



Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 1, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 26

Drought Impacts Harvest, Fall Tillage

This week was slightly cooler than average with no rain fall reported in Wisconsin. Soil moistures dropped to 83 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 78 percent last week. Progress on the corn and soybean harvests surged as farmers took advantage of sunny days and dry field conditions. However, some reporters noted that corn was dropping ears and soybean pods were shattering during combining due to the lack of moisture. Yield reports varied widely even within small areas due to the patchiness of this summer's precipitation. Several reporters commented that the extremely dry, hard soil was making fall tillage difficult. Rain is badly needed to allow the germination of **winter wheat** and other fall seedings. There were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 3 to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 66 to 71 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 33 to 47 degrees. All five major reporting stations reported no precipitation for the week. 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/>

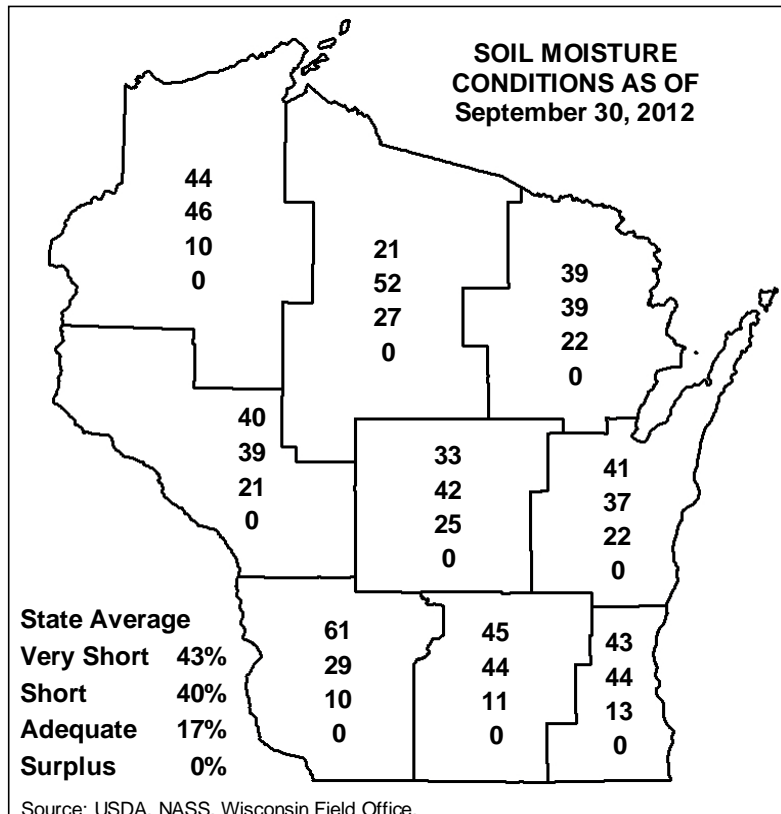
Corn was 81 percent mature and 23 percent harvested for grain statewide. Corn **silage** was 94 percent harvested. High moisture corn harvest was progressing rapidly, with plant moistures reportedly dropping quickly. Stalk chopping and baling was ongoing to supplement short feed supplies.

Soybeans were 91 percent dropping leaves and 42 percent harvested. Reporters in some areas noted that soybeans were being harvested before corn this year. Like corn, reporters commented that soybeans were drying down very rapidly and moisture percentages were low.

Fourth cutting hay was 95 percent harvested, and the fifth cutting was 35 percent harvested. Reporters in northern and central Wisconsin noted that a final cutting of hay was being taken after recent frosts, however the lack of moisture has allowed little growth in recent weeks.

Fall tillage was 13 percent complete with manure hauling ongoing.

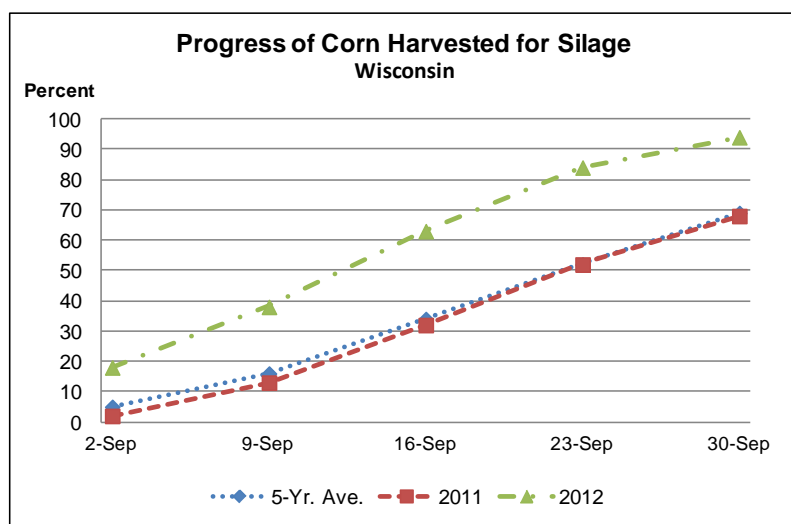
The **potato** harvest continued in Oneida, Langlade, Dunn and Portage Counties. **Cranberry** harvest was reportedly beginning in Sawyer, Oneida, Juneau and Portage Counties, though a lack of available water was slowing the process in some areas.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 30, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	40	33	23	4	0
Corn	19	19	26	29	7
Soybeans	10	15	33	33	9

