



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

October 16, 2006

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Frost Arrives

Below average temperatures brought frost to many areas of the state last week, ending the growing season. Temperatures ranged from 6 to 9 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures were in the low 50s across the state. Lows averaged in the 30s to low 40s for the week. Some precipitation was reported across the state. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.17 inches in La Crosse to 0.48 in Madison and Green Bay. Light snow also reached most of the state. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork.

Corn mature was at 96 percent, above last year's 95 percent and the 5-year average of 84 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn harvested for grain was at 18 percent, well behind last year's 35 percent and just behind the 5-year average of 20 percent. Corn silage harvested was nearly complete at 97 percent, compared to last year's 100 percent and the 5-year average of 90 percent. Corn conditions were rated as 6 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 23 percent excellent.

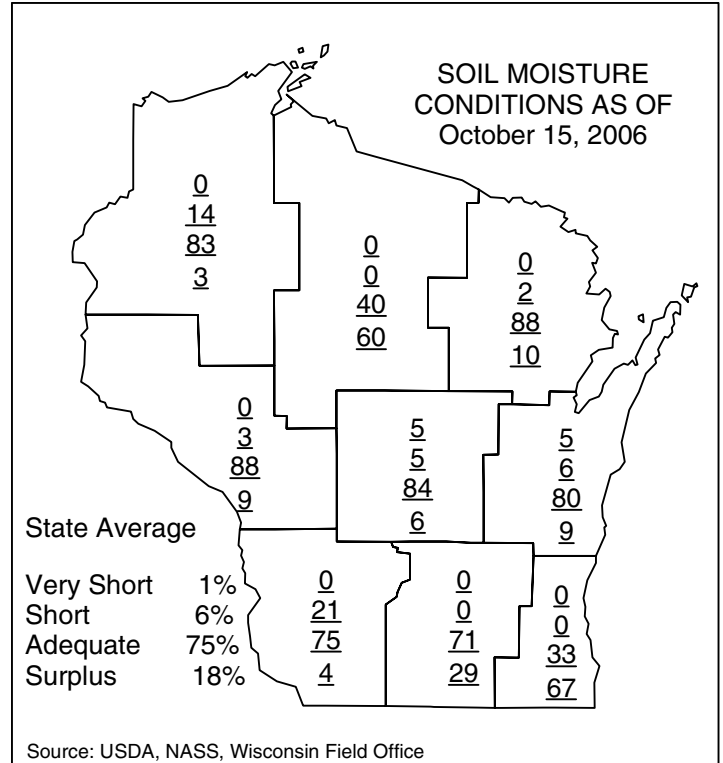
Soybeans dropping leaves was at 98 percent, just behind last year's 100 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 97 percent. Soybeans harvested was at 52 percent, lower than last year's 69 percent, but higher than the 5-year average of 51 percent. Soybean conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Soybean harvest increased by a significant 30 percent this week; variable yields continue to be reported statewide.

Fourth cutting **alfalfa** was at 78 percent complete, ahead of both last year's 71 percent and the 5-year average of 64 percent.

Pasture conditions were rated as 3 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

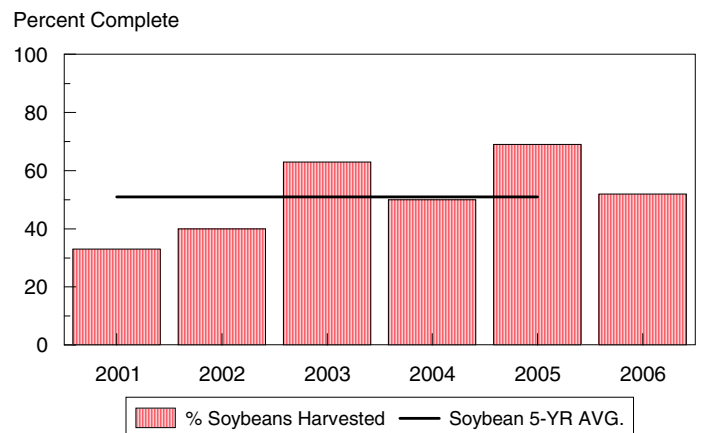
Fall tillage was reported at 12 percent complete, slightly less than last year's 13 percent and the 5-year average of 14 percent.

