



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

October 19, 2009

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Below Average Temperatures and Moisture Slowed Harvest

With average temperatures well below normal this past week numerous growers reported field work difficult to complete. Corn and soybean harvest was slow due to the cold temperatures, snow, and rainfall throughout the past week. Wet fields also resulted in many farmers waiting to finish winter wheat planting. Growers are hoping for multiple dry, warm days to get the fall harvest completed.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.20 inches in Green Bay to 0.51 inches in La Crosse. Average temperatures were 11 to 14 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 43 to 47 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 30 to 37 degrees. On average, there were 3.3 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 mature was reported at 70 percent complete, an increase of 12 percentage points from last week. Corn silage harvest continued the past week with 83 percent reported complete, and corn harvested for grain was reported at 5 percent complete. Some growers reported harvesting high moisture corn, but many reported little harvest completed the past week due to moisture levels being too high and fields being wet. Many farmers are waiting for sunshine and warm winds to dry the fields before continuing harvest.

Soybeans dropping leaves were finishing up the past week and soybean harvest was reported at 14 percent complete, an increase of 7 percentage points from last week. Many growers stated that a stretch of warm, dry days are needed to get harvest done.

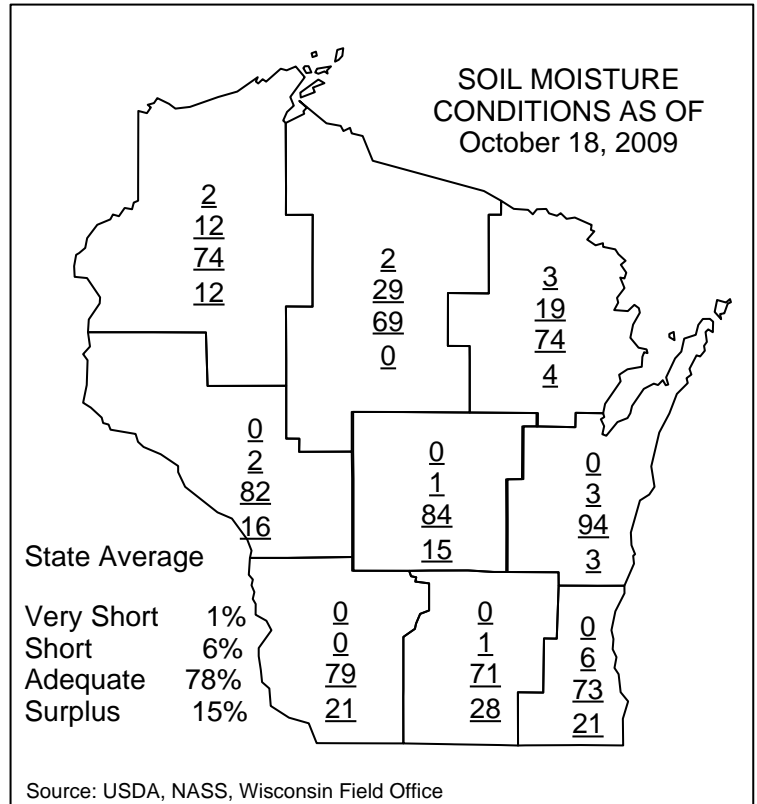
Fall tillage increased slightly to 17 percent complete, up 4 percentage points from last week. Fall tillage continued to lag because of wet field conditions and growers concentrating on crops being harvested.

Winter wheat previously planted was reported as emerging evenly with help from recent moisture. However, some growers stated winter wheat planting was slow due to the wet soil.

Cranberry harvest continued in Portage County, with color and yield improvements reported.

Good quality **apple** crops reported in Dunn and Portage counties.

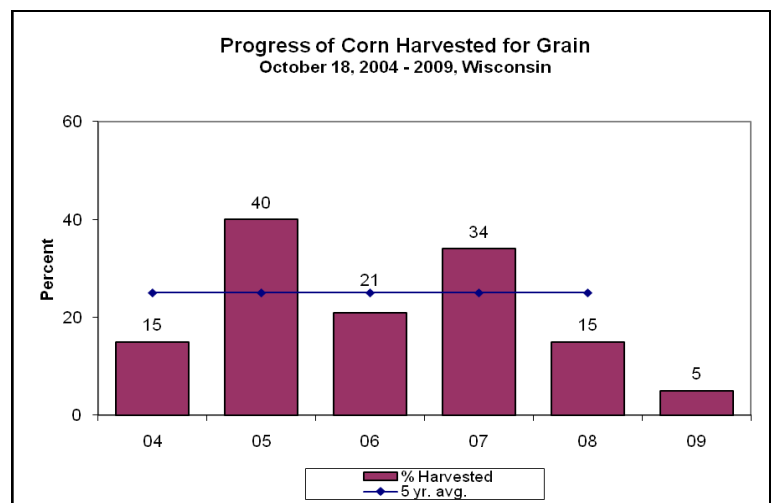
Manure hauling continued in some parts of the state, however, many growers reported waiting on manure applications due to the harvest slow down.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 18, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	9	25	50	14
Soybeans	1	6	30	49	14
Pasture	4	20	43	31	2

