Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

November 9, 2009 Vol. 09, No. 31

Corn and Soybean Harvest Progressing Due to Warmer and Drier Weather

Good weather conditions allowed growers to harvest soybeans and high moisture corn in earnest. However, corn for grain was slowed by continued high moisture. Also, because of previous wet weather, mold on soybeans and corn continued to be a major concern. Additionally, despite the recent warm and dry weather, some producers were concerned about drying costs.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0 inches in Eau Claire and Green Bay to 0.12 inches in La Crosse. Average temperatures were 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 51 to 55 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 30 to 38 degrees. On average, there were 5.1 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 harvested for grain was reported at 23 percent complete, an increase of 10 percentage points from the previous week. Corn harvested for grain continued to progress slowly as moisture levels were still too high. Many growers reported moisture levels above 30 percent.

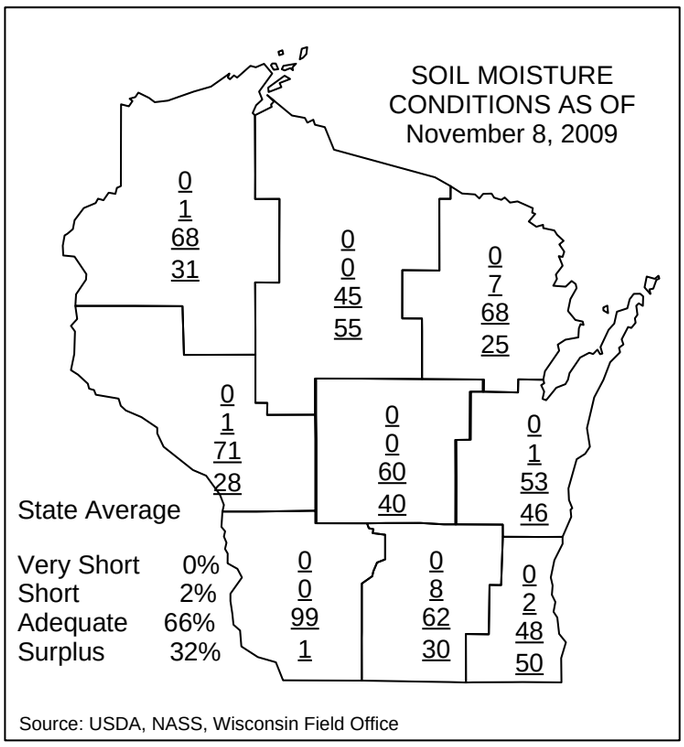
Soybean harvest was reported at 54 percent complete, an increase of 25 percentage points from the previous week. Soybean harvest progressed rapidly with varying yields reported across the state.

Winter wheat planted was reported at 77 percent complete with 49 percent emerged. Winter wheat previously planted continued to emerge.

Fall tillage was reported at 29 percent complete, an increase of 6 percentage points from the previous week. Fall tillage is delayed by the late corn and soybean harvest.

Fourth crop hay was reported being cut in Fond Du Lac.

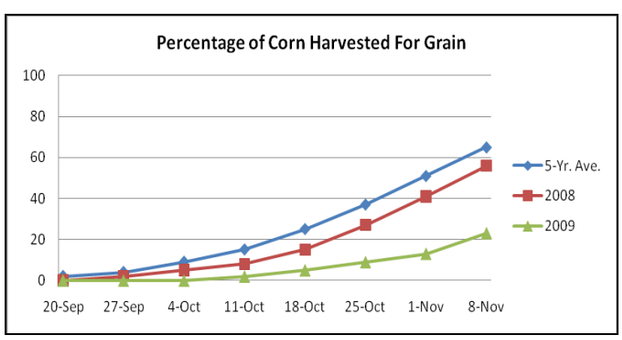
Fall **manure** hauling increased from last week due to drier soil surface conditions.

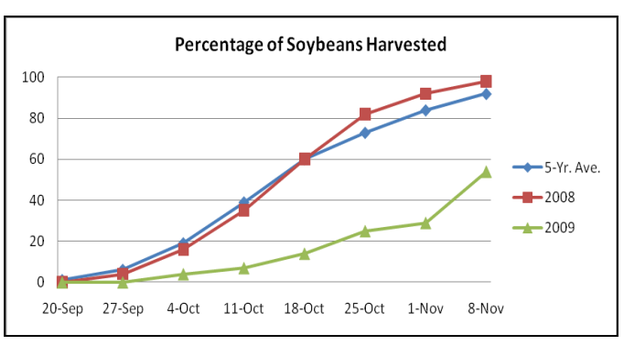


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of November 8, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	3	11	29	41	16
Soybeans	5	12	32	40	11
Winter Wheat	9	6	32	47	6
Pasture	3	24	34	35	4

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.





Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 8, 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 harvested for grain	26	10	24	13	16	28	39	19	21	23	56	65
Soybeans harvested	51	35	64	60	39	60	47	64	44	54	98	92
Fall tillage completed	24	40	25	17	42	55	37	28	21	29	42	44

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: The improved weather is starting to let the combines roll. Some progress was made on corn and soybeans. Soybeans are tough and the quality is down. Corn moisture is still in the mid 30 percent. Local elevators are still mostly sitting idle.

WASHBURN-K.S.: Soybean and high moisture corn harvest is happening in earnest, where soil conditions allow. Heavier soils are still too wet for harvest equipment. Most soybeans are high in moisture, 20 percent plus. Many are being dried, or put in air drier bins. Corn moistures are still high. Driest corn is in the upper 20 percent but lots is still 35 percent plus. Seeing evidence of mold in nearly all the corn. Some cases are moderate to severe. Farmers are optimistic that the weather will cooperate and allow them time to dry down crops in field. Some are anticipating drying cost, versus letting it stand. Latest fall harvest in many years.

PRICE-M.K.: Ample rain and snow this fall have made lots of fields wet. Corn silage harvest is mostly done and high moisture corn harvest is underway, with lots of damage being done to fields in the wet condition. There is common mold on corn remaining in fields. Little soybean harvesting has been done so far.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Soybeans are coming off the fields when the sun shines. Corn is wet and molding. A little corn combined for high moisture.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Corn is wet but seems to have good to excellent yields. Many reporting 160-200 bushels per acre plus yields. Soybean harvest yields look good also. Harvest has been a struggle this fall. This week looks good for harvest. Hopefully much will get done.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Finally some work is getting done. Soybean harvest was a priority for all who have them to harvest. Yields have been good, but not stellar. Quality is good. Corn yields are quite good, but quality issues are serious all over. What little wheat got planted is up, but we will have fewer acres due to late soybean and corn harvest.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Soybean harvest began mid-week with good progress, but yields were below average. Small amount of high moisture corn harvest was done but below average yields. Fields and corn are still too wet.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Soybean harvest is going full-tilt now that the weather has become more favorable this week. Moisture levels are still too high for corn harvest.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Soybeans are being harvested within the last few days after two weeks of no activity. Everyone is in desperation mode to get them done. Some winter wheat will still be planted. Mold and high moisture in corn has certainly given us more problems to deal with.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: We were able to harvest corn fodder. Looks like everybody is doing the same. Last week we wondered if we were ever going to see a string of dry days to harvest corn fodder for bedding. Not done, but at least started.

SAUK-W.J.: Corn and soybean harvest is moving forward at a rapid pace. Winter wheat planting is finishing up due to the lateness. Conditions in the fields are good. Some hay is being cut to be baled.

DANE-C.B.: Weather being sunny and near 70 degrees with a light wind, a lot of soybeans are being harvested. In a week, went from 20 percent soybeans harvested to over 85 percent now completed. Some are harvesting corn as HMSC or for grain with moistures at 23 percent on the hillsides to 35 percent on better soils. Finding between 0-15 percent of ears having some form of ear rot causing mold to occur between the husks and the ears. Corn yields are surprising many with unexpectedly high yields on fields that did not run out of moisture in August.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Corn that froze is being chopped. Soybeans and corn are running above average yields. Soybeans are small, and like corn, they are being dried. Combines started late and work late as long there is sun and wind.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Soybeans are wet and need to dry. They are hard to combine being very short. Corn is very wet with moisture at 30 percent. Corn has mold and looks like cream corn before drying it.

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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 November 8, 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 Nov. 7	March 1 to Nov. 7 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	53	30	66	22	41	2	2471	2586	0.00	5.70	-0.77	22.72	-6.78
Green Bay	51	33	68	30	42	2	2282	2444	0.00	6.38	0.58	24.01	-2.08
La Crosse	55	33	68	25	44	2	2797	2935	0.12	6.81	0.79	26.56	-2.95
Madison	55	33	71	28	44	2	2603	2900	0.02	8.50	2.72	33.85	4.42
Milwaukee	55	38	71	30	46	2	2619	n.a.	0.01	7.15	0.77	31.41	0.92

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.