



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 10, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 23

Crops Maturing Rapidly

Thunderstorms brought scattered rainfall to much of the state this week. High winds damaged corn fields and buildings in Clark County. Hail damage was reported in Trempealeau and Grant Counties. Soil moistures showed slight improvement with 71 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 73 percent last week. Short soil moistures and above average temperatures continued to dry crops down rapidly. Pasture and crop conditions held steady overall. Haying and silage harvest continued with lower than normal yields reported. There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 78 to 83 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 55 to 63 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.48 inches in La Crosse to 1.38 inches in Milwaukee. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

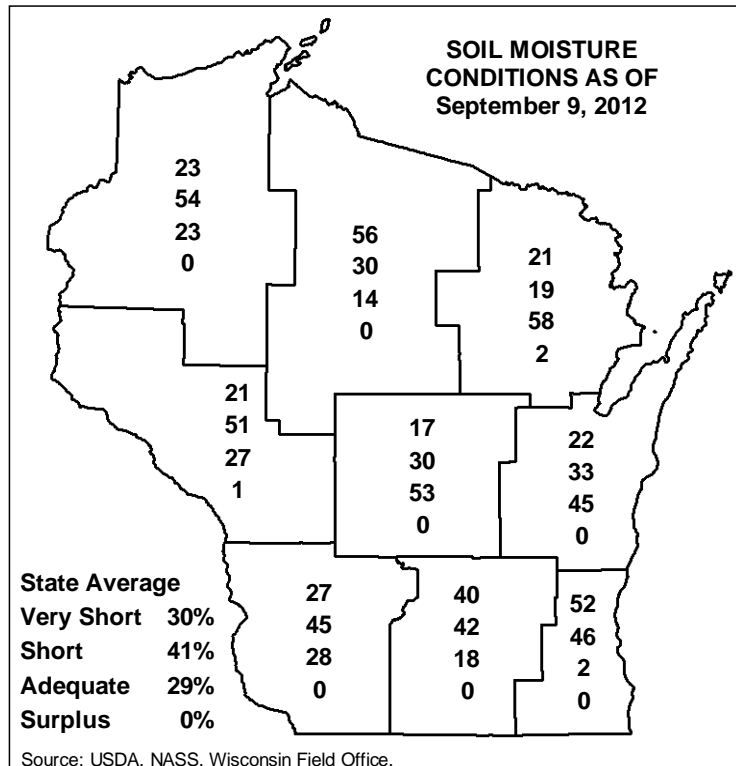
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn was 95 percent in dough stage, 76 percent denting and 23 percent mature statewide. Corn **silage** was 38 percent harvested. Reporters noted that farmers were gearing up to begin high moisture corn harvest. Some producers were reportedly concerned about the standability of corn for combining.

Soybeans were 70 percent turning leaves this week, jumping thirty percentage points over last week. Soybeans were 24 percent dropping leaves. Reporters noted that the rapid drying down of the crop was prompting concern for yields.

Fourth cutting hay was 80 percent harvested. The fifth cutting was 8 percent harvested. Reporters commented that some producers were delaying or skipping a fifth crop cutting due to slow regrowth.

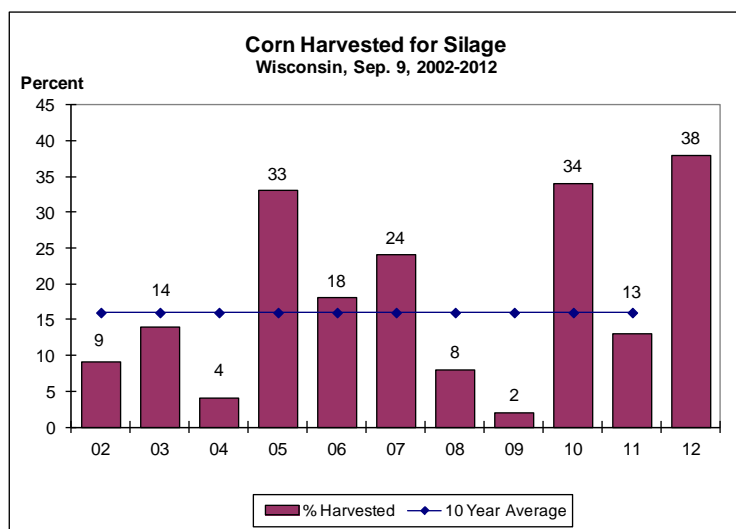
Potato harvest was underway in Oneida, Vilas, Dunn, Marquette and Portage Counties. **Apple** production was reportedly well below normal, with yields varying by variety and local conditions. **Grapes** were reportedly not as hard hit by the drought as other fruits. Preparations for the **cranberry** harvest were underway in Portage, Oneida and Sawyer Counties. A reporter from Portage County noted growing concern about the availability of water for cranberry harvest.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 9, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	30	30	32	8	0
Corn	17	21	26	28	8
Soybeans	8	17	35	30	10

