



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 21, 2002

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Fall Harvest Ready, Weather Permitting

Wisconsin's temperatures dropped below normal for the week ending Sunday. Temperatures across the state were 7 to 9 degrees below normal. The first significant snow of the year occurred for the northern third of the state, ranging from 1 to 5 inches of snow. Precipitation in the southern and central counties was light for the week. The snow across the north will suspend harvest temporarily. Crops look good, but need to be harvested.

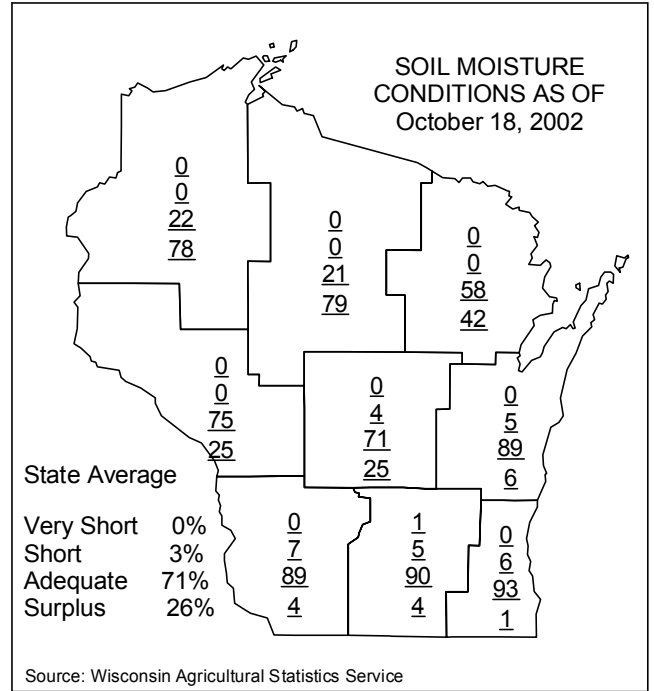
There were an average of 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 3 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. Moisture conditions remained surplus in the northwest, and short to adequate in the southeast. Pasture feed conditions were mostly unchanged for the week.

Corn rated as mature was at 95 percent statewide. Corn silage harvest was 91 percent complete. Combines began to push forward for high moisture corn and corn for grain. Moisture levels in the south ranged from 22 to 30 percent. Yields are expected to be above normal in most parts of Wisconsin, if the weather will cooperate with the harvest. Southeast Wisconsin corn quality and quantity is variable. Rock County reported some elevators are checking for aflatoxin in corn. **Soybean** harvest gained 17 percentage point for the week, to 53 percent complete. Southern Wisconsin harvest soared to 70 percent complete in some areas. Soybean yields in western counties ranged from 40 to 65 bushels per acre, with isolated reports higher. Dry weather will be welcomed to continue harvest progress.

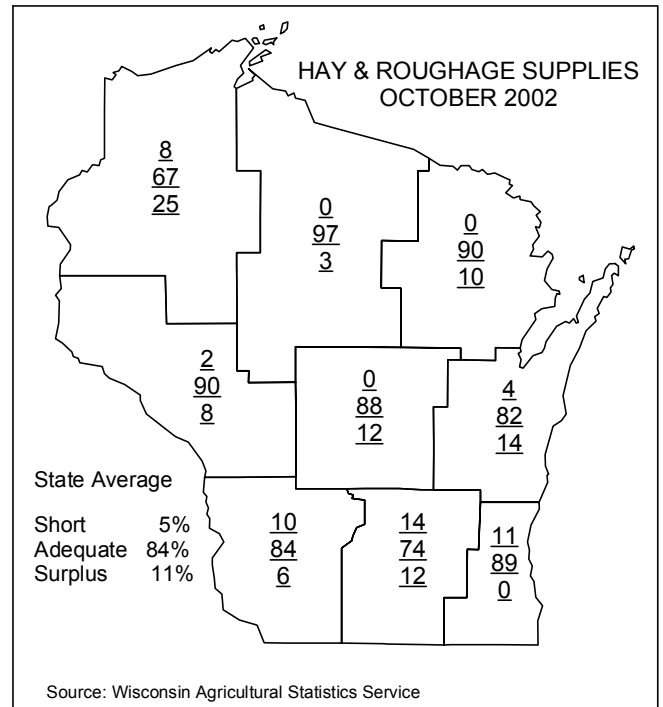
Hay cropping is complete in most areas, except those that want to take a late cut. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 5 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus.

