



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

September 29, 2009

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Wet Week Slowed Down Silage Harvest for Many

This past week brought various amounts of moisture across the state. The rains helped pasture growth, improved many crops, and aided germination of winter wheat. However, the abundance of moisture slowed harvest for many growers. Warmer weather this past week helped increase growing degree units, but growers are still hoping that frost holds off a little longer.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.44 inches in Eau Claire to 4.00 inches in Madison. Average temperatures were 4 to 8 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 72 to 74 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 52 to 59 degrees. On average, there were 4.9 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 84 percent complete statewide, a jump of 18 percentage points from the previous week. Corn mature increased 10 percentage points, being reported as 20 percent complete. Corn silage harvest continued with harvest reported as 28 percent complete. Some high moisture corn harvest started last week, but it was still too early for most. Growers are hoping for a few dry, warm days to complete corn silage harvest as intermittent showers delayed it.

Soybean leaves turned was reported as 87 percent complete, while soybeans dropping leaves jumped 28 percentage points from the previous week to 52 percent complete. Most soybean leaves changed color and were dropping leaves, but some late planted fields were still green. The heavy fog and moisture the past week brought more white mold to some fields. A few more days of dry weather is now needed to begin soybean combining.

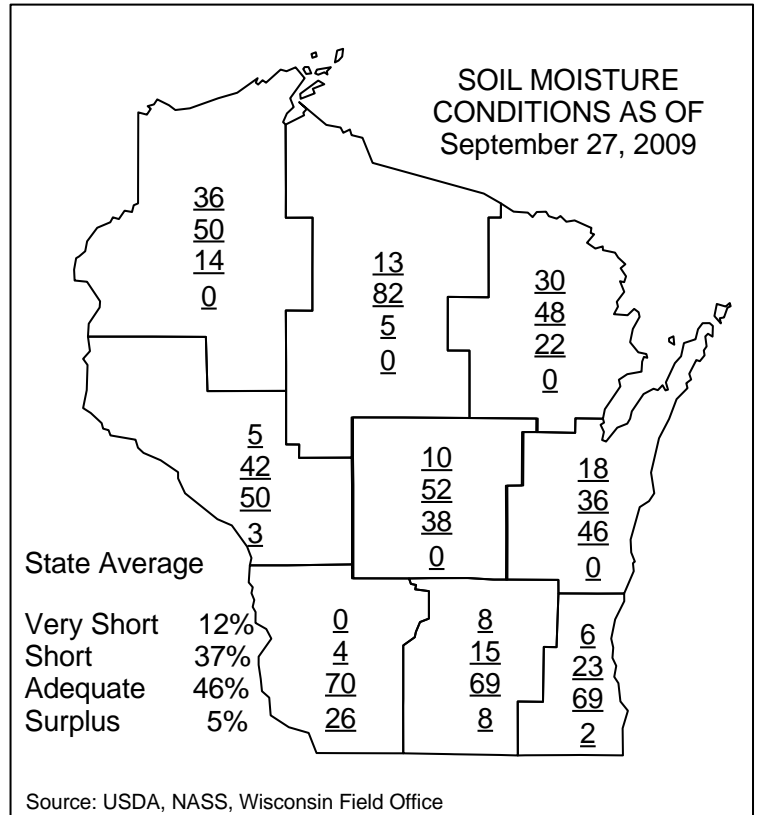
Fourth cutting **hay** harvest progressed, and was reported at 58 percent complete. Some growers were waiting for a few dry days before cutting hay, while others reported that they had to blow the hay back onto the ground due to poor drying conditions.

Some parts of the state began **fall tillage** with 6 percent reported complete, and manure was being hauled on hay ground and small grain fields.

The past week brought moisture that many growers were hoping for to aid the recently planted **winter wheat**.

Excellent **apple** yields and quality were reported with multiple counties reporting Honey Crisp apples being ripe. Farmers started opening up their orchards.

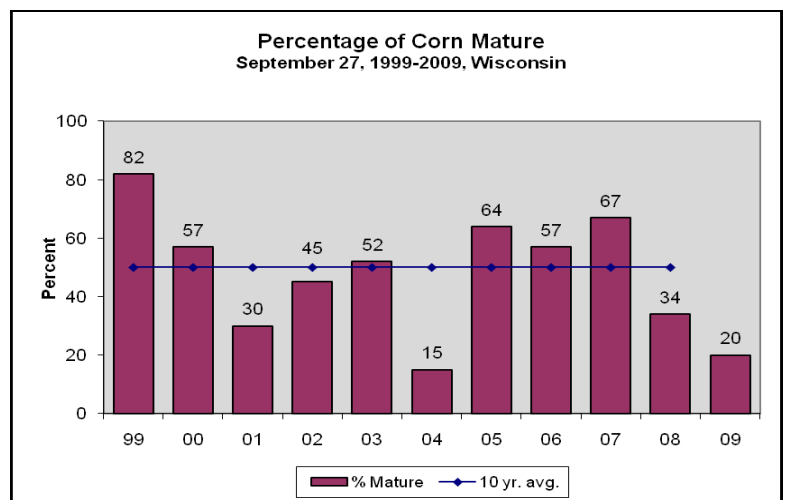
Cranberry harvest started in some parts of the state.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 27, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	3	9	26	46	16
Soybeans	2	6	26	52	14
Pasture	9	18	41	29	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	70	68	86	81	75	82	97	93	78	84	81	87
Corn mature	18	6	9	18	27	9	5	41	13	20	34	47
Corn harvested for silage	31	4	31	30	47	21	42	33	27	28	55	67
Soybeans leaves turned	81	90	89	87	91	81	96	89	80	87	93	92
Soybeans dropping leaves	53	43	56	50	42	52	59	60	32	52	74	73
Fourth cutting hay	44	50	40	62	54	46	80	78	51	58	50	49
Fall tillage	8	5	4	3	12	11	1	2	10	6	0	7

