



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

October 26, 2009

Vol. 09, No. 29

Wet Weather Hampered Corn and Soybean Harvest

Although temperatures were higher than the previous week, wet weather continued to limit fieldwork and harvesting. Wet fields also resulted in many farmers waiting to finish winter wheat planting. Growers are hoping for dry, warm, and breezy days to bring corn and soybean moisture to acceptable levels and to allow harvest completion.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 1.47 inches in Madison to 2.86 inches in La Crosse. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree above to 2 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 50 to 58 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 37 to 43 degrees. On average, there were 2.6 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 81 percent complete, an increase of 11 percentage points from the previous week. Corn silage harvest continued, with 91 percent reported complete, and corn harvested for grain was reported at 9 percent complete, up 4 percentage points from the previous week. Some growers reported harvesting high moisture corn, but many reported little harvest completed last week due to moisture levels being too high and fields being wet. Many farmers are hoping for sunshine and warm winds to dry the corn down before continuing harvest to avoid high drying costs.

Soybean harvest was reported at 25 percent complete, an increase of 11 percentage points from the previous week. Many growers are hoping for a week of warm, sunny weather to get harvest done.

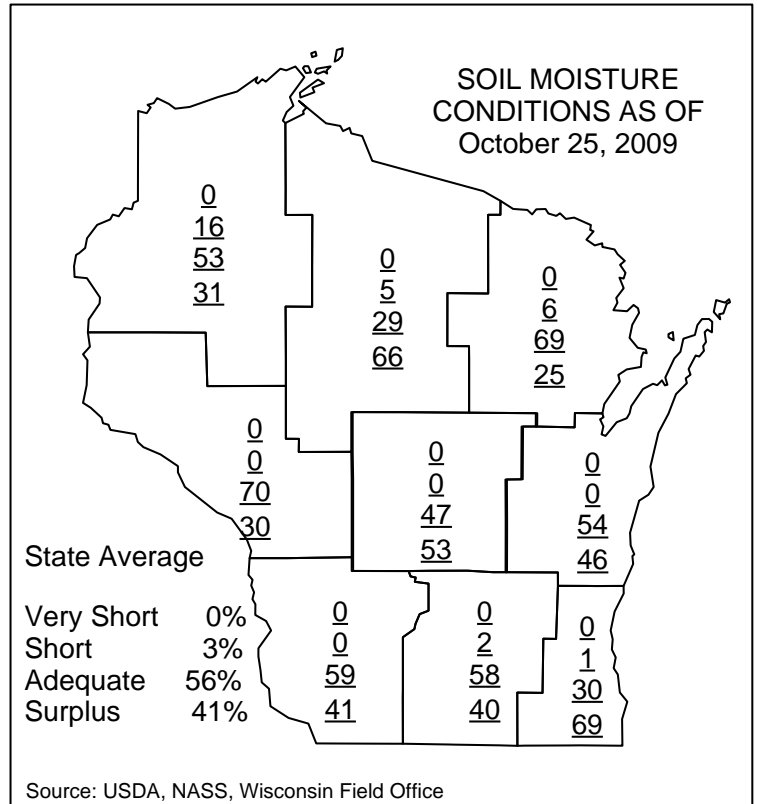
Fall tillage increased slightly to 21 percent complete, up 4 percentage points from the previous week. Fall tillage was slow due to wet fields and growers concentrating their efforts on corn and soybean harvesting.

Winter wheat planting was reported at 65 percent complete and 37 percent emerged. Planting was slowed by wet fields and delayed corn and soybean harvest. Previously planted winter wheat was reported as continuing to emerge.

Cranberry harvest was reported to be mostly done in Portage County, with variable yields and improvement in color reported.

Very good quality **apple** and **potato** crops were reported in Dunn County.

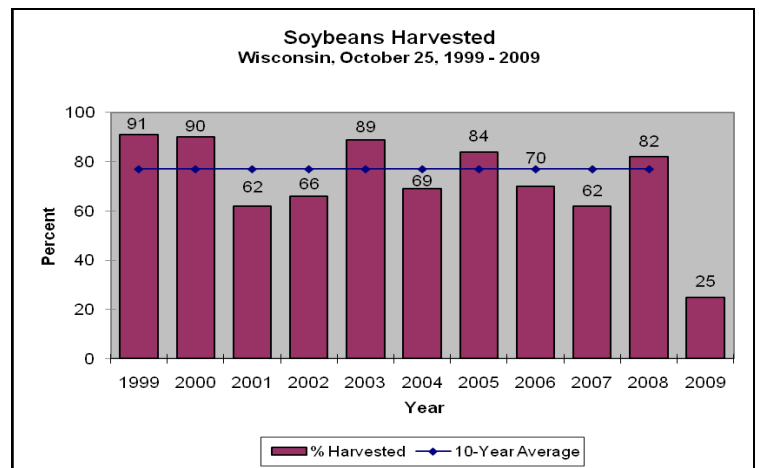
Manure hauling continued, but was slowed by wet weather.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 25, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	10	28	47	13
Soybeans	2	7	32	50	9
Pasture	3	26	38	29	4