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 in dough stage	94	99	96	98	98	88	98	93	89	95	89	92	87
Corn in dent stage	67	83	84	83	78	57	76	85	67	76	61	61	56
Corn in mature stage	24	33	25	27	14	10	16	35	22	23	10	8	11
Corn harvested for silage	36	47	14	56	38	23	54	43	34	38	18	13	16
Soybeans leaves turned	79	93	54	69	75	56	59	75	74	70	40	31	41
Soybeans leaves dropped	35	46	10	25	19	16	18	28	13	24	n.a.	5	10
Fourth cutting hay	65	83	85	78	77	85	83	87	69	80	68	41	29
Fifth cutting hay	5	0	14	9	5	10	10	15	5	8	4	n.a.	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

NASS is currently conducting our annual September surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of September, NASS is surveying U.S. small grains growers for final production. We are also asking hog producers about their summer pig crop, next year's farrowing intentions, and current inventory. The responses will provide the foundation for 2012 production estimates. All participating farmers should respond.
Your information matters!

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BURNETT-J.D.: We sure need rain.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Some fall field work being done. Maybe some rye being planted. Gardens are productive. Good apples on late apple crop.

ASHLAND-C.B.: Pasture getting poorer. Some beef producers are feeding hay.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Temps remained around average this week, with highs in the slightly above average range of upper 70s, and lows in the mid to upper 50s. We did have one day with a high in the low 90s, and a couple of nights in the upper 30s for lows. We received about 0.35 inches of rain, and both insect and weed pressures remain low.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Rain this week slowed silage and final crop hay harvesting. Precipitation wasn't enough to make fields too sloppy for harvest equipment but compaction was going on in a few places. Fall panicum and escaped broadleaf weeds are dropping seeds and adding moisture to corn silage. Hay harvest is average on quality and quantity. Fifth crop hay harvest will be delayed until the end of the month to reduce stress on the recovering alfalfa plants. No fall tillage started yet, but some farms gearing up for manure hauling.

EAU CLAIRE-A.B.: The Farmers Garden folks are indicating they will complete their harvests earlier than normal, approximately 2 weeks. Apple orchards are indicating considerably less crop but it depends upon the variety of apple. The fruit that they are harvesting is high quality. Producers are informing me that their pastures are dead and they are supplementing them with winter feed supplies. Some fall tillage completed with a few producers planting a forage crop for either a fall harvest or a spring harvest.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: A little fall tillage has happened, likely to plant a fall crop. Some winter rye grass and cereal rye is already emerged and corn silage chopping is well along for this date. Yields as low as 7 tons per acre are not uncommon

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Got some rain this week. Potatoes are being dug, not stored yet. Seed corn harvest proceeds.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn is maturing and some stalks have ears with white husks. Soybeans are turning color and some leaves are beginning to drop. Fourth crop hay stand is much better than second and third.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Corn silage harvest started this past week, however the majority of the farms will really hit the fields hard this coming week. There was also some harvest of fifth crop hay in the county too.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Had a little rain. Some haying yet. Corn fields have very short stalks. Soil is very dry. Able to plow all week no slippage.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Despite this year's challenges most orchards are reporting pretty good apple crops. Apple orchards on the ridges didn't get hurt nearly as bad as those in the lower valleys or other low lying areas. Some producers are taking fifth cutting alfalfa. Some CRP acres have been released for managed or emergency haying. Some fall tillage has occurred. Recent rains are welcome, some soybeans might be helped, but pastures and hay fields will benefit the most.

GRANT-J.R.: Corn silage is being taken at full tilt with some corn for grain beginning to be harvested in select areas. Soybeans took a little of a hit due to some hail over the last week but minimal damage is being reported. A lot of producers are planting a fall seeded small grain for erosion control due to the abnormally high amount of silage being taken. The yields for honey producers and grape producers are good as the dry and hot weather did not affect them.

DANE-J.M.: Dry conditions control what is happening. A quarter to half inch of rain is not enough to change much. Fifth crop hay won't yield much. Hay is shriveling up. Sudan grass is being harvested now with leaves drying up as much as 6 to 8 inches from tip of leaves back to male plant.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Corn silage harvest has started. Beans dropping leaves fast. Some bean harvest will be excellent and some will be very poor.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Beans are looking better with the rain last week. Corn is still in tough shape.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 9, 2012

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. 8	Mar. 1 to Sep. 8 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	82	55	91	47	69	+5	2892	2228	0.69	0.69	-0.49	19.86	-4.65
Green Bay	78	56	84	49	67	+4	2785	2092	0.64	0.64	-0.31	22.68	+1.49
La Crosse	82	57	91	47	69	+2	3175	2504	0.48	0.48	-0.58	19.47	-5.17
Madison	83	58	93	50	71	+7	3103	2438	0.88	0.88	-0.14	17.86	-6.94
Milwaukee	79	63	85	52	71	+4	2982	n.a.	1.38	1.38	+0.36	21.23	-3.74

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.