



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Rain Slows Fieldwork

Several areas of Wisconsin reported rain slowing down fieldwork this past week, but not enough to stop all harvesting activities. While harvesting continued, manure spreading and tillage activities have also begun.

Average high temperatures ranged from 65 to 69 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 44 to 51 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.53 inches in La Crosse to 1.40 inches in Milwaukee. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 6 percent very short, 26 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn maturity was at 80 percent mature with 8 percent of corn harvested for grain. Corn for **grain** will need some good drying weather. Corn **silage** harvest was winding down with completion reported at 90 percent. Corn conditions were reported at 5 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

Soybeans are almost finished dropping leaves, at 97 percent complete. Reports showed that 38 percent of Wisconsin's soybeans have been harvested. With drier weather, harvest should steadily increase. Crop conditions were at 5 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

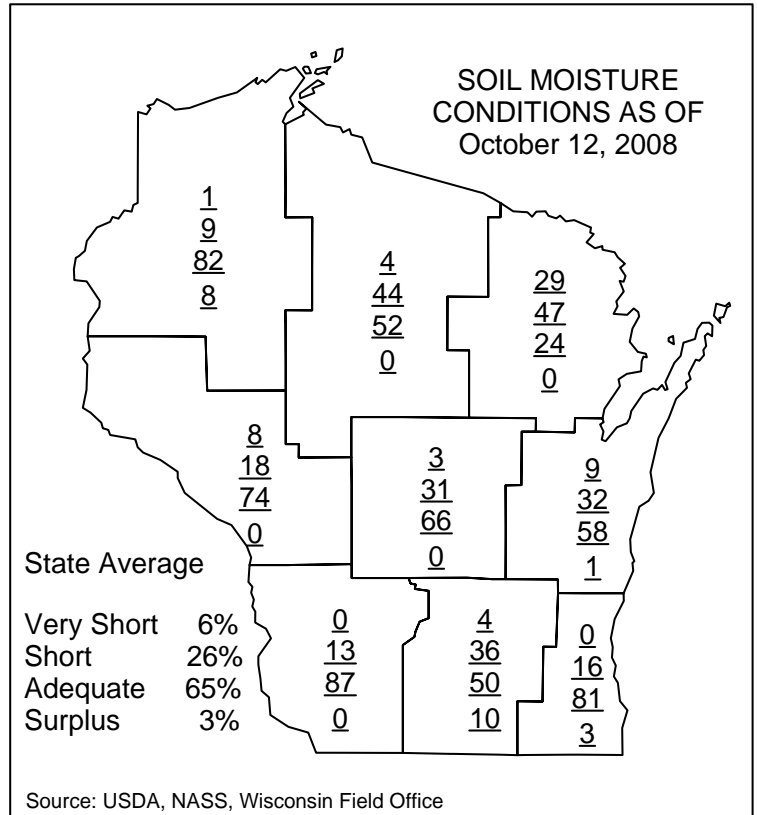
Fourth crop **hay** harvest was at 72 percent complete. Some reporters indicated that this year's fourth crop was very short.

Fall tillage was at 12 percent complete. Recent moisture has helped with tillage since the ground is now more workable. **Manure** was being applied to fields where corn silage and soybeans were coming off.

While some areas of the state are still in the process of planting **winter wheat**, warm weather and moisture have pushed the emergence and growth of earlier planted winter wheat.

Pasture conditions showed improvement with reports at 7 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

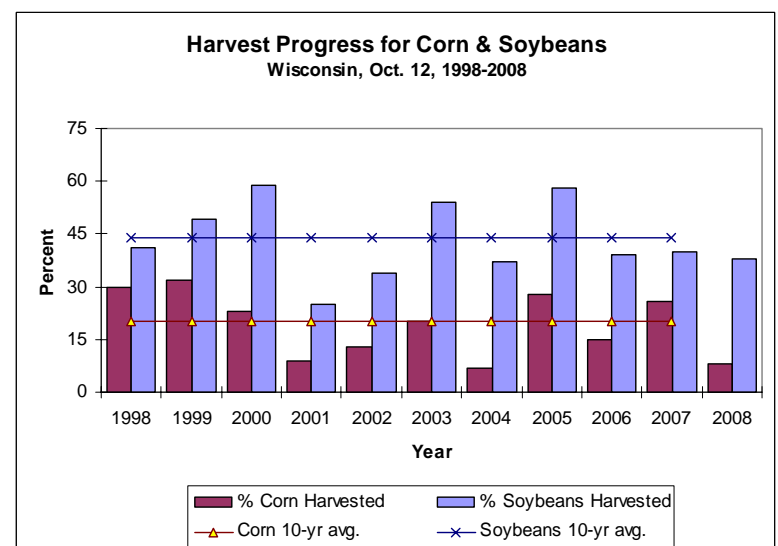
Potato harvest in Vilas County was complete, with an average crop reported. **Apples** were yielding a good crop. A shortage of **pumpkins** was reported in northwestern Wisconsin, while in the eastern part of the state, pumpkins were reported to be smaller in size than in previous years.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 12, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	5	12	32	41	10
Soybean	5	13	35	39	8
Pasture	7	21	41	28	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 12, 2008