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	86	72	98	90	91	73	67	90	62	81	94	96
Corn harvested for grain	13	3	10	5	8	16	7	6	6	9	27	37
Corn harvested for silage	85	82	93	92	94	92	88	95	94	91	100	99
Soybeans harvested	15	23	17	24	18	31	29	32	21	25	82	73
Fall tillage completed	19	24	12	11	29	37	18	25	19	21	25	25

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: More rain and cold temps. Some soybeans came off this week with moistures running around 16%. Even "mature" beans have green beans in them. Seemed to be two sets of pods with the second set still immature at plant death. Quality is not very good. Corn moistures running 30% and up, not much coming off. Corn silage wrapping up, quality and quantity very good. Getting in some winter wheat between the rains; not many acres going in this year. Some tillage ongoing, but that is also slow with the rain and acres only slowly opening up. Farmers will be happy with the end of this growing season.

CLARK-A.K.: This past week we had one day suitable to combine beans, otherwise it was raining or very cloudy. Rained about 2 inches the last 3 days. If it doesn't stop it will be a mess in the bean fields and corn fields.

SHAWANO-J.N.: We started to make a run at soybean harvest then the rains came. Three and one half inches this past week and more is predicted. If it would have stayed dry, harvest would have progressed swiftly with moisture running at about 12.5%. Corn silage is nearly complete with decent yields. Corn for grain will be a different story; with moisture tests running from 30-35%, producers could be facing high drying costs this year. With November about a week away, field drying here on out could be slight.

MONROE-P.B.: Very little field work done this week due to wet fields. Corn for silage is ready but needs suitable weather to complete harvest. Farmers are looking to sell corn as high moisture when there is a suitable buyer.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Only two days in the past week were suitable for any kind of field work as more rain fell. This area received 1.8 inches of rain in the last week, making wet ground even more wet. Monday and Tuesday of last week were dry enough to allow for some harvesting of soybeans. Yields have been better than expected, considering the cool and dry weather experienced this past summer. Bushels per acre have been in the mid- to upper-30s. Unfortunately, if producers did not get their beans off yet, it may be a while before conditions are dry enough again to allow the harvesting to continue. With the rain that has fallen, ponds have developed in some low lying fields. Quite a bit of wheat was planted right into the soybean stubble. Again, since time last week was short before the rains came, any wheat that was planted was taken care of almost immediately after the beans were taken off. Other than the harvesting of beans and planting of wheat, little else was going on. Some limited combining of corn for high moisture was done. The corn that will be combined as dry corn will need to sit awhile before its moisture will be down to a level where drying it won't bankrupt the producer. Some corn is still over 30% moisture at the present time. A week of warm dry weather would help to mature the crop and to allow the rest of the fall field work to continue and hopefully wrap up.

ST CROIX-L.M.: Rain and snow has stopped soybean and corn harvest. Will be a late harvest this year.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Corn and soybean harvest is very slow due to wet weather. Not much fall field work done for the same reason. A couple more inches of rain last week will make it difficult to harvest for a few days.

GREEN LAKE-R.G.: With only about one good day per week, soybean harvest is progressing, but very slow. Winter wheat is slow to emerge with cold temps. A lot of winter wheat is still being planted. Field conditions are very wet and sloppy. We have had 3 straight days of rain. Dry down is almost non-existent. Most corn is still 25-30% and up. Some of the late planted corn will never dry down. For many farmers, this harvest season is getting to be a bigger mess by the day.


FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Rain has again slowed harvest. Still some baleage made this week as feed supplies are lower than most would like. Corn running 30-40% moisture.

GRANT-R.R.: We continue to get excess rain. Extremely difficult to get any field work done. Corn moisture is still from 25-30%.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Some soybeans taken off—high in moisture—to plant winter wheat. I haven't seen any winter wheat come up yet. The cloudy days and drizzle have put a stop to everything. It will be crazy when sunny dry weather comes.

ROCK-R.S.: Corn has a long way to go to be ready to harvest. Mature line only an inch in a lot of fields. We need sun to harvest.

WAUKESHA-C.W.: Too wet and cool to dry down crops. Some beans starting to come off between wet spell, but moisture levels are not ideal. Need some warm breezy days.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 25, 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. 24	March 1 to Oct. 24 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	50	37	63	32	44	-2	2442	2568	1.83	4.46	-1.04	21.48	-7.16
Green Bay	51	38	64	27	44	-2	2253	2428	1.84	5.01	0.29	22.64	-2.23
La Crosse	54	40	69	33	47	-2	2753	2910	2.86	6.30	1.26	26.06	-2.57
Madison	56	40	70	28	48	0	2559	2868	1.47	7.32	2.60	32.67	4.27
Milwaukee	58	43	69	29	51	1	2575	n.a.	2.22	5.67	0.52	29.93	0.59

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.