



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

November 17, 2008

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## Progress of Corn Harvest Slow Due to Wet Weather

**Corn** harvest was slowly progressing with reports of grain harvest at 69 percent complete. This is behind both last year's 89 percent and the 5-year average of 83 percent complete. With the high moisture contents and high cost of drying, some Wisconsin corn producers were letting their remaining crop stand for now. Others were taking it off the field regardless of moisture content. Many farmers are stalk chopping and baling.

Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.40 inches in Eau Claire to 0.78 inches in La Crosse. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 2 percent very short, 11 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 17 percent surplus.

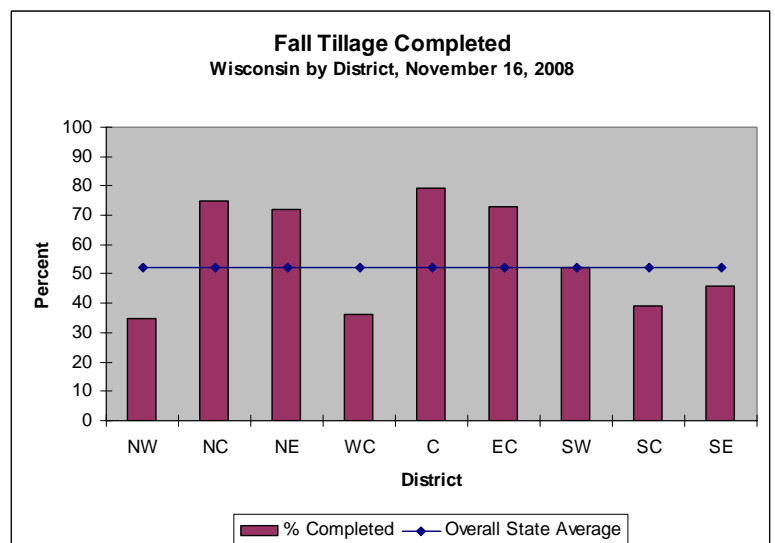
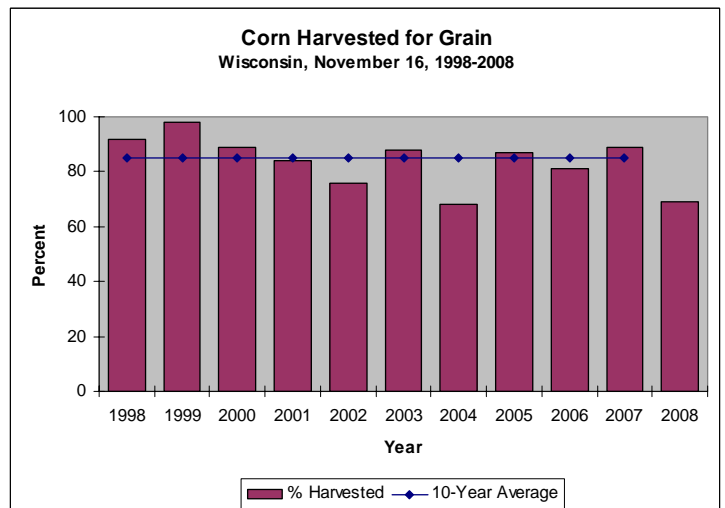
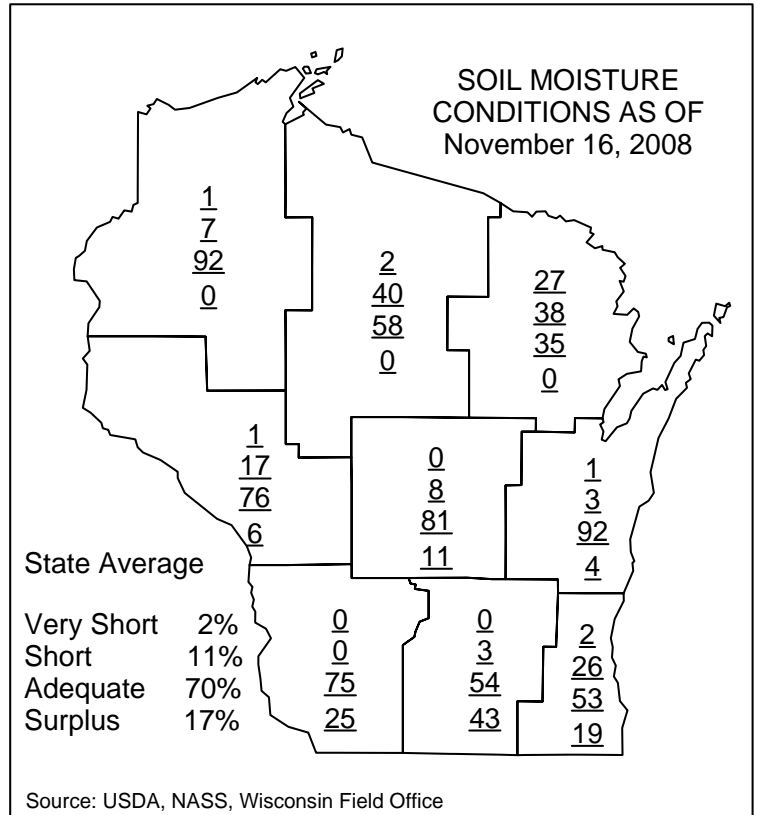
Average high temperatures ranged from 37 to 45 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 27 to 34 degrees. There was an average of 3.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Soybean** harvest is complete with variable yields throughout the state.

