



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

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Corn Silage Harvest in Full Swing

Corn silage harvest was moving forward, and farmers in Wisconsin are hoping that frost will not arrive any time soon. Last week's shot of warm weather was a welcome sight and, if the weather holds, there will be a lot of activity in the fields this coming week.

Average high temperatures ranged from 72 to 77 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 49 to 55 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from no rain reported in Green Bay to 0.79 inches in Milwaukee. Soil moisture conditions improved with reports of 11 percent very short, 38 percent short, 48 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

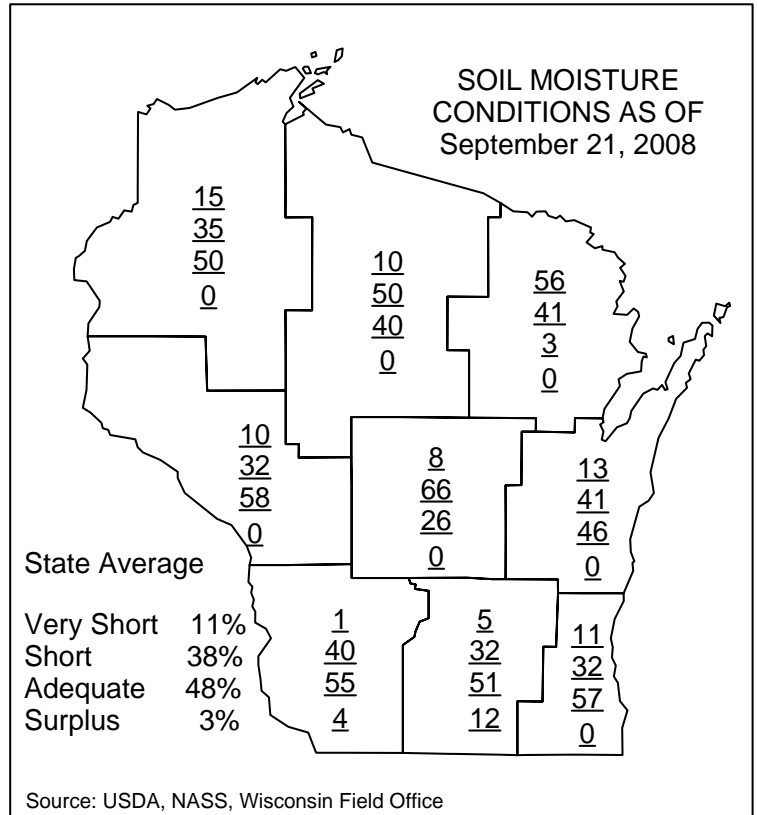
Corn in dough stage was at 93 percent complete, slightly behind the 5-year average of 96 percent complete. Corn in dent was at 65 percent complete, down 28 percentage points from last year. Corn maturity was at 14 percent complete, down 34 percentage points from 2007. Corn condition was reported at 6 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Farmers are hoping for a late frost and that there will be at least 2 to 3 more weeks left in the growing season. Some high moisture corn may be harvested within the week. **Corn silage** harvest was reported as 34 percent complete.

Soybeans were reported as maturing faster than the corn with 83 percent of the leaves having turned and 47 percent dropping leaves. Conditions remained close to last week, with reports at 8 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Harvest should be beginning in a couple weeks, and may start sooner on some fields.

Third crop **hay** harvest was just about finished with reports of 95 percent complete, 4 percentage points down from last year. Fourth crop harvest was at 37 percent complete, 6 percent higher than last week and 2 percentage points up from the 5 year average of 35 percent complete at this time of year.

Pasture conditions improved with reports at 9 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

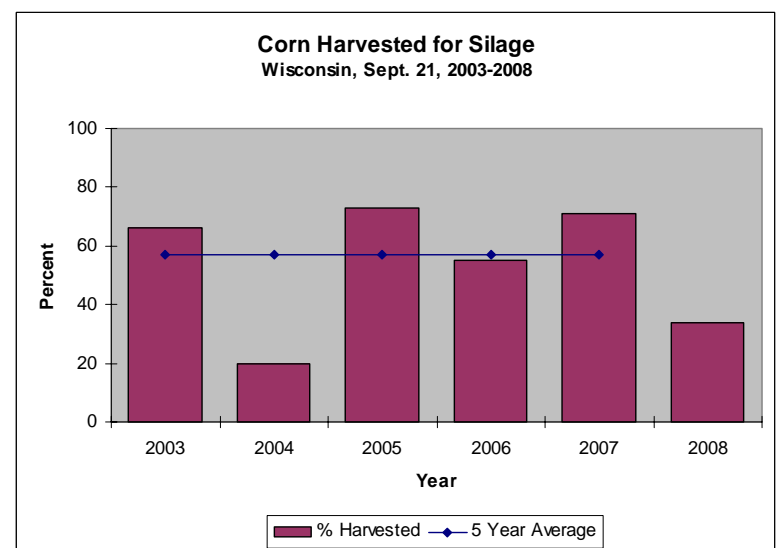
Potato harvest was underway. **Snap bean** and **sweet corn** harvests are wrapping up. **McIntosh apples** are ripe. One central **cranberry** grower had begun harvest. Other activities this past week included **manure hauling**, and planting of **winter wheat**.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 21, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	6	13	35	36	10
Soybean	8	15	30	37	10
Pasture	9	29	38	21	3

