4,111
Central												
Altoona/Blair	89	42	67	4	0.64	3	16.16	-2.66	74	2,687	327	4,256
DuBois	88	39	66	4	0.51	3	17.76	-4.07	65	2,497	449	4,031
Lewistown	94	45	68	3	1.44	2	16.49	-3.77	65	2,905	316	4,496
Middletown	94	46	71	4	0.24	1	17.32	-2.73	70	3,147	229	4,762
Prince Gallitzi	88	37	65	4	0.64	4	21.22	-3.03	68	2,361	459	3,894
Selinsgrove	91	43	65	2	0.95	3	21.69	0.73	62	2,640	216	4,208
State College	90	44	65	3	0.56	2	21.32	2.30	65	2,635	303	4,197
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	93	41	69	4	0.53	1	27.97	5.99	63	2,934	264	4,533
Lehighton	91	39	64	-2	0.61	1	26.06	4.26	66	2,454	-125	4,026
Matamoras	92	41	66	3	0.68	2	27.30	5.24	67	2,560	227	4,120
Mt_Pocono	89	36	63	5	1.43	4	29.62	6.19	67	2,172	566	3,668
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	90	44	69	5	0.23	4	22.39	2.29	72	2,941	569	4,527
Indiana_PA	86	43	66	2	0.84	5	24.43	0.93	85	2,612	318	4,172
Myersdale	86	36	63	-2	0.28	3	24.23	1.41	82	2,075	-132	3,578
Chalk_Hill	86	34	62	-5	1.01	1	30.19	7.81	79	2,091	-436	3,594
Pittsburgh Intl	90	44	69	5	1.13	4	20.24	1.30	64	2,914	432	4,487
Connellsville	87	47	68	3	0.76	5	30.14	7.76	91	2,688	161	4,244
Waynesburg	88	41	68	4	0.81	2	23.01	2.24	77	2,541	239	4,089
South Central												
Biglerville	95	42	70	4	0.43	1	18.85	0.04	61	2,949	99	4,548
Everett	88	38	64	0	0.03	2	17.03	-1.27	71	2,418	68	3,969
Hanover	93	40	69	2	0.33	1	17.94	-0.87	72	2,876	26	4,472
Harrisburg_AP	95	49	71	4	0.46	1	16.58	-3.47	70	3,132	207	4,752
South Mountain	88	41	66	3	0.35	2	22.33	3.51	72	2,359	6	3,911
York	93	41	69	2	0.47	1	20.40	0.10	67	2,947	111	4,531
Southeast												
Green Lane	92	43	68	3	0.15	1	26.64	5.34	67	2,904	351	4,503
Hamburg	93	41	67	4	0.63	1	22.47	-2.03	72	2,864	526	4,459
West_Chester	94	44	68	0	0.38	1	31.64	8.57	66	2,885	54	4,477
Lancaster	94	42	69	4	0.31	1	18.94	-2.52	62	2,930	232	4,520
Neshaminy Falls	93	44	69	3	0.45	2	26.76	2.03	61	3,051	385	4,663
New Holland	93	45	69	3	1.19	1	23.12	1.66	60	3,089	391	4,705
Philadelphia	94	50	73	4	0.19	1	33.53	12.54	58	3,520	430	5,158
Philadelphia NE	94	48	73	4	0.45	1	24.17	3.18	65	3,295	205	4,914
Reading	94	43	71	5	0.60	1	22.82	-0.11	62	3,183	530	4,804
Sellersville	92	40	67	2	0.55	1	29.84	8.54	60	2,742	189	4,320
Doylestown_AG	93	44	69	4	0.38	2	30.99	6.26	63	3,027	361	4,635

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 week out in low 50's for morning temperatures and no humidity and daytime high 70's. Thursday morning 68 degrees and humid with thunderstorm morning around 8:45 with some rainfall and afternoon around 4 thunderstorm with some wind, rainfall. Total rainfall York Springs was one inch. That was greatly needed as we had not had any significant rainfall for a little and has been dry for the whole county.