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Soybean harvest began on a few fields as dry conditions persist. Corn silage harvest continues as whole plant moistures are dropping quickly. Apple yields and quality are excellent.

CLARK-R.H.: Corn is starting to dent this week, whole plant moisture is from mid 60's to 70's for silage, finally seeing corn denting in the field and starting to mature. Soybeans are maturing with most fields turning yellow and dropping leaves, but still see some late-planted soybeans that are green. Have found some white mold on plants with the heavy dews and fog these past number of weeks. Some manure is being hauled on hay ground and small grain fields, and fall tillage is beginning. With no frost in the near future corn could finish maturing.

SHAWANO-T.B.: The corn for grain and soybean crops advanced quite well last week as the month of September accumulated a good share of growing degree days. Corn silage is being harvested all over the county, and yields are poor to very good, usually associated with soil types and the summer's drought conditions. The local field conditions have improved greatly with last week's rain. Tillage is now possible in all fields and soil types, and recently planted winter wheat has finally germinated and emerged.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Late canning crops are being taken as well as seed corn harvest. Late frost has been a godsend to all. Corn silage moistures remain challenging; however, field conditions continue to urge farmers to keep going. No high moisture corn has been harvested as of yet.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Potato harvest is on going with good yields. This has been a good week for corn silage harvest with average yields. Cranberry harvest is starting, poor berry color and variable yields. Some manure hauling is going on.

CALUMET-B.L.: Silage chopping has stopped for a couple days. The large units were chopping the drier corn the weekend of the 20th. Many harvesters were idle for a few days while the major silage corn dries a bit more. We have sampled about 70 samples over three weeks at our forage council dry down events. As soon as the surface dries the majority of the flat stored corn silage will be harvested. A few soybeans are being harvested with upper 30's to lower 40's which is normal. A lot of wheat will be going in now as silage and soybeans come off and there is moisture in the ground.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: This week we finally saw some rain. In fact, nearly 0.80 of an inch fell. This made the ground more wet than it had been in quite a few weeks. For those who have been planting winter wheat, the rain could not have come at a better time. Some wheat planted earlier is already emerging. The wheat planting is continuing. A lot of corn silage is being chopped now, with many acres cleared off in the past couple of weeks. The corn is shorter than in years past. Some larger producers are looking to buy corn because they are not sure they will have enough corn of their own. No corn is yet mature enough for high moisture or dry. However, some soybeans have already been taken off. This is especially surprising since the summer had been so cool. The warm and dry weather earlier this month really helped mature the soybeans. The rain has helped also to get the alfalfa growing. Fourth crop and in some cases fifth crop has reacted to the moisture by growing and looking good. Not too much harvesting of alfalfa is taking place as most producers are letting the crop grow to help it get ready for winter.

SAUK-W.J.: Rain on Tuesday and Friday was much-needed to mature corn and soybeans. Winter wheat planting has begun. Corn chopping is in full progress between showers. Corn is still slow to dry on heavy soil, even for silage.

ROCK-C.O.: It has been too wet for any hay making or soybean harvesting which could be going on some fields. The crop is still very late and any frost will cause test weight loss. We are still waiting to harvest corn for silage.

WALWORTH-P.R.: The past couple of weeks have done a lot to move the corn and soybeans toward maturity. Soybean aphids are starting to decline with the turning leaves; however, large numbers of winged aphids are present this fall.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 27, 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. 26	March 1 to Sept. 26 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	74	56	80	51	65	8	2394	2401	0.44	0.54	-2.83	17.56	-9.04
Green Bay	72	52	74	44	62	5	2197	2266	0.92	0.92	-1.86	18.55	-4.35
La Crosse	73	59	79	52	66	5	2690	2704	0.87	0.87	-2.23	20.63	-5.81
Madison	72	57	76	47	65	6	2487	2656	4.00	4.00	1.17	29.35	2.91
Milwaukee	72	59	76	54	65	4	2482	n.a.	0.84	0.84	-2.16	25.10	-1.88

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.