



# WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

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

December 2009

## REVIEW OF THE 2009 CROP YEAR

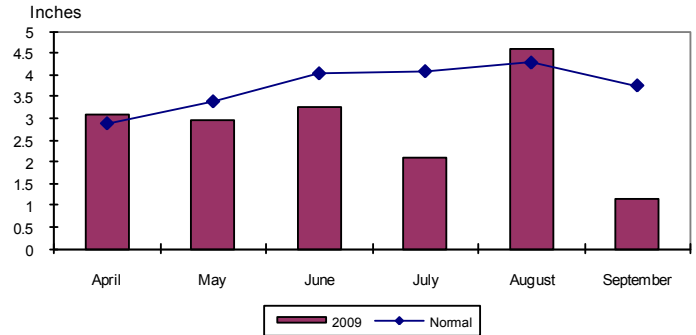
### 2009 – Extreme Conditions Delay Harvest

This was definitely a difficult year for farmers in Wisconsin, as they experienced some extreme conditions. The season began with below normal temperatures in early April resulting in delayed planting and other fieldwork as frost could still be found on the ground. Planting finally got under way after warmer temperatures and needed rains came towards the end of April. Moisture throughout the first half of May limited fieldwork, while cool temperatures slowed the growth of hay and emerging crops. June also began cooler than normal, but warm temperatures and humidity finally arose in the second half of the month. This needed change in weather allowed large strides in crop growth. The second coldest July on record slowed corn maturity, and high winds and hail damage at the end of the month destroyed some crops. In southwest Wisconsin, several fields were declared a disaster due to hail damage and drought. August brought a little more warmth and humidity that allowed crops to green up. Farmers were grateful for a late frost, but a cool and rainy fall continued to delay corn harvest into December. Finally, a large snow storm and subzero temperatures in early December brought most of the leftover harvest to a standstill.

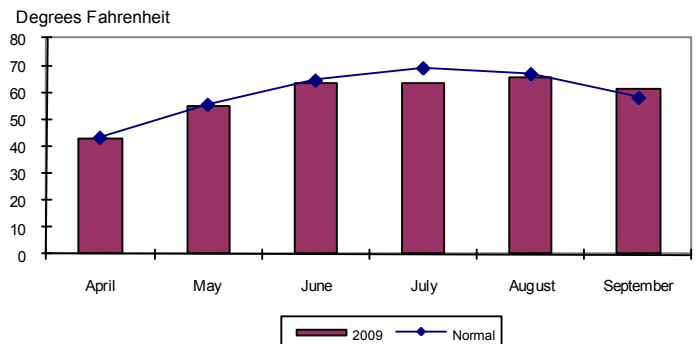
Statewide temperatures from June to September were 1.3 degrees below normal in 2009, making this the first growing season with below normal temperatures in the last five years. Temperatures in April, May, June, and August were all slightly below normal, while July was 5.4 degrees below normal and September was 3.4 degrees above normal.

Precipitation and soil moisture varied greatly across the state with total precipitation for April through September at 17.12 inches. This was 6.07 inches below the total for 2008 and 5.21 inches below normal. Total precipitation in the northern third of the state was 7.08 inches below normal for April through September, the central third of the state was 4.21 inches below normal, and the southern third of the state had 2.14 inches below normal precipitation.

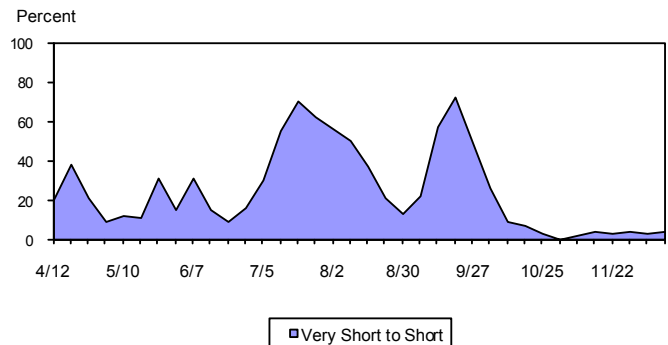
Monthly Rainfall  
2009 Wisconsin State Average



