



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 26, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 25

Much Needed Rain Received

Overcast skies, scattered showers and unseasonably cool temperatures marked the week of the fall equinox across much of the state. Effects from the early frost varied, with frost damage accelerating harvest in some areas. Where received, precipitation slowed the dry down process in corn and soybeans but helped loosen soils for farmers who were digging potatoes or starting fall tillage. In spite of the rain, topsoil moisture was still short or very short for 32 percent of the state. More timely rains are needed in these areas to help fall plantings emerge. There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 62 to 66 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 43 to 51 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.46 inches in Madison and Eau Claire to 1.08 inches in Milwaukee. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal for all reporting stations. 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/>

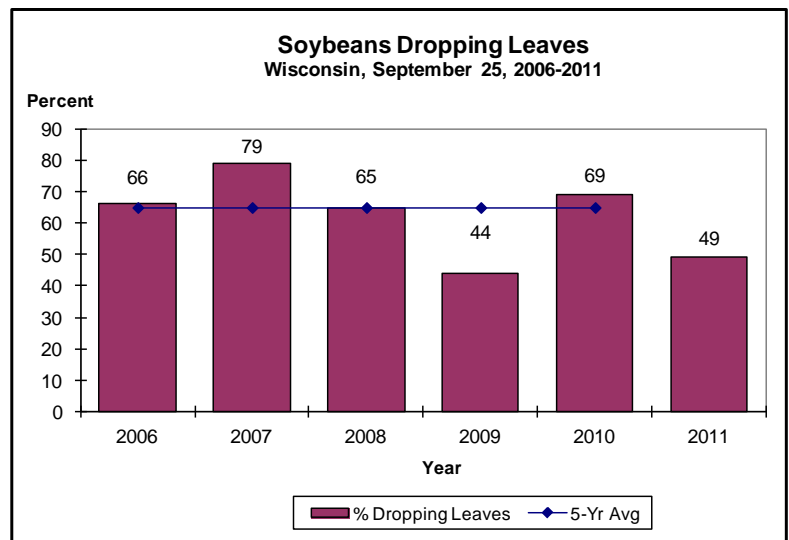
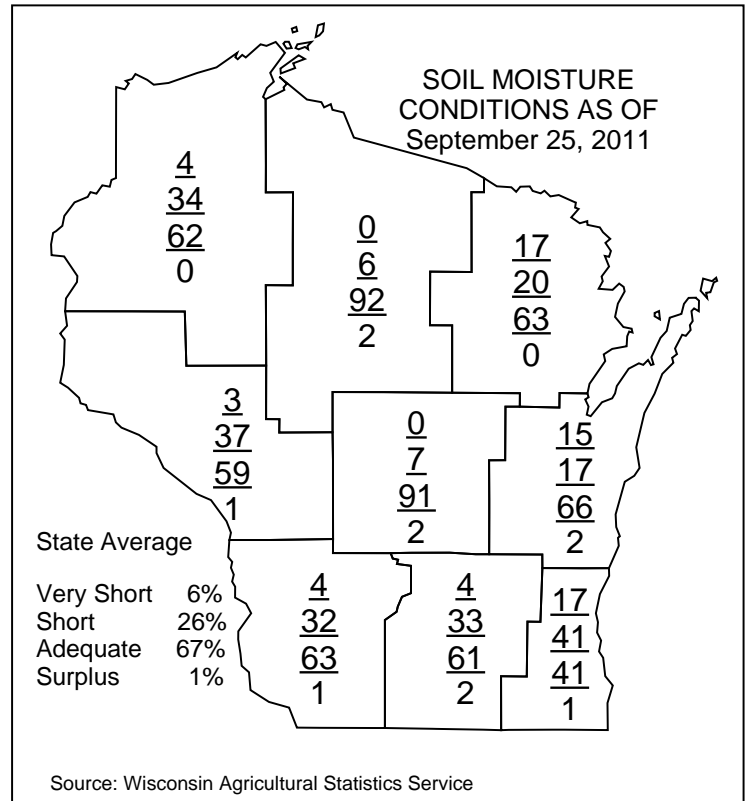
Corn was 89 percent dented and 38 percent mature. High-moisture corn was being combined in some areas, with 2 percent harvested statewide, compared to 7 percent last year and a five year average of 4 percent. Corn **silage** harvest was 57 percent complete and going strong across the state.

Statewide, 89 percent of **soybeans** had leaves turning color, with 49 percent dropping leaves. A reporter from Rusk County noted that some frost-killed soybeans were being taken for fodder.

Fourth crop **hay** was 76 percent harvested. A reporter from Waukesha County commented that they were unable to take fourth crop hay this year due to dry conditions.

Fall tillage was 7 percent complete, with tillage starting where silage had been taken off.

