Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

October 13, 2009 Vol. 09, No. 27

Corn and Soybeans Remain Too Wet to Harvest

Wet conditions last week kept many farmers out of the fields, but did help replenish soil moisture levels across most of the state. Growers were left waiting for warm, drier weather needed to bring moisture levels down in corn and soybeans, as well as to dry soybean fields that sat ready for harvest. Frost was reported across much of the state, which some growers hoped would aid dry down.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.32 inches in Madison to 1.28 inches in Green Bay. Average temperatures were 5 to 10 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 50 to 55 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 36 to 44 degrees. On average, there were 3.4 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 mature stage was reported at 58 percent complete statewide, while corn harvested for silage was reported at 68 percent complete. High moisture levels held many growers back from harvesting corn for grain, which was reported at 2 percent complete.

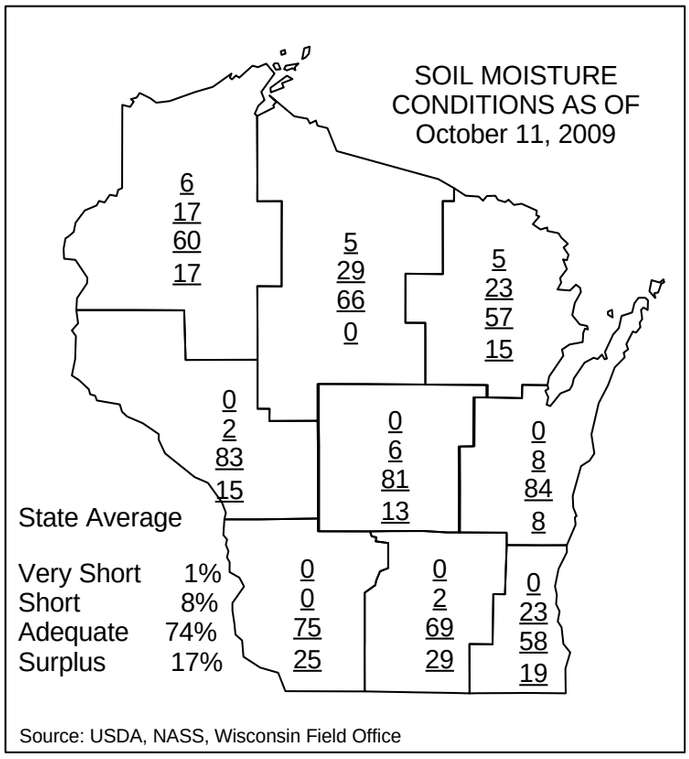
Soybeans dropping leaves was reported at 90 percent complete. A few growers were harvesting soybeans, as harvest was reported at 7 percent complete, but continued rainfall held many back from beginning harvest. Other growers were still waiting for soybeans to dry down to be ready for harvest.

Fall tillage increased to 13 percent complete, up from 10 percent a week ago.

Winter wheat planting continued, and more planting is planned following soybean harvesting, although some growers were concerned it may get too late.

Potato harvest continued, with some areas reporting harvest completion.

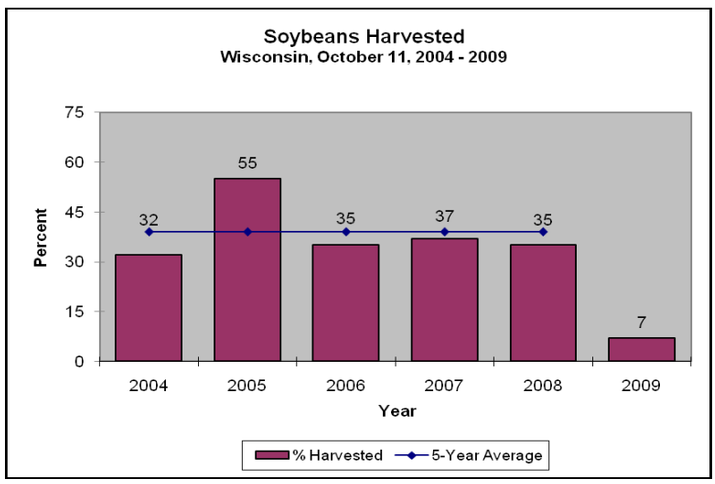
Cranberry harvest continued, with variable yields.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 11, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	3	9	20	53	15
Soybeans	2	7	31	48	12
Pasture	6	23	39	30	2