Monthly Temperature  
2009 Wisconsin State Average



Soil Moisture Ratings  
2009 Wisconsin State Average



**MONTHLY TEMPERATURES: 2009 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL\***

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal
	Degrees Fahrenheit											
NW	42.3	41.7	53.7	54.4	61.8	63.1	63.3	68.1	64.6	65.9	62.3	56.6
NC	40.0	40.4	51.8	53.2	60.3	61.8	60.5	66.4	62.0	64.2	58.9	55.3
NE	40.6	41.3	52.1	53.6	61.4	62.5	62.4	67.0	63.4	64.8	59.6	56.0
WC	45.0	45.2	56.7	57.4	65.0	66.4	65.2	70.8	66.4	68.3	62.4	59.3
C	43.7	44.5	56.6	56.7	64.8	65.8	64.6	70.2	66.6	67.7	62.2	59.0
EC	42.5	42.8	53.8	54.6	62.9	64.1	65.0	69.5	66.1	67.9	62.2	59.8
SW	45.6	46.1	57.7	57.9	66.5	67.2	65.2	71.4	67.7	69.0	63.2	60.5
SC	45.3	45.8	58.0	57.8	66.9	67.2	65.6	71.3	67.6	68.9	63.0	60.6
SE	44.1	45.0	56.3	56.3	64.3	66.0	65.8	71.2	67.1	69.4	62.4	61.4
STATE	42.9	43.2	54.7	55.5	63.3	64.5	63.7	69.1	65.2	66.9	61.5	58.1

1/Preliminary estimates, 2009. \*Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

**MONTHLY RAINFALL: 2009 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL\***

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal	2009	Normal
	Inches											
NW	1.54	2.39	1.20	3.29	2.77	4.19	2.16	4.29	4.26	4.44	0.74	3.89
NC	3.06	2.40	2.34	3.31	2.63	4.01	2.08	4.06	4.90	4.36	0.77	4.03
NE	3.25	2.65	4.22	3.29	1.83	3.69	1.41	3.70	3.99	3.81	1.15	3.74
WC	2.67	3.05	3.59	3.69	4.27	4.24	1.80	4.45	6.00	4.54	0.98	3.82
C	3.39	3.02	3.55	3.52	3.32	3.88	2.20	4.13	4.44	4.22	0.65	3.72
EC	3.13	2.81	3.13	2.95	2.64	3.51	1.18	3.38	4.91	3.86	1.74	3.42
SW	3.82	3.55	3.47	3.60	3.89	4.35	4.08	4.33	4.33	4.46	0.90	3.42
SC	4.58	3.47	3.53	3.40	4.54	4.19	2.31	4.07	4.00	4.24	2.68	3.51
SE	4.92	3.48	3.24	3.13	5.11	3.76	1.41	3.82	3.51	4.22	1.73	3.48
STATE	3.10	2.86	2.95	3.37	3.25	4.02	2.11	4.07	4.58	4.27	1.13	3.74

1/Preliminary estimates, 2009. \*Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

**COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA**

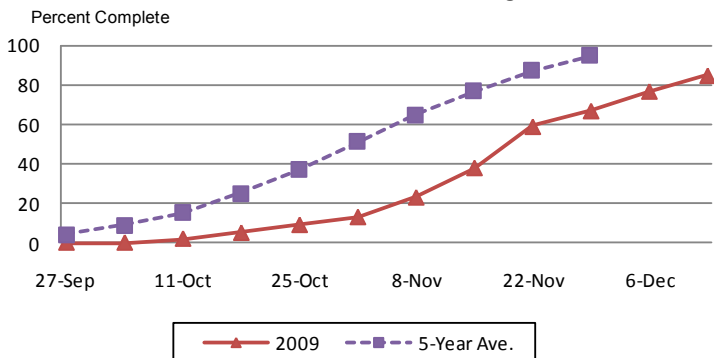
District	Average Temperature						Total Precipitation					
	June - September						April - September					
	Normal*	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 1/	Normal*	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 1/
	Degrees Fahrenheit						Inches					
NW	63.4	65.8	64.6	65.0	63.5	63.0	22.49	17.44	15.91	18.55	20.98	12.67
NC	61.9	65.6	63.3	64.1	62.4	60.4	22.17	16.97	18.60	17.17	18.32	15.78
NE	62.6	66.2	63.5	64.9	63.3	61.7	20.88	16.79	20.84	14.58	18.29	15.85
WC	66.2	68.7	66.9	67.8	66.3	64.8	23.79	21.73	21.61	25.48	24.07	19.31
C	65.7	68.8	66.1	67.0	65.7	64.6	22.49	18.27	19.77	21.83	24.80	17.55
EC	65.3	68.7	66.1	66.9	65.8	64.1	19.93	15.04	18.46	16.81	21.68	16.73
SW	67.0	69.7	67.3	68.3	67.1	65.7	23.71	20.08	25.62	33.39	31.41	20.49
SC	67.0	70.3	67.4	68.6	67.5	65.8	22.88	16.78	26.62	28.78	30.47	21.64
SE	67.0	70.1	67.3	68.2	67.1	64.9	21.89	15.06	22.90	24.99	27.52	19.92
STATE	64.7	67.7	65.4	66.3	64.9	63.4	22.33	17.79	20.46	21.58	23.19	17.12