**Winter wheat** appears to have a good start going into dormancy for the winter. Some areas reported that it could use a few more growing days.

**Fall tillage** was going strong with 52 percent complete, behind last year and the 5-year average, of 64 percent and 58 percent complete, respectively.

**Pasture** conditions were reported at 8 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 48 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.



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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 harvested for grain	53	58	86	63	68	84	67	70	76	69	89	83
Fall tillage complete	35	75	72	36	79	73	52	39	46	52	64	58

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BARRON-D.B.:** Corn harvest is slow going. This past week was wet, cloudy and cold. Corn has been yielding 70 to 150 bushels per acre. Moisture for corn is ranging from 19 to 30 percent.

**RUSK-G.P.:** There was very little fieldwork done this week. Corn is very slow to dry down. The low price and the high cost of drying are forcing farmers to let the remaining crop stand for now. We will probably see more corn coming off next week with better weather expected. Wheat and rye are both looking good.

**CLARK-R.H.:** There are many comments that corn moistures are not dropping. Many producers are leaving corn stand to dry versus paying drying cost. Some comments were that corn yields were average to above average. Most winter wheat should be good going into winter.

**SHAWANO-T.B.:** The rest of the corn crop that is in the field is drying slowly, and most growers will take their time harvesting to avoid drying costs. The winter wheat looks very good with many fields showing that they have been tilled. The soybean yields were terrible and corn yields were average and below. There are still a couple of soybean fields that have not been harvested yet.

**DUNN-J.F.:** Soybean harvest is pretty much done. Yields ranged from 15 to 45 bushels per acre. Corn harvest is also looking to be quite variable; 95 to 200 bushels per acre.

**TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.:** Corn harvest has all but stopped due to the recent rain. There were reports of very good corn yields

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Corn and soybean yields are a little below normal. A good fall for winter wheat and rye. Yields of crops are a little below normal for the season.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Winter wheat and rye look good. Yields for corn and soybeans in the non-irrigated sandy soils were not very good.

**CALUMET-B.L.:** Several days of light showers have fields very smeary. It is tough going for liquid manure spreading, tillage and finishing harvesting. We do need the moisture. Corn yields are better than anticipated and soybean yields are lower than hoped for.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** There is not too much to report this week as most of the fieldwork has been completed. There are a few fields of corn standing here and there. They have not been harvested yet because the

producers are waiting for the corn to dry further in the field. Some limited manure hauling was taking place. The fall tillage was going on in earnest this past week around the raindrops, but for the most part, it is almost done entirely.

**IOWA-K.V.:** Soybean harvest is done. Corn for grain will take a few weeks. Yields were fair to good. Fertilizer prices are falling so more farmers are positive.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** Corn and soybean yields were about average. It is very difficult to get corn fodder harvested dry.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** There are big time frustrations here. Very little harvest progress this week. With 1.5 inches of rain this week, there will be very little harvesting next week on heavier soil. Several farmers have been stuck in the mud more than once. Machinery breakdowns have been common due to tough field conditions.

**JEFFERSON-R.W.:** There was not much going on this week. It was too wet for tillage. Some corn was coming off the field during the middle of the week.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Corn harvest has been slow with the wet weather and many hoping grain moisture would come down. Rain this week will slow fall tillage and hinder bedding making. Forage supplies are tight and many are hoping for a mild winter to save on feed supplies. Winter wheat looks good so far.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** All farming is complete. Hauling manure is going on.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 16, 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 Nov. 15	Mar. 1 to Nov. 15 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	37	27	44	16	32	-2	2690	2594	0.40	4.50	-2.53	28.56	-1.50
Green Bay	40	32	46	24	36	0	2698	2452	0.67	4.69	-1.73	27.39	0.80
La Crosse	39	29	47	22	34	-4	3059	2947	0.78	4.56	-2.04	33.75	3.62
Madison	42	31	53	18	36	-1	2905	2916	0.72	5.49	-0.89	41.76	11.72
Milwaukee	45	34	57	23	40	0	2860	n.a.	0.65	7.73	0.64	39.93	8.74

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.