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 11, 2009

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	64	21	40	58	79	66	25	74	26	58	76	80
Corn harvested for grain	7	0	4	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	8	15
Corn harvested for silage	65	27	88	72	77	76	70	72	82	68	89	91
Soybeans dropping leaves	97	100	98	86	75	91	81	93	88	90	97	96
Soybeans harvested	5	3	5	8	9	14	6	5	2	7	35	39
Fall tillage completed	14	12	8	6	18	27	8	19	14	13	11	11

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: We received almost 4.0 inches of rain this week so no fieldwork was done. Corn is still too wet. Soybeans will be harvested weather permitting.
WASHBURN-P.H.: Rainy and cold weather most of the week prevented any corn or soybean harvest.
CLARK-R.H.: We received about 2.0 inches of much-needed rain this week, it may help build some soil moisture for fall and did not delay corn silage harvest that is now in earnest. Some whole plant moistures are still above what is needed. Some storage, bunkers and bags are being filled. Corn that was dented is finishing and ears are starting to drop, but we are a few weeks away from high moisture harvest. As corn silage is harvested, manure is being applied and incorporation of manure is progressing.
VILAS-L.K.: Potato harvest is done. Corn for grain is all harvested.
SHAWANO-T.B.: Corn and soybeans are drying slowly, and grain harvest appears to be a ways off yet. A couple of growers have tried soybean harvesting, but moisture levels are still too high for a major combining push. High moisture corn for grain harvest is just starting. Wheat planting continues and more will be planted when soybeans come off of the fields.
DUNN-S.S.: With the rain showers this past week, no fieldwork has been done. We still need a hard freeze. Most corn silage is completed. Potato harvest is in full swing. Most farmers are getting ready to start harvesting soybeans. The growing season is over.
ST. CROIX-R.K.: We have had our killing frost but need warm dry weather. Crops are good for the amount of rain we had.
PORTAGE-D.Z.: Soybean harvest is about to get started once the weather straightens out. Last week's frost finished off the leaves in the soybean plants. We are waiting for drier conditions to finish up the potato harvest. Early-planted wheat is starting to emerge.
WOOD-J.M.: Growing season is over, now we need warm sunny days to dry the corn and soybeans for harvest.
CALUMET-B.L.: Corn silage is winding down, still some green corn. The past week of temperatures in the upper 20's at night will move the remaining harvest along. High moisture corn harvest may soon begin.
SHEBOYGAN–E.P.: The soil is getting very wet, making it hard to complete fall tillage. Corn and soybeans are slowly maturing.
SAUK-W.J.: Silo filling is progressing between showers. Soybean harvest started again on Saturday. The corn is slow to dry-down. Frost may help corn dry.
DANE-D.F.: Weather has almost stopped all field activities. Soybean harvest continues to lag as spotty showers occurred all last week. A killing frost has occurred and may aid harvest in some areas. High moisture corn has been harvested by some growers with moistures in the 25-35 percent range.
DODGE–G.R.: Another rainy week has hampered field activities. Cooler nights were cloudy, so little or no frost was seen this week. Soybeans have lost all their leaves, but time is needed for dry-down. Majority of corn fields are losing all color due to maturity or frost. Some corn silage is still being made. Corn has a ways to go for shelling.
ROCK-C.O.: Rain has prevented harvest for all crops. Soybean harvest had begun with good yields being reported; however moisture levels were at 13-15 percent. Corn is just not drying down or black layering for that matter. Freeze this weekend shall finish it, but most will delay harvest to preserve spending money for drying costs. It will be a late harvest.
KENOSHA-J.H.: Corn is not mature; it needs good drying units. The freeze coming will create many harvest problems. Soybeans seem mature, but yields are still unknown.
WAUKESHA–R.F.: Corn seems to be ok. Corn silage and wheat were a good crop. New wheat has been planted. Soybeans will be combined in two weeks.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 11, 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 Oct. 10	March 1 to Oct. 10 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	50	36	60	26	43	-9	2430	2489	0.44	2.21	-2.30	19.23	-8.63
Green Bay	53	40	57	28	47	-5	2242	2353	1.28	2.97	-0.83	20.60	-3.35
La Crosse	53	38	62	30	45	-10	2731	2814	0.89	2.93	-1.25	22.69	-4.98
Madison	53	40	60	27	47	-7	2537	2767	0.32	5.63	1.86	30.98	3.57
Milwaukee	55	44	59	32	50	-6	2543	n.a.	0.37	2.96	-1.15	27.22	-1.13

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.