



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

October 23, 2006

Vol. 06, No. 29

Rain Slows Harvest

Rain, statewide, slowed harvest progress last week, as the wet weather made it difficult for farmers to get into the fields. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.59 inches in Eau Claire to 1.48 inches in Milwaukee. Temperatures ranged from 3 to 6 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures were in the high 40s to low 50s across the state. Lows averaged in the low 30s to low 40s for the week. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 1 percent very short, 3 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 29 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 3.9 days suitable for field-work.

Corn harvested for grain was at 26 percent complete, behind last year's 43 percent and the 5-year average of 31 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Nearly all corn silage has been put up. Corn conditions were rated as 6 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Many farmers are waiting for corn to dry before they continue harvesting it for grain. Most high moisture corn has been harvested.

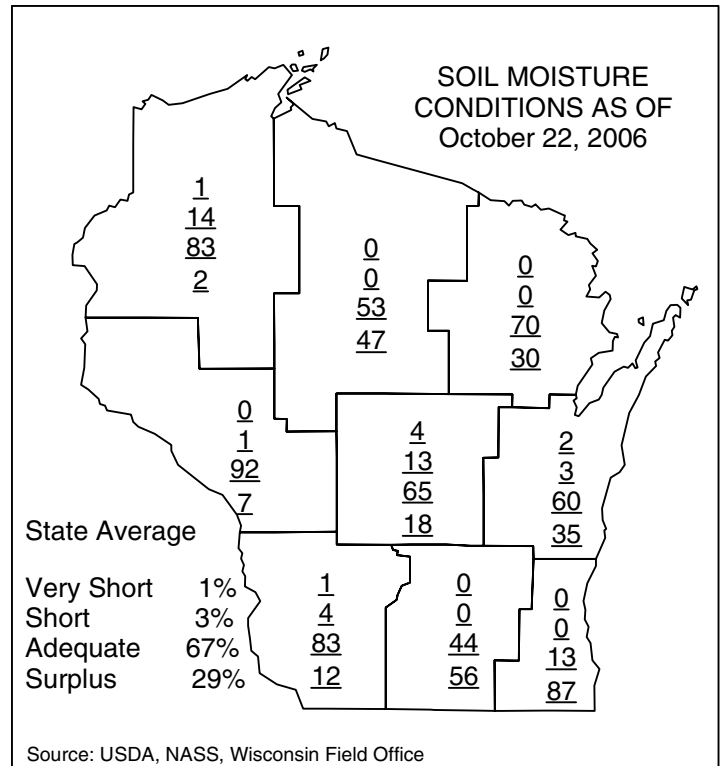
Soybeans harvested was at 65 percent, lower than last year's 80 percent, as well as the 5-year average of 67 percent. Soybean conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Soybean harvest progress slowed considerably last week as a result of the wet conditions.

Fourth cutting **alfalfa** was at 82 percent complete, ahead of both last year's 79 percent and the 5-year average of 75 percent.

Pasture conditions were rated as 3 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

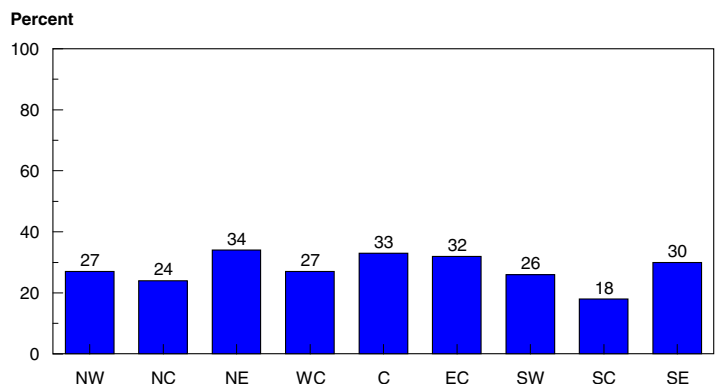
The wet weather also slowed **fall tillage**, which was reported at 16 percent complete, less than last year's 23 percent and the 5-year average of 22 percent.

Winter wheat planting has stopped completely in some areas due to the weather. Farmers hope to continue when conditions improve. Most **pumpkins** and **squash** have been harvested. In the central part of the state, **cranberry** harvest is nearing completion.



