



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

September 15, 2008

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Light Frost Reported

Some light frost was evident the early part of last week in northwestern Wisconsin. Farmers are hoping for more heat and more time before a killing frost arrives. While some areas of the state received much needed rains last week, other counties remained dry. One reporter from south central Wisconsin reported saturating rains last week, slowing down all fieldwork. However, most regions of the state continue to look for more moisture.

Average high temperatures ranged from 68 to 72 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 49 to 57 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.15 inches in La Crosse to 1.92 inches in Milwaukee. Soil moisture conditions were at 13 percent very short, 49 percent short, 33 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

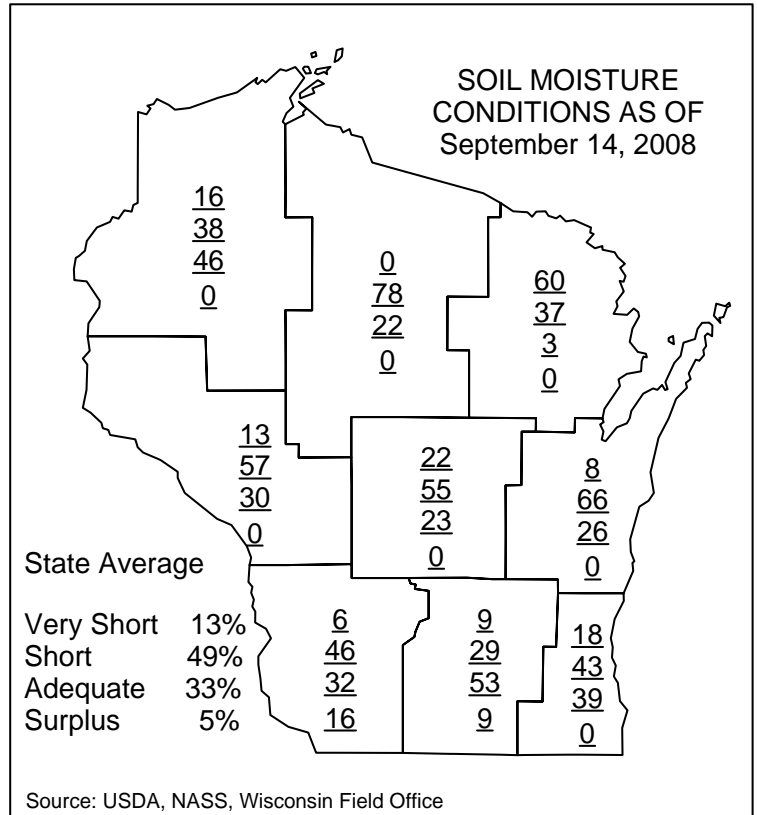
Corn was progressing with dough stage at 84 percent complete. Corn in dent was at 48 percent complete with maturity at 8 percent complete. Crop condition was reported as 7 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. **Corn silage** harvest was in full swing with reports at 16 percent complete.

Soybeans were maturing with leaf drop noticeable this past week. Soybeans turning color was 65 percent complete with 27 percent dropping leaves. Conditions were reported at 7 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Third crop **hay** harvest was wrapping up with reports of 92 percent complete. Fourth crop harvest was at 31 percent complete. One reporter in East Central Wisconsin reported alfalfa growth at a complete standstill due to lack of rain.

Pastures greened up in some areas with the recent rains. Conditions were reported at 11 percent very poor, 31 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

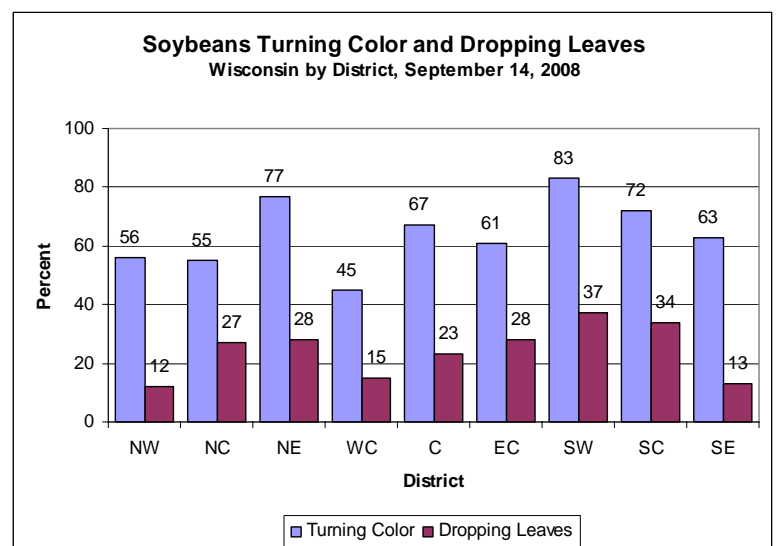
Snap bean and **sweet corn** harvest was nearly complete. **Kidney beans** were being harvested with a good crop projected. **Potato** harvest was just starting in one west central Wisconsin county, while late potato harvest was underway in the central part of the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 14, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	7	15	32	39	7
Soybean	7	15	30	39	9
Pasture	11	31	34	22	2

