



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

November 2, 2009

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Wet Fields Continue to Delay Harvest

Weather the past week created poor dry down conditions and harvest struggled to progress as reports stated fields were too muddy. Many growers reported little to no fieldwork over the past week as they were waiting for warmer days and drier fields before continuing any harvesting. Mold was also an issue as it was spotted in many corn and soybean fields across the state with some farmers stating fear of high harvest loss. Chippewa and Rusk counties reported damaged crops and flattened soybeans from wet snow.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.39 inches in La Crosse to 1.48 inches in Milwaukee. Average temperatures were 0 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 51 to 56 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 35 to 44 degrees. On average, there were 2.1 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 86 percent complete, and corn silage harvest was reported at 94 percent complete. Corn harvested for grain was reported at 13 percent complete, an increase of 4 percentage points from the previous week. Corn harvested for grain continued to progress slowly as moisture levels were too high. Many growers reported moisture levels above 30 percent. Mold appeared in many fields, especially fields where ears were still upright. Farmers reported concerns with moisture levels as well as quality of corn.

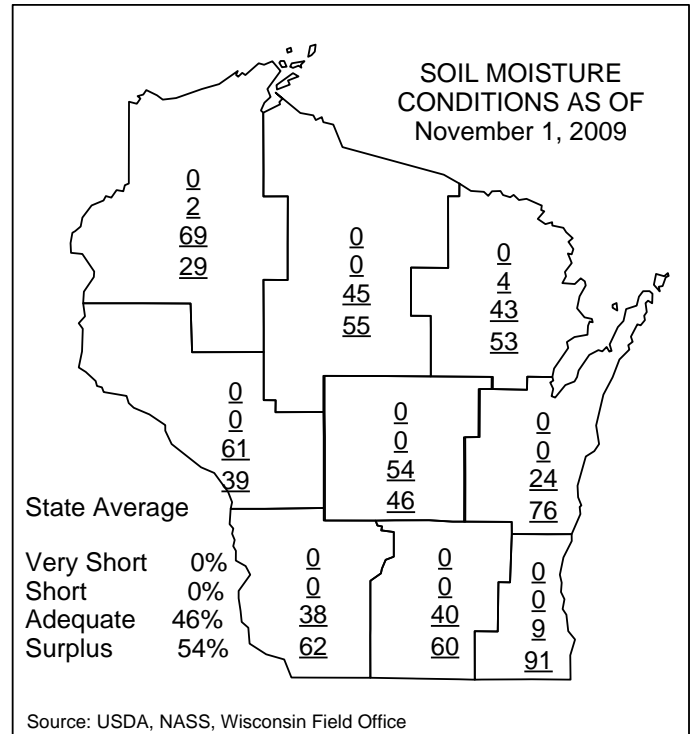
Soybean harvest was reported at 29 percent complete, an increase of 4 percentage points from the previous week. Soybean harvest was slow to progress as fields were too wet and muddy to enter. Monroe county reported some farmers dried harvested beans.

Winter wheat planted was reported at 68 percent complete with 43 percent emerged. Winter wheat previously planted continues to emerge. However, farmers reported none to very little winter wheat planted last week due to the wet fields and delayed harvest. Some farmers were still waiting to plant winter wheat after harvesting of beans has finished, while others stated it was going to be too late to plant any winter wheat.

Fall tillage was reported at 23 percent complete, an increase of 2 percentage points from the previous week. Very little fall tillage was completed due to wet field conditions.

Very good **apple** yields were reported in Chippewa county.

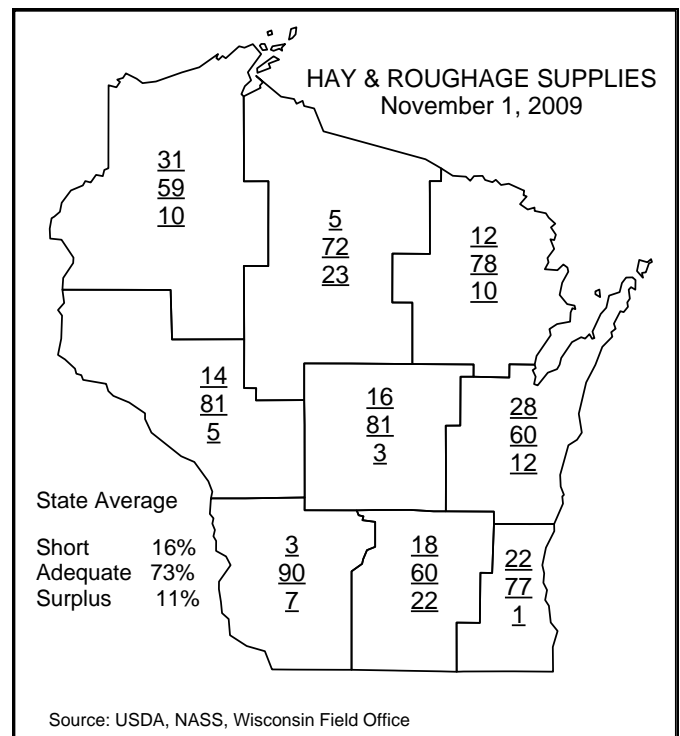
Fall **manure** hauling has been limited due to the ground being too wet to haul on. Shawano county reported that the inability to haul manure onto the fields has resulted in manure pits getting full.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of November 1, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	4	14	29	41	12
Soybeans	4	11	36	42	7
Pasture	4	24	32	36	4

