



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

September 21, 2009

Vol. 09, No. 24

Another Warm, Dry Week

Another week of above average temperatures and very little rain accelerated maturity of corn and soybean crops but stalled pasture growth. Some growers began feeding hay bales due to the lack of pasture growth. Many growers were hoping for more rain to give crops and pasture a boost and to aid germination of winter wheat.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.02 inches in Eau Claire to 0.00 across the rest of the reporting stations. Average temperatures were 3 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 75 to 81 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 49 to 59 degrees. On average, there were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

<http://www.noaa.gov/>
<http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
<http://www.cocorahs.org/>
<http://www.weather.gov/>

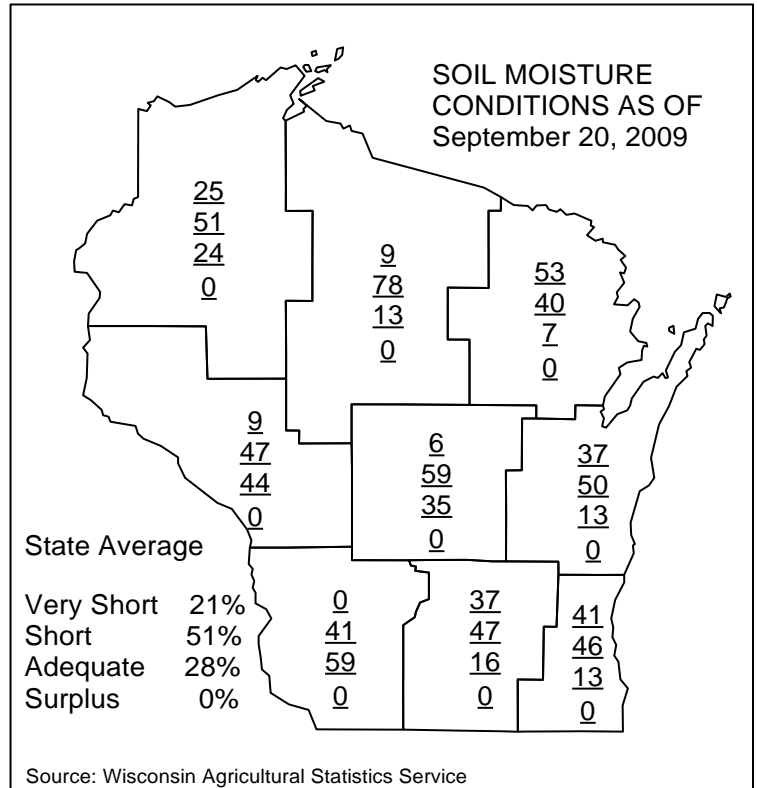
Corn in the dent stage was reported at 66 percent complete statewide, a jump of 26 percentage points from the previous week, while corn mature was reported as 10 percent complete. The dry conditions allowed corn silage harvest to ramp up across the state with harvest reported as 12 percent complete. Growers reported that conditions have brought moisture levels down quickly in some fields, but that some are still a week or more away from being ready for silage harvest.

Soybean maturity continued to move along rapidly last week due to the warm, dry conditions. Soybean leaves turned was reported as 72 percent complete, while soybeans dropping leaves was 24 percent complete, an increase of 29 and 18 percentage points respectively from the previous week. While conditions have accelerated maturity, they have also caused some fields to show more stress.

Fourth cutting **hay** harvest was reported as 45 percent complete.

Many growers got their **winter wheat** planted and were hoping for moisture to aid in germination. Other growers were waiting for some moisture before planting their winter wheat.

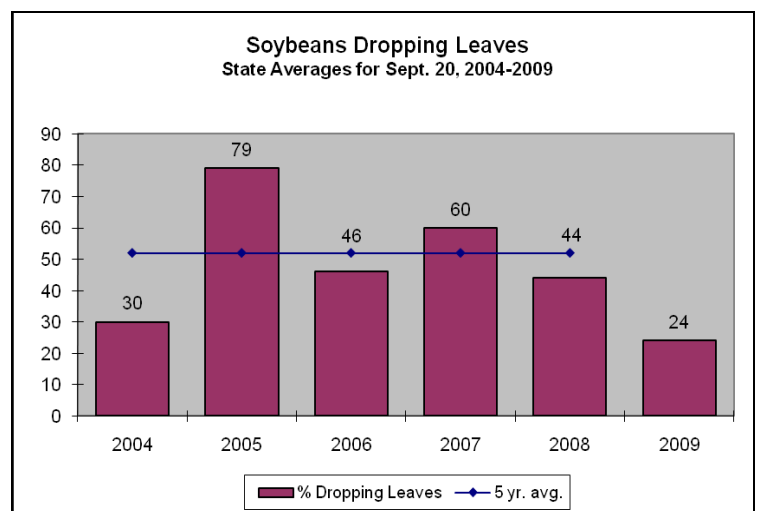
There were good **apple** yields reported in Chippewa and Waukesha counties.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 20, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	3	9	27	43	18
Soybeans	3	7	26	49	15
Pasture	8	28	36	25	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 in dent stage	43	30	81	69	70	46	88	85	60	66	62	77
Corn mature	9	0	5	9	17	4	4	26	1	10	13	29
Corn harvested for silage	10	1	10	14	11	10	21	17	6	12	31	47
Soybeans leaves turned	67	73	85	79	53	56	87	80	60	72	80	82
Soybeans dropping leaves	18	25	39	18	13	23	29	31	17	24	44	52
Fourth cutting hay	26	38	33	43	40	44	69	70	37	45	37	35