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	91	95	88	88	96	96	97	95	97	93	100	96
Corn dent	74	50	69	58	78	68	88	58	73	65	93	82
Corn mature	12	5	15	13	31	18	4	13	19	14	48	35
Corn harvested for silage	17	10	51	22	51	32	65	41	21	34	71	57
Soybeans turning color	96	75	94	74	91	77	95	83	90	83	93	85
Soybeans dropping leaves	58	60	63	31	47	49	77	54	33	47	65	57
Third cutting hay	98	94	99	98	91	97	100	100	95	95	99	96
Fourth cutting hay	35	28	64	37	34	47	78	45	15	37	43	35

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Barron County has not yet received a killing frost which is good news for the corn and soybeans. Those two crops need 2-3 more weeks in the growing season. Potato crop harvest is underway; crop appears to be normal.

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybeans continue to mature. Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Corn and soybeans need two more weeks before a killing frost. Snapbean and sweet corn harvest are complete.

WASHBURN-K.S.: This last shot of warmer weather is a welcome sight. Recent rains and warm temperatures are helping to finish corn and soybeans. Hay and pastures are also greening up nicely. For those that choose to, there will be the potential for a fourth cutting for hay.

CLARK-R.H.: Corn silage harvest is moving forward. We need the balance of the month without frost to get corn finished for dry grain.

VILAS-L.K.: Potato harvest is in full swing. We received 1.5 inches of rain which was too late to help hayfields, but it did some good for pastures. Rye harvest is complete.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Corn and soybeans are beyond help from additional rainfall, but moisture would help hay, pasture and wheat germination. Soybeans that survived the late season drought are reaching harvest moisture quickly and will present the opportunity to allow wheat planting following harvest. Corn silage harvest is in full swing and will wrap up soon. There is nothing slowing winter wheat planting, but we are hoping for some rain to germinate seedings.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Corn silage harvest is in full swing. There are concerns about the dry conditions and summer seedings of alfalfa. Winter wheat is being planted into dry ground and will need moisture to germinate.

LACROSSE-S.H.: Corn silage harvest has been in full swing with the dry weather. Third and fourth crop alfalfa harvest is in full swing also. The fall crops still look good even though it has been dry for the past couple of months.

MONROE-M.Y.: We received 1.0 inch of rain last weekend. Some corn needs more time.

PIERCE-J.K.: This warm weather is just what the doctor ordered for the corn and soybeans to reach maturity before a killing frost.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Yields of corn are below normal because of cool weather and lack of moisture. Hay yields are below normal.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: A lot of corn and soybeans have matured. Third and fourth crop hay had a poor yield. Fall potato harvest is starting.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn is not as good as expected. Soybeans look good but are not ripe yet. We needed rain a month earlier to make soybeans a better crop.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Corn and soybeans look good in our area. Corn silage harvest is about a week away. Moistures are still in the low seventies. Third crop alfalfa was very good in our area. Fourth crop hay is growing rapidly.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Soybeans are turning color and dropping leaves. Corn silage is being made. Corn ears are shorter than normal and ear fill is not good. Third and fourth crop hay is down and is short but should have good quality.

DODGE-G.R.: For the second week in a row, we have had leftover rain from a hurricane. About 0.5 inch fell over last weekend in a slow, steady drizzle. Alfalfa re-growth has benefited the most. Corn silage harvest has begun with end rows and some fields. Some late third and fourth crop hay is being cut.

GREEN-J.T.: Soybeans are 2 to 5 percent harvested.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: We had another nice rain-2.5 inches on Saturday and Sunday. Soybeans are looking very good. There is not much that can help the corn anymore.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 21, 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. 20	Mar. 1 to Sept. 20 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	75	51	82	47	63	4	2348	2359	0.23	1.19	-1.57	26.06	0.00
Green Bay	72	49	79	40	60	1	2382	2224	0.00	1.76	-0.46	24.93	2.48
La Crosse	77	54	83	50	65	2	2637	2656	0.01	0.38	-2.15	29.95	4.14
Madison	74	51	80	43	62	2	2534	2603	0.09	2.78	0.51	40.04	14.04
Milwaukee	73	55	82	49	64	1	2476	n.a.	0.79	4.93	2.56	37.91	11.40

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.