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 1, 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	91	75	99	92	92	78	86	91	77	86	100	100
Corn harvested for grain	15	5	15	6	12	23	18	10	19	13	41	51
Corn harvested for silage	93	90	96	96	95	93	95	96	97	94	100	100
Soybeans harvested	21	27	27	30	19	34	30	33	23	29	92	84
Fall tillage completed	22	35	13	13	40	39	21	27	20	23	33	34

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: The only thing we can say about the weather is that it is terrible for harvest activities. Corn and soybean harvest will not happen until it dries out. I have not seen any winter wheat planted as of yet due to the weather and probably will not. Some manure is being spread though.

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: If we do not receive some above normal temperatures and dry weather it will be a long winter. The heavy wet snow from last week took down many limbs and a few trees and also flattened soybeans. It also took the top two feet of cornstalks off. This is not a good outlook.

CLARK-R.H.: The third measurable snowfall for the month of October along with 1.0 plus inches of rain have hampered harvest and fall tillage work. Soybeans are ready to harvest. Corn for grain is not drying down, and corn silage is being delayed also, because of the weather. Surface moisture is good at this time, but sub-surface will probably need more moisture to replenish because of a number of dry summers. With a few dry days, fieldwork will pick up again. Winter wheat should be planted; it looks good at this time.

OCONTO-K.H.: Progress is slow on corn and soybean harvest. There is a lot of talk of corn picking up moisture with the rains in the last weeks. Concern for muddy field conditions continues when crops are ready to be harvested.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Harvest of the corn and soybeans has been very slow due to poor dry down of the grain and the wet field conditions. Winter wheat planting has stopped due to the wet field conditions and growers hoping to plant not yet harvested soybean fields. Field conditions continue to be wet and all field operations have been very slow to get completed.

BUFFALO-R.S.: We received 7.70 inches of rain in October. A few soybeans were harvested but had to dry in storage. High moisture corn harvest has started but corn is too wet. It has been about as undesirable weather as harvest could be for the past six weeks.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: I noticed that the corn has some mold on it. It remains too wet to be harvested. The fields are spongy. A light snow Saturday morning dampened any activity in the field. Soybeans are also not drying. There are just too many days of rain and damp weather.

WOOD-J.M.: Harvest is progressing slowly. Corn and soybeans need warm, drying weather. There is not a lot of winter wheat in this area, but what is in looks good. Some fall tillage was done, but not a lot due to the rains we have had in the last couple of weeks.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Fields are very saturated. A little chisel plowing and manure applications on the hillsides have been about the only fieldwork for the week past. Most corn remains very high in moisture, around 40 percent.


SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Field conditions are wet and sloppy. There was just one day all week where crops could be cut for feeding cattle.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Season was short on growing degree days. Crops are very wet and some are trying to dry soybeans. There is very few corn stalks harvested for bedding and looks to be an extremely limited supply for livestock producers. Fields are too wet and muddy to enter. Hail damaged soybeans 10 points wetter than undamaged beans.

GREEN-J.T.: Some are mudding around trying to get silage. Winter wheat may not get planted. Fall manure spreading has been very limited.

ROCK-C.O.: Enough already. The 1.0 inch of rain last night is like the last nail in the coffin. Corn is molding on the stalk, especially where the ear is still upright. Soybean pods are breaking open due to all the moisture and here comes November with its chance for snow. What a tough season.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Almost no soybeans have been harvested. I checked some corn in my first field that was planted and the moisture was at 32 percent. We are at least two weeks behind in our harvest.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 1, 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. 31	March 1 to Oct. 31 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	51	35	63	23	43	0	2454	2572	0.59	5.07	-0.89	22.09	-6.97
Green Bay	53	40	66	32	47	4	2269	2431	1.36	6.39	1.11	24.02	-1.53
La Crosse	54	39	64	30	46	0	2771	2920	0.39	6.70	1.17	26.46	-2.61
Madison	55	40	67	29	47	2	2581	2880	1.15	8.49	3.22	33.84	4.92
Milwaukee	56	44	68	32	50	3	2599	n.a.	1.48	7.17	1.39	31.43	1.50

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.