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Another beautiful week of above normal temperatures. We could use a nice shower. Alfalfa fields and pastures are lacking moisture. Some farmers are slowly beginning corn silage harvest as corn is drying faster than most of us realize. Soybeans are slowly maturing.

BURNETT-J.D.: Dry weather has helped the corn but the soil conditions are poor.

WASHBURN-P.H.: It is getting very dry which is speeding corn and soybean maturity. Some corn chopping is already done. Most soybean leaves are dropping. There is very little pasture growth so many are feeding already.

CLARK-R.H.: One week makes a big difference. Soybeans are almost all maturing and starting to drop leaves. Some soybeans may have been affected by the dry weather, 21 days without moisture, may have aborted some pods and reduced the beans per pod on the top of plants. Corn is maturing but have not seen much dented corn yet. Silage harvest may be 10 plus days off depending on storage. In some areas with drought stress, corn silage harvest is underway with varying moisture within a field. The corn yield should be good if the frost holds off until after October 5th or so to black layer this corn.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Once again it is very dry. We have not had any rain for 3 1/2 weeks; crops did look promising until this latest dry spell. Corn silage harvest has begun with plant moisture optimum but kernel moisture above ideal. Soybean conditions went from good to fair with no moisture to finish them off. I was going to plant some winter wheat, but the fields are so dry that germination will be a huge concern without any rain.

MONROE-P.B.: Corn made good advances this week with much moving into the dough stage. Soybeans are filling pods and have good yield potential.

PIERCE-J.K.: Corn silage harvest is beginning in some areas. Warm weather has pushed the crops along, but it still would be good if a killing frost would hold off for a little longer.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn crop is almost two weeks behind maturing and it is getting dry again.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Silage samples tested last Thursday had moisture from 61 to 78 percent. Most fields planted in early May were from 60 to 65 percent moisture while fields planted after May were still for the most part 70

percent or higher. Dry weather along with warm temperatures has ended the growing season for most corn and soybean fields.

BROWN-M.H.: Corn silage is just now starting to be harvested.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Corn and soybean maturation is moving apace with the three straight weeks of dryness and sun. Preparation for winter rye is on hold until the soils wet back some. Fourth crop hay will be slight if some real rain does not show up soon. Meanwhile some manure has been spread and corn silage chopped.

GRANT-E.B.: The heat and dry conditions are ripening the corn and soybeans. With all the hail damage in our area yields could be all over the board. Corn silage moisture is at the top end of the optimum range.

DANE-J.M.: Fields are the driest they have been all year. Crops are drying up fast without rain. Most early-planted corn should be very good with a lot of high yields possible. Corn chopping is going excellent with the dry field conditions at present. Soybeans are becoming ripe at a fast rate due to being so very dry. Look like soybeans could be a very good crop.

DODGE-R.H.: Soybeans are turning color by the hour in the warm afternoons. We are finishing up fourth crop hay on Friday. Next week we will start corn silage. As neighbors are busy chopping in the bags, we have to wait for silage to get drier for upright silos.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: There has not been any fourth crop hay cut. What there is of third crop hay is done.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 20, 2009

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	March 1 to Sept. 19	March 1 to Sept. 19 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	81	53	85	48	67	7	2287	2342	0.02	0.10	-2.40	17.12	-8.81
Green Bay	77	49	85	42	63	4	2109	2205	0.00	0.00	n.a.	17.63	-4.68
La Crosse	80	56	85	51	68	5	2576	2634	0.00	0.00	n.a.	19.76	-6.24
Madison	79	49	84	43	64	3	2383	2578	0.00	0.00	n.a.	25.35	-0.51
Milwaukee	75	59	85	55	67	3	2373	n.a.	0.00	0.00	n.a.	24.26	-2.10

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.