1/Preliminary estimates, 2009. \*Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

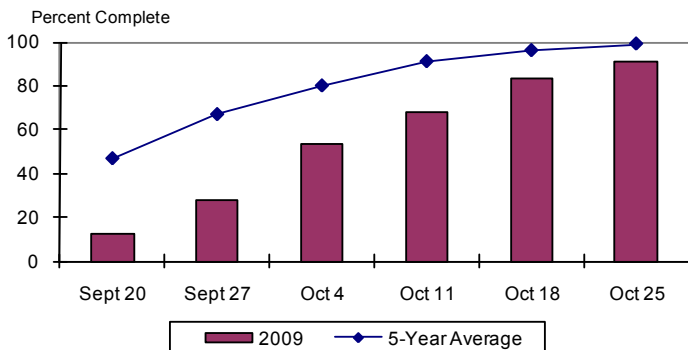
## CORN

At the end of May, corn planting was reported at 94 percent complete with emergence at 71 percent. The cooler temperatures throughout the beginning of June hindered progress, but as temperatures warmed by the end of the month corn growth and color began to improve. Lack of moisture throughout the month of July stressed crops, but the unseasonably cool temperatures helped moderate the stress. By August, corn fields were very uneven in maturity due to a lack of heat, and growers reported corn progressed slowly through the month, as much as two weeks behind schedule. Starting in September, corn harvested for silage was well below the 5-year average, and remained there for the rest of the season. By mid-October, growers started harvesting corn for grain despite the cool, wet weather. By November 1<sup>st</sup> corn harvested for grain was 13 percent complete, 28 percentage points below 2008 and 38 percentage points below the 5-year average. Throughout November, corn harvest progressed slowly as moisture levels remained too high. A large snow storm and sub-zero temperatures in the beginning of December brought grain harvest to a standstill, with 85 percent complete.

**Corn Harvested for Grain**  
2009 Wisconsin State Average



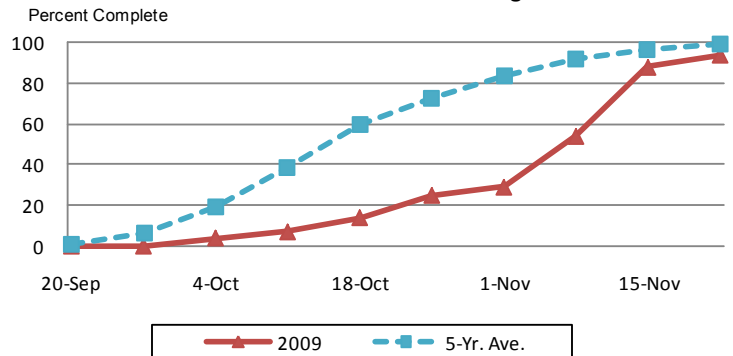
**Corn Harvested for Silage**  
2009 Wisconsin State Average



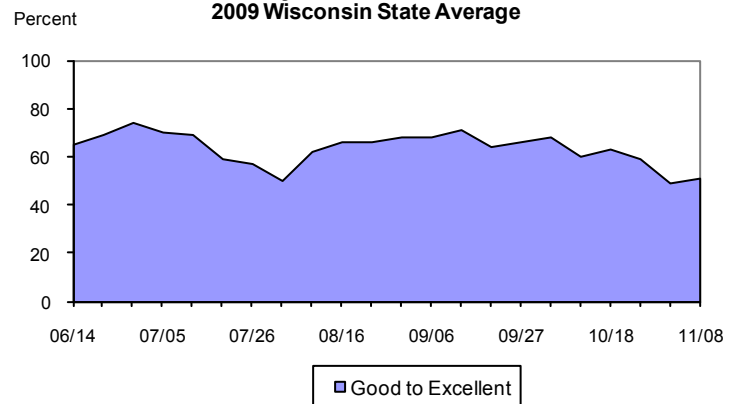
## SOYBEANS


As of May 10<sup>th</sup> soybeans planted were 8 percent complete, below the 5-year average for that time of year but slightly ahead of 2008. By the end of May, growers had caught up with the average planting rate, remaining slightly above the 5-year average for the rest of the season. Overall, emergence went well through June, and warmer temperatures helped soybeans put on some sizeable growth. Cooler, dry temperatures in July slowed soybean development, but the percentage of soybeans setting pods caught up to the 5-year average by the end of August. Many cool, overcast days led to the prevalence of white mold, a problem for many farmers around the state. Harvest began significantly later this year with only 25 percent complete by October 25<sup>th</sup>, 48 percentage points behind the 5-year average. November weather was conducive to finishing soybean harvest which wrapped up by the end of the month.