Winter wheat planting continued as more soybeans were harvested. The colder weather slowed the harvest of the **cranberry** crop. The harvest of **apples** and **potatoes**, along with other fruits and vegetables was wrapping up.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 15, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	6	8	24	39	23
Soybeans	2	7	22	46	23
Pasture	3	16	29	40	12

Harvest Progress for Soybeans
October 15, 2001-2006
Wisconsin



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 15, 2006

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn mature	96	91	93	98	97	89	99	98	100	96	95	84
Corn harvested for silage	99	99	88	97	97	95	98	98	99	97	100	90
Corn harvested for grain	14	12	23	23	22	27	21	11	27	18	35	20
Soybeans dropping leaves	99	99	99	99	92	92	100	100	100	98	100	97
Soybeans harvested	60	38	61	59	43	55	63	46	41	52	69	51
Fourth cutting hay	80	77	81	84	69	63	91	73	79	78	71	64
Fall tillage completed	15	8	9	9	33	30	4	4	14	12	13	14

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-A.B.: Winter wheat planting is wrapping up. High moisture corn harvest is beginning with yields very disappointing. Moisture levels appear to be from 20-30 percent. Soybean harvest continues with yields highly variable. Look for a county average from 25-30 bushels per acre.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Winds helped dry down soybeans for harvest, at least until the snow came along.

POLK-C.S.: Done planting winter wheat. Soybean harvest is half done-need a few more good days to finish. Corn harvest is just getting started.

CLARK-N.S.: A hard killing frost set in this past week. Some corn ears have disease problems, especially where dry.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Weather for combining soybeans was good only a couple days this week but the machines really worked long hours to get a lot off. The yields are not as high as expected-coming in at around 50 bushels per acre average. Corn combining for high moisture started this week also. Fourth crop hay cutting is done. The wheat that is out of the ground looks very good.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn silage is about all done. Lots of high moisture corn is being bagged or put in sealed silos. Some corn is going to the grain storage this week, but most farmers are waiting for more dry down. Lots of corn blown down by the high winds and hail in some fields. Alfalfa harvest is done in this area. Soybeans slowed down due to rain and damp weather.

PIERCE-J.K.: Soybean harvest is pretty much completed. Have heard yields in the 45-50 bushel per acre range. Corn yields, I have heard, are in the 190-230 bushel per acre range with moisture in the 17-21 percent range. It is amazing these types of yields are possible with the amount of rain we had this year.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Cranberry harvest continues-cold weather made this more difficult. Corn and soybean harvest slowed by weather. Manure spreading and fall tillage are going on.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Yields of corn silage is below normal. Most of the silo filling is done. Harvesting corn for grain and soybeans is starting. Fall tillage is in order.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: First frost at 26 degrees Thursday morning. Soybeans are ready to be harvested, but rain showers and light snow, plus wet soil, set in.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Corn for silage has good quality and lots of quantity. Corn for grain has not started to be combined-only for high moisture. Lots of winter wheat being planted as soon as the soybeans are taken off the fields. Ideal conditions for winter wheat planting.

GRANT-G.C.: Lots of 70 bushel per acre yield in soybeans. The cold wind and 30-degree temperatures have put an end to the growing season and slowed harvest.

IOWA-K.V.: Corn and soybean yields are good to excellent. Fourth cutting alfalfa is done. One-half of the winter wheat is planted. Fall Roundup applications are almost finished.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Cold, wet weather has brought things to a halt. Had killing frost on Wednesday. Winter wheat is emerging and looks good. Very little fieldwork done so far, when more crops get harvested, there will be more land worked up. Soybean yields are in the 55 bushel per acre range.

DANE-C.B.: Winter wheat planting has hit the critical date of adding 10 percent more seed to planting populations. With damp weather, many are taking off the soybean heads and switching to corn. Corn is running 22-26 percent moisture, with yields 180 bushels per acre-plus.

RACINE-L.F.: Soybeans are averaging 50 bushels per acre and corn is also doing as well, with yields reported of 180-200 bushels per acre. It is fun to be farming again!

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Soils are very wet. Picking up a lot of mud on the soybean head. Yield on soybeans about 55-60 bushels per acre.



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This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 15, 2006

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Oct. 14	Mar. 1 to Oct. 14 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	50	32	71	24	41	-9	3015	2516	0.35	5.14	0.39	24.41
Green Bay	51	37	77	27	44	-6	2643	2378	0.48	5.58	1.51	25.68
La Crosse	52	38	74	27	45	-8	3180	2846	0.17	4.06	-0.35	25.85
Madison	51	36	74	26	44	-7	2839	2802	0.48	5.13	1.10	32.06
Milwaukee	53	40	74	30	46	-7	2871	n.a.	0.45	5.28	0.89	30.72

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.