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	84	68	95	79	84	73	89	80	68	80	93	85
Corn harvested for grain	3	1	24	17	16	11	4	6	2	8	26	19
Corn harvested for silage	92	75	96	95	96	89	98	94	94	90	100	92
Soybeans harvested	21	29	51	42	21	44	70	32	32	38	40	46
Fourth cutting hay	57	52	94	85	89	75	88	91	60	72	73	66
Fall tillage complete	7	16	16	8	20	16	12	9	9	12	14	13

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: The growing season was over for us on Saturday morning. Corn silage harvest is winding down. High moisture corn and soybeans will start really rolling as soon as we get a stretch of dry weather. Hay and haylage is done for the year. Rain should help send pastures and hayfields into winter in good shape. Local farmer markets are still offering a good inventory of produce and products. There is a real shortage of pumpkins.

WASHBURN-K.S.: Fall harvest is in full swing. Recent rains are slowing things down, but should not prevent harvest. Corn for grain will need more good drying weather. Corn silage yields are running average to slightly below average, especially on lighter, sandy soils.

MARATHON-M.K.: Soybeans are yielding 25-35 bushels per acre with 40 bushels tops. There is a big crop of corn silage. Fourth crop hay is small.

OCONTO-K.H.: Corn silage harvest is winding down. Corn combining is continuing. Grain moisture levels vary widely, heard one report of 40 percent moisture still. Soybean harvest is just starting. There are a few hayfields to be harvested yet, but for all practical purposes hay harvest is complete. Manure spreading and tillage is starting as corn fields are harvested. Wheat has emerged. The 1.5 inches of rain early in the week helped turf and pastures green up.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Corn silage harvest is about done; and high moisture combining is under way. The soybean harvest has begun and most of the reported yields are slightly higher than expected, in the 25 to 40 bushel range. Fourth crop hay yields are low. Fall tillage is in full swing and about the same as normal. Corn silage yields are about half of normal. 7 to 14 tons per acre is the reported range of yields.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Soybean harvest is progressing with yields in the 20 to 50 bushel range. Corn silage is nearing the end. This is probably the latest corn silage harvest in twenty plus years. Some high moisture corn is coming off in the drier areas of the county, with moistures reported in the low 30's.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Cranberry and potato harvest continues with good yields. Corn and soybean harvest is beginning with variable yields.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Dry fields and good weather are conducive to rapid harvesting of corn and hay. Yields are

lower due to dry weather. Fruit yields are average.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Winter wheat is being planted following soybeans. Yields of corn for silage have been good. Early soybean yield reports are in the 40 to 55 bushel range.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Harvesting of corn and soybeans has been slow. Fourth crop alfalfa looks good, but progress has been slow. Frost on the corn is slowing progress. Fieldwork has been slow, as the soybeans have not been harvested yet, with some farmers waiting to get the beans off to plant winter wheat.

GRANT-E.B.: High moisture corn harvest is about to begin. What fourth crop hay there is, is being harvested and is very short. Manure is being applied to silage ground.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Harvest has begun for soybeans. Some fields are done, but yields are low. Many farmers are ready to work, but slow drizzles have kept everyone at a standstill. Weeds have come in the corn fields, and we do not need this.

DANE-J.M.: Corn silage is complete. Corn for grain has not started. No soybeans as of yet. Fourth crop hay is complete with good yields.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Corn is drying very slowly. Later planted soybeans are slow to mature.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Farmers are combining soybeans; yields are poor. Wheat planting is going on.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Corn silage harvest is almost done. Soybeans are starting to be combined. Farmers are starting to apply manure.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 12, 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 Oct. 11	Mar. 1 to Oct. 11 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	65	45	76	36	55	4	2558	2501	1.15	3.06	-1.50	27.12	-0.55
Green Bay	65	44	77	32	55	4	2582	2364	1.10	3.08	-0.81	25.78	1.69
La Crosse	69	49	78	41	59	4	2895	2830	0.53	2.61	-1.59	31.80	4.15
Madison	66	45	78	35	56	3	2759	2783	1.31	3.59	-0.22	39.86	12.38
Milwaukee	65	51	72	40	58	3	2707	n.a.	1.40	5.55	1.38	37.75	9.58

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.