



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending September 30, 2018
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First Freeze for Northern WI

There were 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending September 30, 2018, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Drizzle, overcast skies and chilly temperatures prevented wet fields from drying this week. Temperatures fell into the 30s Friday night, and daytime highs were only in the 40s the next day. Northern Wisconsin experienced a hard freeze, with a non-killing frost reported in central Wisconsin. Corn silage harvest was the major field activity in much of the state this week, while southern Wisconsin producers were starting to switch over to corn for grain and soybeans. The fourth cutting of hay moved slowly toward completion, as conditions remained poor for baling. Potatoes, apples, cranberries and fall vegetables were also being harvested and stored. Manure spreading and fall seedings proceeded as fields became available. Drier weather is needed to improve field conditions.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 2 percent short, 79 percent adequate and 19 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 3 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 17 percent surplus.

Ninety-six percent of **corn** was dented, 14 days ahead of last year and 12 days ahead of the 5-year average. Seventy-three percent was mature, 11 days ahead of the average. Corn harvested for grain was 10 percent complete, 9 days ahead of average. The moisture content of corn harvested for grain was reported at 25 percent. Corn for silage was 79 percent harvested, 11 days ahead of average. Corn condition was 72 percent good to excellent.

Leaves were turning color on 95 percent of **soybeans**, 5 days ahead of last year and 3 days ahead of the average. Eighty percent were reported dropping leaves, 5 days ahead of both last year and the average. Soybean harvest was 13 percent complete, 3 days ahead of the average. Soybean condition was 74 percent good to excellent.

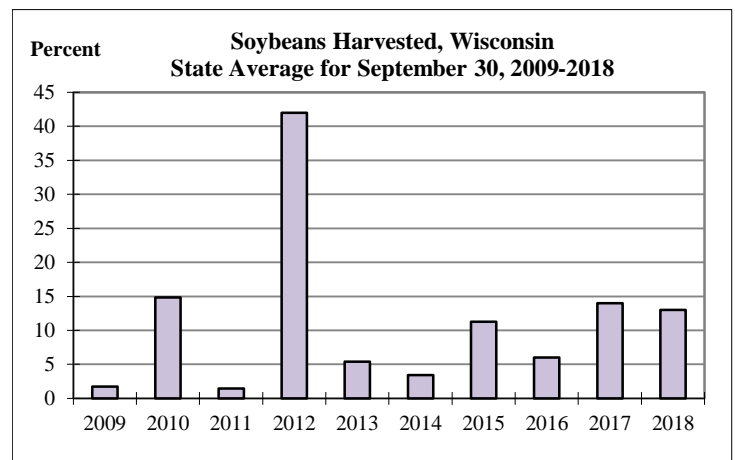
Potato harvest was reported as 63 percent complete, 6 days behind last year.

Forty-six percent of **winter wheat** was planted, 2 days behind last year. Twenty-three percent of the winter wheat crop has emerged, 2 days behind last year.

The fourth cutting of **alfalfa** was 84 percent complete, 8 days behind last year but 4 days ahead of the average

Pasture condition was rated 65 percent in good to excellent condition, compared with 69 percent in good to excellent condition last week.

Fall tillage was reported at 10 percent complete, even with last year but one day behind the average.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 30, 2018

Item	Very Poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Corn.....	3	8	17	42	30
Pasture & Range..	3	8	24	47	18
Soybeans.....	3	7	16	45	29

Wisconsin Fieldwork and Crop Progress as of September 30, 2018

Item	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa Hay, Fourth Cutting	88	71	87	81	83	88	85	89	70	84	77	93	80
Corn Dented.....	93	93	94	97	97	92	100	100	94	96	91	87	89
Corn Mature.....	68	58	52	68	74	66	69	92	79	73	55	38	51
Corn Harvested for Grain...	5	10	7	6	9	4	9	17	18	10	4	2	3
Corn Harvested for Silage..	78	67	86	87	75	72	82	88	86	79	60	53	58
Fall Tillage.....	9	6	11	7	12	13	13	7	10	10	3	10	11
Potatoes Harvested.....	70	47	73	60	62	n.a.	59	58	n.a.	63	50	72	n.a.
Soybeans Coloring.....	96	96	89	96	95	94	96	96	96	95	90	91	93
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	86	73	65	84	81	68	82	84	79	80	64	67	69
Soybeans Harvested.....	13	15	10	12	13	6	9	19	20	13	5	14	8
Winter Wheat Planted.....	62	62	54	52	54	54	54	30	27	46	31	51	n.a.
Winter Wheat Emerged.....	30	40	24	31	31	24	24	17	15	23	16	26	n.a.