Item	Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 22, 2006				
	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	6	12	20	40	22
Soybeans	2	10	19	49	20
Pasture	3	15	40	37	5

Percentage of Corn for Grain Harvested By District Week Ending October 22, 2006



Crop and percent of acreage	Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 22, 2006										State average		
	District average										This year	Last year	5-year average
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
Corn harvested for grain	27	24	34	27	33	32	26	18	30	26	43	31	
Soybeans harvested	80	73	71	82	61	62	77	50	56	65	80	67	
Fourth cutting hay	89	80	83	89	79	65	92	82	81	82	79	75	
Fall tillage completed	17	10	13	12	36	35	6	7	18	16	23	22	

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Dry corn harvest is getting underway, with yields better than expected for many, ranging up to 135 bushels per acre across the county. Same story with soybeans as yields are ranging from 10-45 bushels per acre. Things seem to be slow-going as it relates to corn harvest. Many are waiting for corn to dry-down another few points to save on drying cost.

MARATHON-M.K.: Poor week for harvesting.

SHAWANO-B.R.: About one-fourth of the soybeans are left to combine in the county, and it just keeps getting wetter in the fields. Those that did do some form of harvesting, left ruts in many places. Most of the corn is still over 25 percent moisture, so no combining for drying yet.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Cloudy, wet week has stopped soybean harvest, so then a lot of corn was harvested. There is concern that soybeans not harvested may mold from wet conditions. Very little fall tillage or corn stalk bedding is being made.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: No sunshine has halted soybean harvest. Corn for grain moistures are mostly in low 20s, and yields are at least 20 plus bushels per acre below last year.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Soybean harvest is about a third done with excellent yields, considering the drought and heat this summer. Some soybean field yields are going over 60 bushels per acre. Corn harvest is just getting underway, with field moistures running from 17-23 percent. Yields are all over the place. Rainy weather has slowed things down this week.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: We had a hard frost. Most soybeans are harvested. Silo filling is finished by most farmers. Some fall tillage is going on.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Wet weather has slowed corn harvest. Doesn't seem that any more hay will be harvested.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn and soybeans are a poor crop in this area. Fourth crop hay is a light crop, but has good quality. Fall tillage was going well, but too wet right now.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Harvesting corn for grain and soybeans is starting, but was stopped by rain and cold, muddy soil. Soils are very wet and have stopped tillage due to showers every day.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Corn for grain and soybeans are in full swing as to harvesting and have been progressing when the weather cooperates. Sweet corn harvest is over for this year. Some late sweet corn is left in the fields, and so it is being harvested for silage. Had a hard frost this past week that killed the corn, and soybeans ripened overnight.

GRANT-R.R.: Rain every day makes it very difficult to get any fieldwork done.

IOWA-K.V.: Wet weather has slowed soybean and corn harvest. Growers are struggling to complete winter wheat planting.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Everything is moving slowly; wet fields are a problem. Had over 1.50 inches of rain last week. Some ear corn picking is being done. No soybeans being harvested.

JEFFERSON-R.W.: Soybeans are yielding good to excellent. One harvested field yielded 67.5 bushels per acre of soybeans. High moisture corn is pretty much finished. Most corn is 20-25 percent moisture. It should be a good crop. It is too wet for fall tillage. Winter wheat that was no-tilled is planted. Fields that had to be worked for winter wheat planting have not been planted yet.

RACINE-L.F.: Too much rain. It needs to stop so that harvest and tillage can continue. Yields of the crops harvested to date are well above the past few years in our county. Just a small amount of white mold and drought-affected areas on hills.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Too wet to do soybeans. Some farmers are doing corn; yields are 150-190 bushels per acre, with moisture at 20-30 percent. Need dry weather to finish planting wheat.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Max Lord
Statistician

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 22, 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. 21	Mar. 1 to Oct. 21 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	49	33	60	23	41	-6	3015	2516	0.59	5.73	0.48	25.00
Green Bay	51	37	57	24	44	-3	2643	2378	1.02	6.60	2.08	26.70
La Crosse	51	36	60	26	44	-6	3180	2846	0.65	4.71	-0.09	26.50
Madison	51	36	56	25	44	-5	2839	2802	1.32	6.45	1.94	33.38
Milwaukee	54	40	58	31	47	-4	2871	n.a.	1.48	6.76	1.83	32.20

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.