Apple harvest is finishing, with good quality reported. **Pumpkins** and fall **squash** are ending their harvest season. **Potato** harvest in Vilas County is ending, with reports of wet fields and some potatoes being frozen in the field. **Cranberry** harvest in Wood and Portage counties was nearly complete, with good yields reported.

Early-seeded **winter wheat** has emerged and looks to be in good shape. Some areas are waiting for soybean ground to be cleared to finish seeding. **Fall tillage** was being done in areas that were dry enough to work. Southeastern counties were hoping for moisture to improve ground condition.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 18, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	8	33	52	6



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 20, 2002

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn mature	94	90	82	95	96	90	95	97	99	95	84	95
Corn harvested for grain	14	20	12	20	30	23	27	24	20	22	17	34
Corn hvstd. for silage	77	69	95	97	90	94	95	96	100	91	100	98
Soybeans harvested	20	30	32	40	39	50	71	60	62	53	46	73
Fall tillage completed	11	10	13	9	17	17	13	11	16	13	16	25

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Corn and soybeans yields are above average. Some fourth crop alfalfa is being cut this week. Corn silage still being harvested.

BURNETT-R.B.: Had two hard frosts, ponds and standing water did not thaw out unless the sun hit it. Had snow on Thursday, which stayed on the grass.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Had a complete killing frost, as temperatures dropped into the mid-teens. We had snow last week on two occasions. We may not get much fall fieldwork done, unless we get a break and things dry out a bit. Hay supplies are surplus, but some of the quality suffered. Pastures have dropped off due to the cool weather.

VILAS-L.K.: Potato harvest over, and wet fields caused a lot of problems. Harvesters and trucks got stuck lots of times. Some potatoes froze in the fields.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Was a wet week for the remaining potatoes. Corn moisture was 26-30 percent moisture. Soybean moisture was 14-15 percent moisture and have 5.0 inches of snow on them.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybeans coming off with yield range of 40-60 bushels per acre. Farmers reporting that corn is in the upper 20 percent moisture and higher. Some high moisture corn being combined for the silo. Soil moisture is quite high in the fields.

PIERCE-D.J.: Due to the excess rain, fields are being torn up. Conservation plans will have to be checked, if farmers want to fix up the ruts. Soybeans are being taken, but damage to fields is severe.

ST CROIX-R.K.: Continues to be very wet, so harvest is slow. Yields of soybeans and corn are excellent.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Soybean harvest is delayed by wet conditions and some areas with high moisture levels. Corn harvest is progressing nicely, and yields vary from 70 bushels per acre to 130 bushels in other areas.

WOOD-F.M.: Good weather first part of week made harvesting corn and soybeans possible on fields that are not too soft. Heavy frost every night is making corn and soybeans dry

down rapidly. Good yields reported on corn that is harvested. Cranberry harvest progressing with very good yields.

BROWN-D.S.: Frost has ended the growing season. Some of the soybean yields for early-planted beans are coming in at 50 bushels per acre.

DOOR-M.F.: Soybeans are coming off many fields with averages over 50 bushels per acre. Many growers are taking a chance of no-tilling wheat into soybean stubble. Not all of our area has had a killing frost, and if the weather holds, high moisture corn harvest will advance heavily this next week.

CRAWFORD-D.W.: Soybeans are about history. It was a good crop. Corn is coming out fast; yields are very good.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Soybean harvest has gone well. Most corn growers are now starting to dry corn; moisture levels are between 22-30 percent.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: Soybean harvest going forward rapidly; yields average to above average. Some hay still being made, but nothing is growing because of a killing frost.

ROCK-C.O.: Corn ear dropping is excessive in some fields, and yields on both crops are one-half to a third less than normal. Some elevators are checking for aflatoxin in corn.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Had frost on Monday. A farmer was cutting hay all week. Soybean harvest is going on strong; moisture is 10 to 13 percent, and yield is 47 bushels per acre. Corn shelling and picking going on; moisture is 20 to 28 percent, and yield is 120 bushel. Lots of ears lost in the fields. Wheat still being planted. Fall tillage is going good.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Soybeans are good on the first fields. Corn is ripe. We have very dry weather.



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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 October 20, 2002

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. 19	Mar. 1 to Oct. 19 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	50	30	63	20	40	-7	2870	2545	0.17	10.24	5.12	38.16
Green Bay	50	28	58	24	39	-9	2616	2405	0.25	4.79	0.40	25.66
La Crosse	51	34	61	25	42	-9	3160	2880	0.13	6.54	1.84	29.23
Madison	49	31	57	26	40	-9	2903	2837	0.26	4.37	0.00	24.02
Milwaukee	51	36	58	32	43	-8	2982	n.a.	0.28	4.01	-0.76	24.63

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.