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 mature	71	51	88	80	84	70	45	88	50	70	89	92
Corn harvested for grain	8	0	8	4	5	12	4	3	6	5	15	25
Corn harvested for silage	81	65	91	86	88	86	84	91	88	83	95	96
Soybeans harvested	8	7	15	13	16	17	13	17	15	14	60	60
Fall tillage completed	17	14	10	9	26	29	12	23	16	17	18	17

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: Everything is at a standstill. Cold and snowy, 2.5 inches of snow so far. Silage is still being made. Cold temps, mid 20's, stopped all growth. Trees are turning color and dropping leaves. Found a bear "roll" in the corn field when chopping silage. We dug our potatoes Sunday, excellent crop. Picked grapes too.

CLARK-R.H.: With a wintering mix of weather this week, field work has been slowed. Field conditions are ok with corn silage harvest in full swing, and manure applications following the harvest. Bean harvest has been slow because of the weather. Some harvested beans have had higher moisture and may be related more to weather than maturity of crop.

LANGLADE-A.K.: When warm temperatures and sunshine return, bean harvest will start. High moisture corn still needs to dry down. Not much field activity; cold, windy and wet.

DUNN-J.F.: Snow and cold halted harvest. Potato harvest is on-going. Some fields not harvested because they froze out.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn and soybeans need some dry weather now. Between rain and snow all field work has stopped. Beans will go with a few days of dry weather. Some corn still needs some good dry conditions as it didn't make black-layer.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: The soybeans are ready to be harvested, but the weather doesn't cooperate. Too much rain and cloudy weather. High moisture corn being harvested. Not much fourth crop hay made, it is too short.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: It's been a challenge in the last few weeks getting any kind of field work done because of the rain that has been falling. It seems that all the rain that was missing during the summer is here now. Producers are getting some work done, though. Harvesting soybeans is the biggest concern. There haven't been enough warm and dry days to get a lot of the acres harvested. Some corn has been taken off for high moisture. For the most part, the harvest of corn silage is finished, with just a few producers waiting for the corn to dry down a little more before chopping it. Not much winter wheat planting is going on, again due to the wet ground. Some wheat that was planted was planted no-till. And the wheat that was planted in September or early October is emerging evenly, with help from the excessive moisture in the ground. Manure hauling is

continuing. Some producers have been taking off another cutting of hay, but many are choosing not to, to help protect the alfalfa in the winter. This area is in need of a prolonged stretch of dry weather to get the fall harvesting completed.

IOWA-K.V.: Early indications are soybean yields will be fair and corn yields are good. Corn moistures are 33 to 50% and very low test weights.

DANE-J.K.: Corn and soybeans continue to mature very slowly. Cold, wet weather is the culprit. Winter wheat is very slow to come this year because of lack of warm weather and sunshine. Planting is behind also for the same reason. Field conditions aren't too bad, because we haven't had any heavy rains. A lot of liquid manure going on bare fields of corn silage and soybeans. A lot of wheat going no-till, probably because of damp conditions. I saw some corn stalks being made already after high moisture corn was off, probably because of the need for bedding. Some fifth crop hay has some heavy growth but isn't being cut; too many other things to do and the weather. Sometimes you do what you have to do.

DODGE-R.H.: Corn moisture too high for high moisture corn; still around 30-35%. Need sunny days to combine soybeans. Corn silage finished up in the area this week.

KENOSHA-E.M.: Total killing freeze. Much corn is not black-layered. Corn will be "lower" in test weight. Soybean harvest just starting. Week has been cool, (40's) overcast and rainy. Soil conditions too wet for winter wheat seeding.



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This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 18, 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. 17	March 1 to Oct. 17 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	43	30	50	25	36	-13	2430	2535	0.42	2.63	-2.42	19.65	-8.42
Green Bay	45	31	49	27	38	-11	2242	2396	0.20	3.17	-1.11	20.80	-3.67
La Crosse	45	31	50	26	38	-14	2731	2868	0.51	3.44	-1.20	23.20	-4.75
Madison	45	32	50	26	39	-12	2537	2825	0.22	5.85	1.62	31.20	3.35
Milwaukee	47	37	49	29	42	-11	2543	n.a.	0.49	3.45	-1.15	27.71	-1.15

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.