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 mature stage	87	90	90	83	61	64	80	92	81	81	63	52	54
Corn harvested for grain	28	49	16	23	23	17	33	17	12	23	12	4	7
Corn harvested for silage	96	97	95	95	92	93	94	97	89	94	84	68	69
Soybeans leaves dropped	95	95	94	93	66	87	94	97	91	91	78	67	77
Soybeans harvested	47	60	38	46	18	33	37	48	48	42	14	0	7
Fourth cutting hay	85	87	95	96	96	97	99	97	88	95	92	83	65
Fifth cutting hay	19	0	73	29	20	35	54	47	42	35	26	n.a.	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	14	32	10	10	9	14	12	11	16	13	7	10	7

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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-P.T.: Great weather for harvesting. Terrible weather for crops next year. No moisture in soil to start next year's crops.

BURNETT-J.D.: Too dry for fall tillage.

CLARK-R.H.: Another dry week, could use some moisture - very little topsoil moisture. Manure hauling and incorporation is the majority of field work along with soybean and corn harvest. Yields have been good not great considering the conditions the crop grew during the season. Following a hard frost last week there is a lot of hay being mowed for a last cutting.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Extreme dry weather has made some great harvest conditions. The frost was county wide this week. The corn is being combined as high moisture corn and the corn and beans continue to dry down with the warm days in the 60s and 70s. The potato research station held the learning and pick for the Food Pantry event which was a great idea for a fall family fun activity. The potato harvest continues as does the cranberry harvest. Weekend tours of the cranberry harvest are available and enjoyable. They have started making and selling cranberry wine, along with fresh table stock, jams, jellies, and relishes. The peak color was this past week as predicted for our area, as the maple leaves are falling along with the turning and falling of the tamarack needles. There will be nice color for another week or so unless we have some strong winds.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Good harvest conditions, for beans and potatoes, big growers will be done in four to five days. High moisture and snaplage corn winding down also. Corn grain will soon start with widely varying yields.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Soybean harvest progressing rapidly, better than expected yields. Corn harvest starting this week, it's drying down very quickly. Very dry for fall tillage.

TREMPEALEAU-J.H.: Extremely dry and windy conditions continued this week. Harvest in full swing.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Squash harvest is heavier than average.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Corn silage harvest wrapped up this past week for the most part. Soybean harvest is in full swing. Some high moisture corn also being taken off. Sorghum-sundan grass that was planted after wheat was also harvested this past week. Manure being hauled and worked in, could use a little rain to soften up the ground a little.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Frost this week helped to even out the color of all corn from half green to all dry. Lack of moisture. Corn stalks short with no ears where there was lack of water. Plowing if possible.

VERNON-K.L.: Dust was flying this past week in Vernon County. Farmers were harvesting soybeans everywhere. Beans are averaging 50-55 bushels per acre, with a low of 20 bushels per acre to a high of 70 bushels per acre being reported. Farmers have started taking cattle off pastures since little to no grass available. High moisture corn being harvested and farmers still working on corn silage. The county is dry - no moisture in the top soil.

COLUMBIA-S.H.: Dry, dry, dry conditions again. Need rain for pastures, hayfields and winter wheat that is being planted. Soybeans are coming off the fields. Yields are quite variable. Moisture in some fields is 10 percent, others running 13-15 percent. Some fields have green bean seeds mixed with dry mature seeds. A real mixed bag of yields and moisture levels in the county. Corn silage is pretty much done. High moisture shelled corn is coming off quickly, with many fields down to about 25 percent moisture. A few farmers have begun harvesting and drying their shelled corn.

DODGE-J.B.: Varied yields in same fields. Soybean yields better than expected. Very dry soil conditions.

WASHINGTON-G.S.: Combines and choppers are running non-stop.

WAUKESHA-C.W.: Been a devastating year for ALL crops. No apples, very little corn and tiny soybeans. Soil has no residual moisture.



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Director

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.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 30, 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. 29	Mar. 1 To Sep. 29 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	70	33	80	29	52	-4	3127	2432	0.00	1.02	-2.62	20.17	-6.72
Green Bay	66	38	71	33	52	-3	2996	2297	0.00	1.09	-1.93	23.02	-0.23
La Crosse	71	38	81	31	55	-4	3423	2740	0.00	1.14	-2.21	20.13	-6.71
Madison	71	37	81	32	54	-3	3349	2696	0.00	1.33	-1.69	18.30	-8.61
Milwaukee	67	47	79	39	57	-3	3212	n.a.	0.00	2.31	-0.89	22.16	-5.19

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.