



Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 11, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 27

Indian Summer Advances Fieldwork

Wisconsin basked under clear, sunny skies last week, with temperatures reaching the low 80s across the state. Warm, breezy days and cool nights helped dry down corn and soybeans. Farmers took advantage of the weather to get out in the fields, advancing harvest and haying; after a late start, the soybean harvest in particular surged ahead this week. Producers not busy combining were out tilling, spreading manure or doing their fall seeding. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 4 to 11 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 73 to 80 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 44 to 50 degrees. Precipitation totals were 0.00 inches for all reporting stations. 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/>

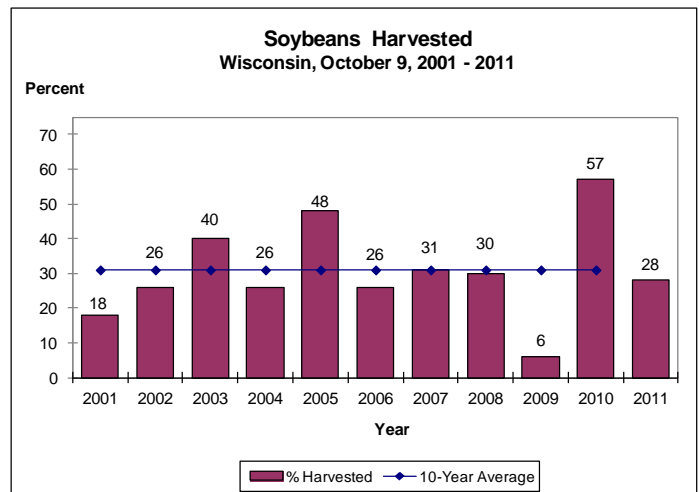
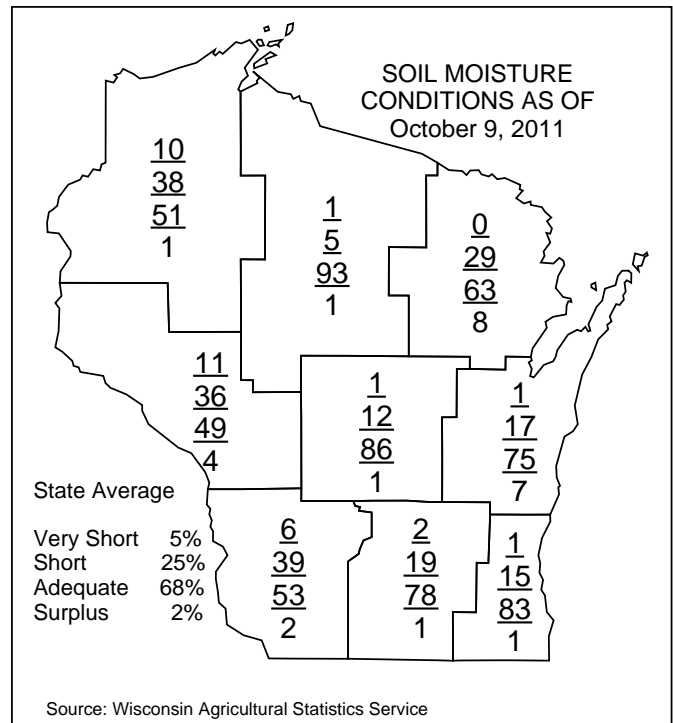
Corn was 78 percent mature and 11 percent harvested for grain. Corn moistures were reported in the 20-35 percent range across the state, with high moisture corn ready to harvest or being harvested in most areas. Corn **silage** harvest reached 88 percent complete.

Statewide, 94 percent of **soybeans** were dropping leaves, with 28 percent harvested. Reporters noted preliminary yields in the 40-50 bushel per acre range for northern Wisconsin and the 50-65 bushel per acre range for southern Wisconsin. Moistures were reported in the 10-20 percent range across much of the state.

Fourth crop **hay** was 90 percent harvested. The weather was ideal for drying and baling. Sauk and Dane County reporters noted fifth crop hay coming off where fields are to be plowed down.

Fall tillage advanced to 16 percent complete.