Corn silage continues to be chopped as corn is drying down quickly with no rain until yesterday in the county. Corn and soybeans continue to mature with stalks drying down and soybean leaves starting to drop. Fall seedings are being done for forage crops and also small grains. Other fields are also being prepared for future seedings. Hay continues to be made with the interesting weather conditions we have been having.

Peaches are still being harvested and probably will continue another week or so. Prices are still low due to majority of surrounding states peaches all came ripe and ready to market at the same time keeping prices low. Some producers were also debating whether it was beneficial to harvest theirs because of labor cost to harvest and not getting much when they market them. Apples continue to be harvested with more varieties being harvested each day. Both peaches and apples for the most part are having nice yields. Other vegetables are being harvested and pumpkins being picked for the fall decorations and enjoyment.

ADAMS County, Lee Showalter

Gala harvest is mostly complete. Honeycrisp harvest should be finished by the end of the coming week. Harvest of Golden Delicious for fresh market will commence this week. Apple harvest continues to remain 2 weeks later than a year ago. Quality has been good with sizing a bit less than expected on Galas.

CAMBRIA County, Dolly Little

Heavy downpours this week. Over an 1" of rain in many places in less than an hour. Some producers still trying to harvest hay but the rain showers prevented dry hay making. Preparing fields for the next crop year by spraying and liming. Harvesting potatoes were a major activity this week. Silage beginning to come off the field. It's a busy time of the year.

CENTRE County, Dick Decker

Good weather for field work, Silage moving along at a good pace. Corn dry down is fast. Few misty showers less than 1/10 inch in the rain gauge.

CLARION County, Tom Tanner

Harvesting corn silage. Winter wheat planting.

COLUMBIA County, David Reedy

August rainfall deficits will impact soybeans some and has definitely reduced fall forage production. Southern parts of Columbia and Western Montour county areas are impacted the most.

LANCASTER County, Jeffrey Graybill

Most of the silage is harvested with excellent yields. Barns are full of tobacco with excellent curing weather. High moisture corn will be harvested this week with dry corn soon afterward. Yields also look very good. Significant soybean lodging may affect yield and quality.

LEBANON County, Charlene Zeigler

Fall seems to have arrived after some very humid days. The soybeans are drying down revealing the pods. Many pods have 4 beans. Corn silage harvest continues. Grass hay and alfalfa was mowed.

MERCER County, James P. Rust

Wednesday and Thursday our area received 2.5 inches of rain and 2.0 inches of that rain came in 30 minutes with hail. Farmers harvesting corn silage are reporting yields all over the board from good to poor yields. Some growers have been planting cover crops like radishes for their many conservation benefits.

PERRY County, David L. Swartz

Very dry conditions persist across Perry County. Corn silage harvest is completed and shelled corn harvest will begin this week. As is usually the case in very dry years, silos produced much more silo gas this year from the newly ensiled corn silage. Shorter season corn (less than 100 days) is drying down quickly (20% moisture) due to the extremely dry conditions. Pastures are not productive due to lack of rain.

SNYDER County, William C. Sheaffer

Showers during the week put a halt to the intense heat; however, little effect on the dry soil conditions. Corn and soybeans are maturing and looking good. Silo filling in full progress. Main activities for the week were silo filling, fall seeding preparation and hay making.

WESTMORELAND County, John Lohr

Excellent growing conditions continued this week. Corn and soybeans showing signs of maturity.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 15, 2013

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	35	28	26
Corn, dough	97	95	92
Corn, dent	71	82	73
Corn, mature	28	41	29
Corn silage, harvested	36	59	50
Barley, planted	25	15	16
Wheat, planted	11	9	6
Tobacco, harvested	90	88	82
Potatoes, harvested	59	57	44
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	94	98	96
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	48	77	61
Apples, harvested	55	59	49

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 15, 2013

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	3	12	44	40
Soybeans	0	1	16	63	20
Quality of hay made	0	4	27	50	19
Pasture	5	17	33	38	7
Apples	0	0	13	68	19

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