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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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 dough	70	85	80	79	89	82	92	84	94	84	96	91
Corn dent	50	31	55	42	61	52	61	51	63	48	84	70
Corn mature	9	3	12	5	20	16	2	7	10	8	29	19
Corn harvested for silage	9	3	24	11	22	12	27	25	15	16	44	36
Soybeans turning color	56	55	77	45	67	61	83	72	63	65	77	68
Soybeans dropping leaves	12	27	28	15	23	28	37	34	13	27	33	34
Third cutting hay	91	80	98	95	89	93	98	99	88	92	92	90
Fourth cutting hay	30	25	58	35	31	42	53	41	12	31	30	25

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: It is still dry here, although 0.5 inch of rain on Thursday did help some. I saw some corn at black layer stage this week. A lot of corn is not dented yet. Some corn silage samples were at 28 percent D.M. so quite wet yet. We had light frost earlier in the week but no widespread killing frost yet. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Third and fourth crop haylage continues. It is still too dry.

CLARK-R.H.: Corn is progressing. It is mostly in the dough stage or early dent. Corn silage harvest is beginning. At a couple of burn down days, moistures were in the high 60's to low 70's percent total plant moisture. I have seen a large number of northern and western corn rootworm beetles on corn plants this fall. Soybeans are maturing with leaf drop being noticeable this week. Soybean aphids are still found in the fields below thresholds. Some third crop hay is being made between showers. The weather has been dry in August which has reduced yields.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybeans are dropping leaves. Some pods did not fill out with the dry weather. Corn is coming off for silage, with some areas that have very small cobs. Alfalfa is at a complete standstill. Everything needs rain badly.

DUNN-S.S.: Rain this morning was very welcome, but in most cases it just was too late for the crops. Very little hay is being made there just is not enough to warrant making. Potato harvest is just getting started. The rains were three weeks late but better than nothing. I have seen a couple of places with isolated frost; not a killing frost.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: It remains dry here even though we had a few light showers. Crops need more time before we get a frost.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Snapbean and sweet corn harvest is nearly complete with good yields. Potato harvest continues also with good yields. Silage harvest is on going with good yields.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Corn and soybeans have deteriorated due to very dry conditions especially on lighter soils. Cool temperatures are slowing maturity in those crops. Third and fourth crop hay is also quite short.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: We have received over 1.0 inch of rain in the past eight days. Hayfields are green again.

Rain was too late for corn and soybeans. Some corn silage was harvested but it is still too moist for upright silos. Yields look to be average at best.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: It has been very dry. Alfalfa has not grown much at all in the past couple of weeks. Corn is drying down on lighter soils. We had some rain on Thursday evening this week.

IOWA-K.V.: Corn and soybean yields are hurt from dry weather. Crop adjusters are finding averages 60 bushels per acre. New seeding alfalfa fields and pastures are starting to green up after the recent rains.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: The wet, cold weather which slowed corn silage harvest also slowed crop maturity. Some corn could benefit from the 3.0 inches of rain this past week or so. It will not benefit the soybeans as much.

DANE-J.K.: Corn and soybeans have improved after the rain but the damage is done and yields will be down. Yields will be between 50-200 bushels per acre. Test weights also will be variable but will bring the average down. Third and fourth crop hay was average.

ROCK-C.O.: Over 5.0 inches of rain will slow down all fieldwork, and bring the hay harvest to a halt. Fields are saturated and some will take a long time to dry out. Still some wet spots from last June's heavy rain, and now this will make it tough on harvest in some fields.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Third crop hay was lost; no rain in August. Soybeans were helped with the recent rains. Most of the corn has fired up past the ears.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Corn and soybeans need rain. Weeds are growing good.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 14, 2008

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 Sept. 13	Mar. 1 to Sept. 13 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	68	49	71	38	58	-4	2252	2288	0.67	0.96	-0.92	25.83	0.76
Green Bay	69	49	73	39	59	-2	2298	2152	1.27	1.76	0.23	24.93	3.26
La Crosse	70	53	75	44	62	-3	2529	2574	0.15	0.37	-1.31	29.94	4.79
Madison	70	52	75	40	61	-2	2439	2511	1.82	2.69	1.10	39.95	14.67
Milwaukee	72	57	77	47	65	0	2377	n.a.	1.92	4.14	2.53	37.12	11.35

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.