



Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 24, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 29

Corn Harvest Ramps Up

Farmers took to the fields this week, making the most of sunny autumn days to advance harvest and fall tillage. Temperatures returned to cooler, more seasonal levels accompanied by spotty rains and blustery winds in many areas. There were reports of wind damage to corn from Sauk and Dane Counties. There were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 1 to 3 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 54 to 57 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 34 to 42 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Madison and La Crosse to 0.62 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/>

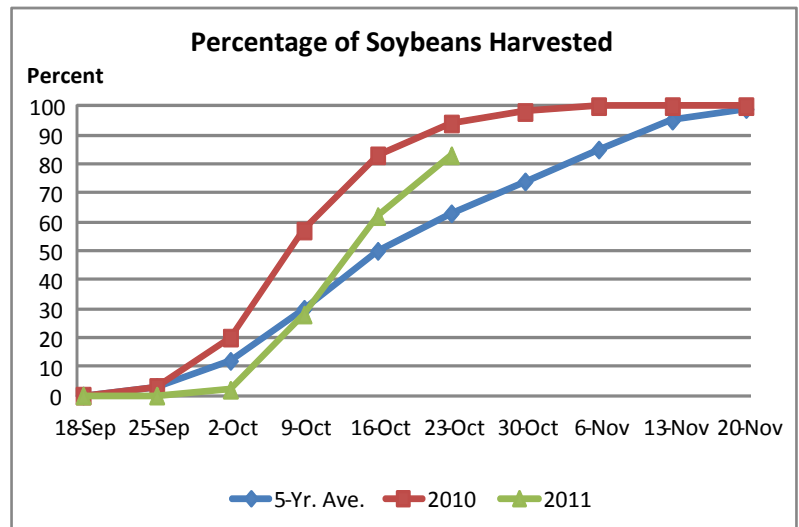
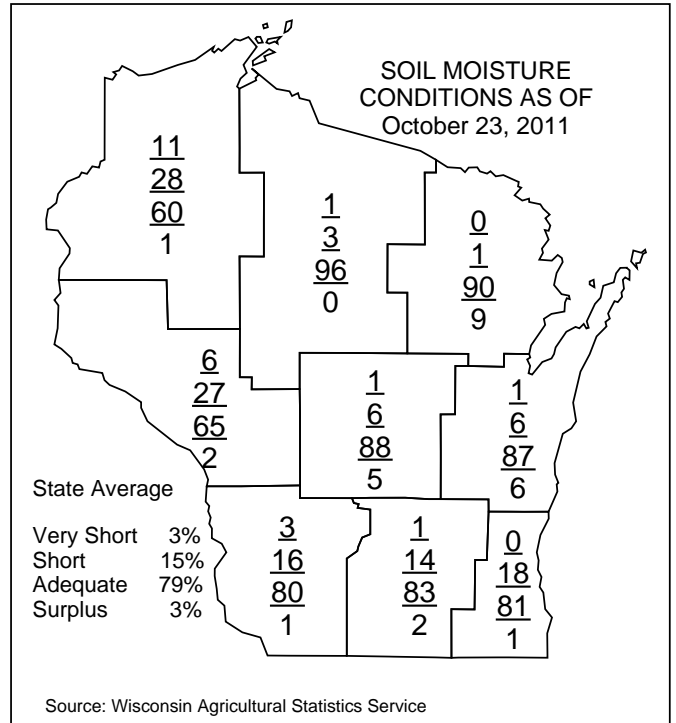
Corn was 94 percent mature and 38 percent harvested for grain. Corn moistures were reported to vary widely from county to county and even from field to field in some areas. Yields were reported in the 150-200 bushels per acre range across the state. Corn **silage** harvest reached 97 percent complete.

After a late start, the **soybean** harvest has rapidly progressed past the 5-year average, reaching 83 percent harvested this week. Yields were reported in the 40-60 bushels per acre range statewide.

Fourth crop **hay** was 96 percent harvested and wrapping up for the season.

Fall tillage advanced to 32 percent complete, with many farmers incorporating manure as fields were cleared.

Winter wheat and **rye** were being planted across the state. Several reporters noted that wheat and other cover crops need rain. **Cranberry** producers were putting the finishing touches on the harvest, with vines starting to go dormant for winter. **Apple** and **pear** picking continued with good crops reported. **Winter squash** and **pumpkin** harvest was finishing up in Waupaca County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 23, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	6	14	53	26
Soybean	1	4	16	56	23
Pasture	3	18	41	36	2

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	97	94	93	99	99	97	100	100	99	97	94	100	98
Corn mature	95	88	78	99	99	83	97	98	98	94	86	100	94
Corn harvested for grain	38	43	17	37	31	24	50	43	40	38	21	64	33
Soybeans harvested	85	82	61	92	87	77	76	86	82	83	62	94	63
Fourth cutting hay	86	95	100	98	92	91	100	100	97	96	94	94	86
Fall tillage completed	25	61	25	25	43	33	24	27	34	32	23	38	22

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-D.B.: Soybean harvest about done and corn harvest is in full swing.