Wisconsin's **potato** harvest was finishing up this week, with average yields and very good quality reported. A Buffalo County reporter commented that **grape** yields were double last year's and the grapes were sweet. **Cranberry, apple, carrot** and **pumpkin** harvest continued as well.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 9, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	6	17	46	29
Soybean	2	5	18	46	29
Pasture	5	21	39	32	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	86	76	88	92	92	83	94	97	88	88	73	94	87
Corn mature	81	66	56	83	86	58	78	87	88	78	57	92	78
Corn harvested for grain	11	7	6	9	12	12	14	11	9	11	5	28	14
Soybean leaves dropping	90	98	90	90	95	91	95	95	99	94	74	96	94
Soybeans harvested	21	20	15	44	31	25	28	22	34	28	n.a.	57	30
Fourth cutting hay	78	91	91	88	87	85	99	99	92	90	86	80	71
Fall tillage completed	15	25	14	10	26	19	13	12	19	16	11	19	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BARRON-C.B.: Corn silage harvest is well underway. Soybean harvest began this past week.

RUSK-M.K.: Most of the corn silage is off. Very little harvesting taking place yet. Some high moisture corn harvesting is starting.

WASHBURN-E.M./T.F.: Extremely dry in area; fire conditions are "very high"; concerns about all down timber from July 1 storm.

CLARK-R.H.: Killing freeze ended the season last Saturday morning. The weather this past week was great and farmers are wrapping up corn silage and the last cut of hay. Soybean and high moisture corn harvest is beginning. Manure is being applied and incorporated, just a very busy week in the county.

MARATHON-S.N.: Soybeans and corn silage harvest is in progress as the plant continues to dry down. Rain needed to dampen the dust.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Not much change from last week except it was HOT and dry for this time of year. Some tillage work and winter rye being planted, other than that not much in field work being done. Pastures are slowly recovering and some summer seedings are showing signs of emergence. Colors are beyond peak and trees have lost 80-90 percent of their leaves with the high winds we had late in the week. Hoping for some rain with these warm temps.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybean combining started late in the week and are yielding in the 50-60 bushel range. Corn silage chopping is winding down and high moisture corn harvest should start this next week. Many farmers are finding that the corn is tangled and lodging badly in some of the fields from the winds we had earlier in the summer. It will need to be watched closely for a head start on combining or large yield losses may occur. Fourth crop hay is nearly done. Much of the winter wheat still has to be planted yet as they wait for the soybeans to come off first.

EAU CLAIRE-D.S.: Soybean harvest was started – 55 bushels per acre, 12 percent moisture. Some high moisture corn harvested. Totally awesome weather

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Some soybeans have been harvested, with a moisture content around 11 percent. I am sure more will be coming off this week. The weather this week has been warm and dry, conducive to good harvesting. Farmers in this area are just beginning to combine beans. Other than silage or high moisture corn, I have not seen other combines going.

TREMPEALEAU-K.L.: The soybean harvest has started in earnest. Manure is being spread on hay fields and corn stubble. The last of the hay is being cut. Hay quality is

reported to be good this year.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Past week was great for any late season hay. Corn moisture around 25 percent.

WOOD-M.L.: The past week has been great for hay harvest, considering the time of year. Hay was baled instead of haylage being made. Soybeans have been coming off with nearly perfect harvest conditions.

DOOR-T.S.: Soybeans are coming off now and high moisture corn. Some wheat still getting planted after soybeans.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Crops are looking good.

GRANT-D.W.: Harvest is in full swing. Where there was plenty of rain, corn and bean yields are very good. Where rainfall was limited, yields are still good, but not great.

IOWA-K.M.: Warm dry conditions helped producers finish up fourth crop hay and allowed them to begin taking corn and soybeans from Iowa County fields.

DANE-J.M.: Most of vegetables froze last week. Starting to put in winter wheat where soybeans were taken off. A large amount of high moisture corn combining going on in our area. Soybeans are being combined this week. Moisture was down to 10.5 to 11.1 percent. My beans averaged 72 bushels per acre on 10 acres.

DODGE-R.H.: Soybean harvest is very good

WALWORTH-N.W.: Combines are rolling in the soybean fields with yields reported in the 55-65 bushel range. High moisture corn was also being harvested this last week.

WAUKESHA-C.W.: Soybean harvest started earlier than years past. Beautiful week for harvesting and fieldwork.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 9, 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 Oct. 8	Mar. 1 to Oct. 8 normal*	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	80	47	84	31	64	11	2698	2476	0.00	1.78	-2.56	29.26	1.66
Green Bay	77	44	81	31	60	7	2541	2341	0.00	4.55	0.86	31.38	7.43
La Crosse	79	50	83	37	65	9	2996	2799	0.00	3.04	-0.96	31.15	3.59
Madison	77	44	82	30	61	6	2874	2751	0.00	3.31	-0.32	23.61	-3.84
Milwaukee	73	48	82	39	61	4	2723	n.a.	0.00	2.92	-1.02	26.21	-1.97

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.