**Soybeans Harvested**  
2009 Wisconsin State Average



**Soybean Condition**  
2009 Wisconsin State Average





USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field office  
 P.O. Box 8934  
 Madison, WI 53708-8934  
 (608)224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

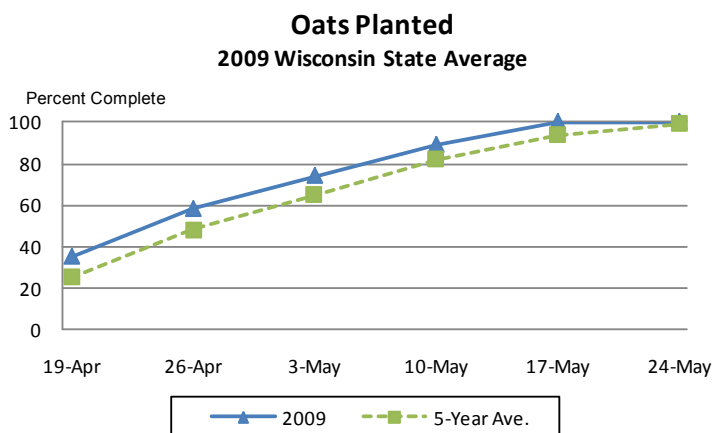
Robert J. Battaglia, Director                      Craig Christianson, Statistician

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.

## SMALL GRAINS

The season began with favorable conditions for planting oats. Growers were off to a very good start this year with numbers being reported above the 5-year average throughout the month of April. By May 10<sup>th</sup>, planting was at 89 percent complete with 58 percent emerged. This was well above 2008's average of 45 percent complete and 19 percent emerged. By June 14<sup>th</sup>, oat condition was reported as 78 percent Good to Excellent and some farmers had begun harvesting oats for forage. Both oats and winter wheat were rated mostly good to excellent throughout the season and into early August. Oats harvested for grain wrapped up by the beginning of September with above average yields commonly reported.

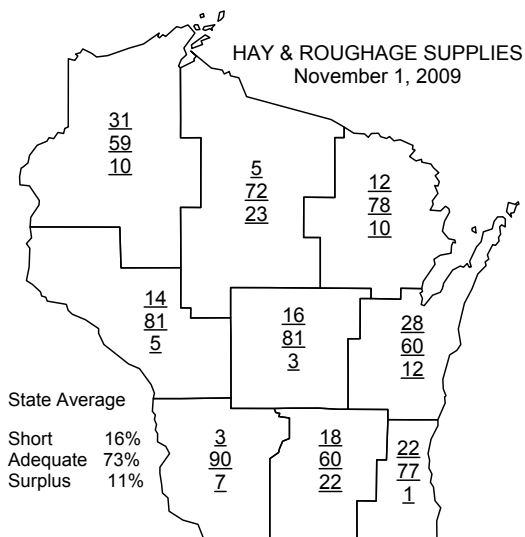
Winter wheat had many reports of winter kill, and the lack of moisture and warm temperatures throughout April and May delayed growth. An abnormally cool July caused moisture levels to remain high, leading to a delay in the start of harvest. By July 26<sup>th</sup> only 6 percent of winter wheat was harvested, 35 percentage points below the 5-year average. Toward the end of August winter wheat harvest had neared completion statewide with comments indicating yields were Good to Very good.



## HAY & PASTURES

Winter freeze damage to alfalfa was reported as 86 percent none to light. First crop hay received adequate rainfall for the most part, and by the end of May first cutting hay was 19 percent complete. While reports varied, many reported favorable yields for first crop hay. Second crop hay was shorter for some due to lack of moisture. Generally, progress of first and second hay cuttings ran slightly ahead of the 5-year averages. Through August and September, completion rates for third and fourth cuttings were close to their 5-year averages. Overall, yields across the state varied depending upon whether they received timely rainfalls.

Pastures were productive heading into July, with 72 percent rated good to excellent at the end of June. Throughout July, conditions declined due to a lack of moisture, and only 29 percent were rated Good to Excellent at the end of the month. Moisture in mid-August perked up pastures heading into September. Conditions varied throughout the season as Wisconsin saw extended periods of both wet and dry weather.



Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office