ONEIDA-B.E.: The cranberry crop is in here, up about 20 percent from our projections. The color was very good, size of the fruit was small to average. Vines have all turned color, from light green, to dark green, and to dark red in some spots, showing degree of dormancy. The weather continues to be at or below average for temperatures, and it was windy and raw here for much of last week. Not much rainfall, no snow as of yet, and we are about 2.0 inches behind on annual precipitation.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybean harvest nearing the end with yields averaging in the low 50 bushels per acre range. While a little corn is now below 20 percent, most of it is in the 25-35 percent range. Some fields are still a little wet but most will be good for fall tillage. Only a small amount of winter wheat is out of the ground yet but what is out is looking very nice.

BUFFALO-R.S.: A busy week. Most soybeans are harvested, dry corn 12-18 percent moisture. Bedding is being made, manure hauling happening and some tillage. Light rain stopped soybean harvest mid-week. Soybean yields down, corn yields above normal. Hard frost Friday should help dry corn. Some places frost had not killed crop until now.

PEPIN-J.F.: Soybeans averaging 40 to 50 bushels per acre, corn in some fields exceeding 200 bushels per acre. High test weights and kernel moistures of 14 to 19 percent. Late maturity beans suffered the most. In sum, a good year.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Weather was great for harvesting. Soybean and corn harvest progressing very well. Yields vary based on soil types - light soils were hurt by the dry August but heavy soils seem to be doing pretty good.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: We could use some more rain to help crops and trees going into winter.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: This area saw some rain this week, but not a lot fell. It was just enough to keep the harvesting at a minimum. Not many acres of soybeans were taken off this week, and those that were had higher moisture. Some corn was harvested, but most of this was for silage. Very little high moisture corn has been made yet, and hardly any corn for dry as well. With the calendar turning over to November in a week, the pace of harvesting will pick up. Most producers are waiting for the corn to dry further in the field, but it is almost at the point where it will not dry too much more there. This area has not received a good hard frost yet, and this would go a long way toward finishing the corn crop. Several nights have gotten down to just above freezing, but that is as cold as it has been. While not much winter wheat was planted this week, a lot is already in the ground. For the most part, the emergence of the wheat is looking good. Enough rain fell after planting to get the crop germinated, and that helped it get a good start. Manure hauling

continues, though much of this job has been completed for the year. Fall tillage is going on as well, with quite a few fields now sitting idle until next year. And some fourth crop hay is still coming off the field. The hay that is being made is short and will not yield much, but it will be high in protein.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Soybean harvest is moving along nicely. One more nice week of weather and soybean harvest will wrap up for the most part. Corn for grain harvest finally started around here. Fair amount of corn being harvested for high moisture. Fall tillage is also progressing well. Winter wheat and cover crops are also looking good.

GRANT-G.M.: Need rain.

DODGE-S.B.: The great fall weather was been very conducive to corn harvest. Some reports of corn yields in the 190 bushels per acre range. Low lying areas corn froze before full maturity.

GREEN-M.M.: Soybean harvest is wrapping up with good yields ranging from 55-65 bushels per acre in most fields. Corn harvest is about half done and has been drying down nicely in the fields with moisture levels now in the upper teens. Farmers are reporting yields to be much better than they expected with most fields running in the 140-210 bushels per acre range.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Soybean harvest is all but wrapped up. Corn harvest is in full swing with yields coming in at 170-200 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is starting to emerge.



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

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 23, 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. 22	Mar. 1 to Oct. 22 normal*	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	55	34	61	25	44	-3	2785	2560	0.01	2.16	-3.24	29.65	1.15
Green Bay	54	38	62	31	46	-1	2633	2420	0.07	5.53	0.93	32.36	7.47
La Crosse	57	37	62	29	47	-3	3103	2900	0.00	4.34	-0.59	32.45	3.99
Madison	56	38	65	32	47	-2	2971	2857	0.00	4.32	-0.27	24.62	-3.67
Milwaukee	55	42	61	38	48	-3	2820	n.a.	0.62	3.95	-1.05	27.24	-1.73

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.