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Supplies as of September 30, 2018

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	3.8	4.5	4.8	4.5	3.6	4.8	4.9	4.3	3.9	4.4	3.8	6.2
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Short.....	1	3	7	6	1	2	0	0	0	2	3	25
Adequate.....	88	96	81	81	61	89	80	70	66	79	78	65
Surplus.....	11	1	12	13	38	9	20	30	34	19	19	2
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Short.....	4	7	8	7	2	1	0	0	0	3	3	22
Adequate.....	87	93	72	84	61	89	85	72	65	80	82	72
Surplus.....	9	0	16	9	36	10	15	28	35	17	15	2

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/WASHBURN-P.H.: Killing frost (27 degrees) on Saturday morning. Most corn silage done except a couple long season varieties. High moisture corn started harvest and moistures lower than expected. Corn drying down quick this year. Waiting for soybeans to dry a bit and need good weather to start combining. Last of 4th crop alfalfa harvested. Still some beef quality hay to be made yet.

SAWYER-K.S.: Our killing frost arrived Saturday morning Sept 29, about a week later than the 30 year average. Freezing temps in the mid to upper 20s. Recent rains are keeping pastures and forage crops growing.

ASHLAND/IRON-C.B.: No corn grain or soybean harvest yet. More rain again most of the week. Fields are very wet, and there is not much field activity.

SHAWANO-B.R.: It has not been a drying week so very few soybeans were harvested. Corn silage is almost done. Some fields are still quite wet from too much rain. Apple season is here and the trees are loaded.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Noticed much of the soybeans were twisted or blown down in the field. Will that affect harvest? Unknown. Corn appears to be doing well except for those fields affected by flood waters a few weeks ago. Not sure about hay harvest, but there are farmers complaining that the harvest of hay was not as great as expected - too many wet days and not enough time to dry the hay.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Corn silage is complete. Corn for grain harvest has started. Light frost one night, not a killer. Snap beans are nearly done as well

OUTAGAMIE/WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Some light frost occurred Saturday morning. Temperatures dropped below normal late in the past week. Harvest progress slowed down with the rainy weather.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Quite a bit of the corn meant for silage has been chopped off now. The tonnage this year has been very good despite the stretch of dry weather in the summer where plant

development could have been negatively affected. The rain came at the right time and saved the crop. The rain also saved the soybean crop. However, exactly how good the beans will be has yet to be known. A very limited number of producers have harvested their soybeans. More are planning to this week, weather permitting. Unfortunately, there is a good amount of rain predicted, which will slow down or even halt the fall fieldwork. But, since a lot of the corn silage is off and a bit of the winter wheat has been planted, this extra moisture will not cause the problems it might have. Some winter wheat has been direct seeded into the corn silage field stubble. Very little, if any, of the wheat has emerged yet, but this will happen very soon. A few producers have taken the time to chop off the fourth crop of alfalfa, and more will do this once October arrives. The fourth crop is really looking good, with tall plants and big leaves. The corn meant for grain is doing well. A few fields appear almost ready to combine, as the plants are just about completely dried down.

VERNON-K.L.: The county had its first frost this week, plus another inch of rain. Corn silage harvest progressing. Soybean harvest started this week. Soybean harvest is going to be more difficult this year due to the heavy rains from the prior weeks having knocked down the beans. Temperatures are cooler and more fall-like. Need some sunny, dry weather to bring down the moisture levels of corn.

ROCK-C.O.: Corn condition deteriorating fast as tar spot caused premature maturity and poor stalk strength. Test weight down as well to about 52-54 pounds per bushel. Most are in corn, leaving beans and now 4+ inches of rain will make that impossible. Not much winter wheat in yet either.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Rain has stopped harvest again and more is in the forecast for the rest of this coming week. Reports of 60+ bushel per acre soybeans on the acres that have been harvested. Some producers have switched to corn after some light rain last week.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 30, 2018

City	Temperature (degrees F)						Growing degree days (modified base 50) ¹		Precipitation (inches)				
	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	62	41	76	30	52	-4	2830	2425	0.00	2.18	-1.51	29.01	+2.15
Green Bay	65	45	75	35	55	-1	2742	2289	0.18	4.96	+1.90	32.05	+8.83
La Crosse	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3340	2703	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	32.74	+6.13
Madison	65	45	76	33	55	-3	2951	2686	0.78	4.86	+1.79	43.84	+17.11
Milwaukee	68	50	82	41	59	-1	2943	n.a.	0.56	5.67	+2.42	36.48	+9.06

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.