Oneida County's **cranberry** season kicked off this week with local festivals. Late varieties are still ripening and harvest is expected to begin this coming week, weather permitting. **Apple** picking was in full swing across the state, with reports of above average yields and excellent quality. The **potato** harvest continued with average to excellent yields and good quality. A Dodge county reporter noted **sweet corn** yields averaging 6 to 7 tons per acre and **green bean** yields averaging 4 to 5 tons per acre.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 25, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	6	16	54	22
Soybean	2	5	18	53	22
Pasture	4	20	34	39	3

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 week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn silage harvested	50	44	52	60	60	40	75	76	69	57	38	76	60
Corn in dent stage	79	86	87	90	90	74	97	97	92	89	80	96	88
Corn mature	47	23	25	36	40	14	31	58	57	38	25	61	43
Soybean leaves turning	86	98	84	92	87	78	93	89	96	89	70	94	91
Soybean leaves dropping	44	69	31	55	38	39	48	47	66	49	24	69	65
Fourth cutting hay	63	70	80	71	78	68	86	89	78	76	66	61	53
Fall Tillage completed	2	10	5	4	17	7	4	9	7	7	n.a.	10	3

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

CHIPPEWA-J.M.: Frost/freeze has ended the growing and development of both corn and soybeans in the county. The wet spring resulted in later than normal planting. This resulted in a lot of corn and soybeans not reaching full maturity before the frost/freeze.

RUSK-G.P.: Crops are showing the effects of three days of frost last week. Corn was frosted to below the ear and soybeans were mostly killed. Some soybeans have been taken for forage to preserve some of their value. Corn silage is slow to get rolling, still pretty wet for uprights. Forage harvest done now except for fields to be rolled over. Some winter rye was still going in behind corn silage acreage. Farmers markets are still overflowing with produce.

MARATHON-G.M.: In our area there was very little frost, everything is green. Most of the corn is looking good. We could still use some warm weather for the corn for grain

TAYLOR-D.E.: Frost hit some areas hard while others escaped a killing frost. Corn is drying down in most cases. Soybean leaves were turning and maturing but some fields were definitely frozen. Yields are projected at normal to below normal for both corn and soybeans.

VILAS-R.K.: Potatoes have average yields, good quality. Skin set is slow.

SHAWANO-B.R.: While a few vegetables were touched by frost, most of the corn and soybeans have not been affected yet in the eastern part of the county. Corn silage chopping is being done but at a slow pace due to higher moisture than desired. Still some soybean fields are mostly green while a few fields are dropping their leaves. Soil moisture is near perfect for fall tillage now. Winter wheat planting has also begun in the area.

DUNN-J.R.: Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Soybeans were hit hard by frost. Saw some high moisture corn being combined. Frost has accelerated harvesting.

TREMPEALEAU-J.H.: Cool, damp week still suitable for forage harvesting.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Potato harvest going strong but raining for last 4 days. Fall harvest is a struggle at this point. Looks like the best we can hope for is to reach average for yields in all crops this fall.

WAUPACA-L.B.: A seventy-five percent loss in production on pumpkins. Raspberries are good to excellent.

FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Rain will put a hold on field activities for a couple of days. Should now be adequate moisture for winter wheat plantings. Still some corn silage was being harvested.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Don't remember ever having to plow this dry at this time of the year. Soybeans are dropping leaves fast.

GRANT-J.R.: Harvest for corn silage is well under way. Some soybeans were being harvested.

RICHLAND-J.C.: The apple crop is late, but looks like it will be a good crop. Corn that has been appraised is coming in with average to slightly below average yields for the county.

COLUMBIA-B.K.: Received some much needed rain early in week. A few started corn harvest just to get equipment working properly or to fill a September contract. Moisture levels still a little high and drying conditions were no good this past week.

DANE-D.R.: Dry weather permits field operations, but moisture is needed.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Corn drying down fast, seen a small field combined for high moisture corn. Some wheat is being planted. Currently there is very little fall tillage done. We need rain.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: All crops are looking good, but soybeans are a little behind.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 25, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep. 17	Mar. 1 to Sep. 17 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	62	44	72	39	53	-5	2530	2384	0.46	0.79	-2.50	28.28	1.86
Green Bay	63	43	72	36	53	-5	2395	2249	0.62	1.97	-0.65	28.80	5.95
La Crosse	66	49	75	44	58	-4	2829	2684	0.73	1.72	-1.19	29.83	3.44
Madison	65	45	76	37	55	-4	2718	2634	0.46	1.52	-1.14	21.82	-4.46
Milwaukee	66	51	75	46	59	-3	2586	n.a.	1.08	1.59	-1.19	24.88	-1.87

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.