



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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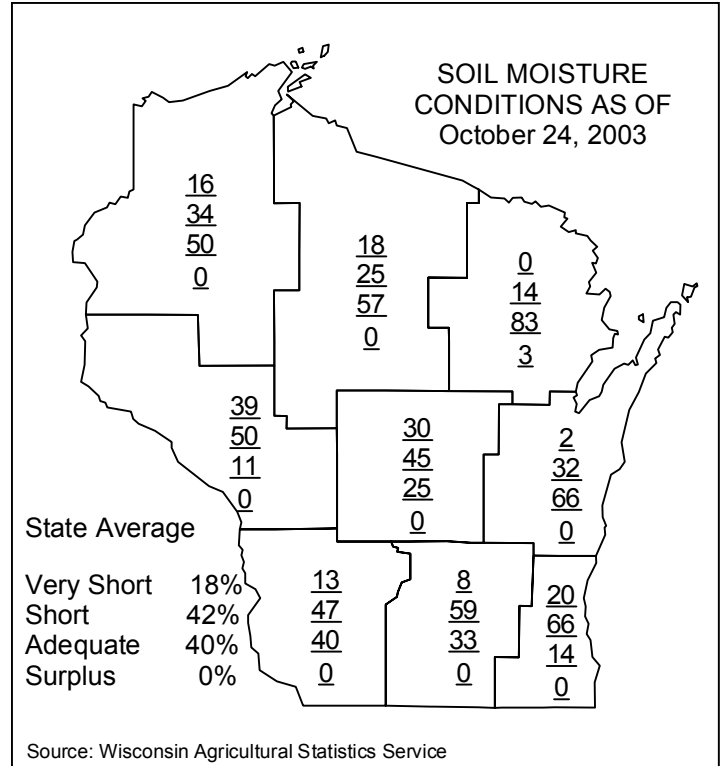
Dry Weather Pushes Harvest Progress

Wisconsin experienced another excellent week for harvesting. The dry conditions are bringing crop moisture levels down and allowing many fall activities to advance. Temperatures continued to be normal to slightly above normal for the week. There was an average of 6.5 days suitable for field-work reported. Most of the soybean crop has been harvested and combines are working steadily on the corn harvest. Late in the week saw some rainfall in southern Wisconsin, but producers across the state would be happy to see a soaking rain. In the limited areas that saw precipitation, rainfall amounts were mostly under .5 inches. Topsoil moisture conditions dropped to 18% very short, 42% short, 40% adequate, and 0% surplus. Pasture feed conditions were rated as 20% very poor, 36% poor, 28% fair, 16% good, and 0% excellent.

The dry weather pushed **soybean** harvest to near completion. The harvest was reported 92% complete, well ahead of both last year's 68% and the 5-year average of 80%. Reported yields are down significantly from last year. The dry growing season caused low bean numbers and small beans. Large areas of the state report yields in the 20's per acre. **Corn** moisture levels dropped during the dry weather, saving on drying costs and allowing for grain harvest to push forward. Moisture levels from 15-25% were reported. Combines were working full time to take the dry corn out of the fields. Corn harvested for grain reached 52% complete, ahead of both last year's 34% and the 5-year average of 50%. Soil type and the timing of rains throughout the growing season contributed to a large variability in yields across the state. Yield reports ranged from 40-200 plus bushels per acre. The corn crop appeared to have handled the summer's stress better than the soybean crop.

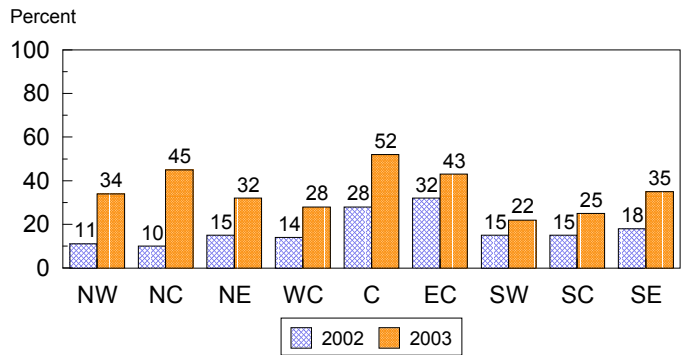
Winter wheat has emerged in most areas. The young crop would appreciate added precipitation to boost hardiness for the coming winter. **Fall tillage** operations continued, but many farmers would like to see higher soil moisture levels. The good weather allowed for **manure hauling** and moving hay stacks to prepare for winter. **Alfalfa** supplies were reported to be short over much of the state.

Cranberry harvest advanced rapidly in the bogs, and yields are reported to be very good in Portage County.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	20	36	28	16	0

Fall Tillage Completed in Wisconsin By District, Oct. 27, 2002 vs. Oct. 26, 2003



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 for grain harvested	51	50	27	54	70	35	72	46	52	52	34	50
Soybeans harvested	91	95	78	90	91	90	94	92	98	92	68	80
Fall tillage completed	34	45	32	28	52	43	22	25	35	34	17	29

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-R.B.: Not much corn harvested for grain because of underdeveloped ears due to dry weather. One day it's 75 degrees, and the next it is 40 degrees and lots of wind. It has been a real strange year from beginning to end.

POLK-C.H.: Soybean harvest is nearing completion with yields averaging in the low to mid 20's. Corn harvest is about 25 to 30 percent complete. Yields are less than last year by 15 to 20 percent. Winter wheat planting is complete. Fall tillage is progressing at a normal pace with lack of rain. All qualities of hay are in short supply.

PRICE-M.D.: Farmers are waiting for rain, fields are too dry to plow. Most of the fall work is finished.

FOREST-A.K.: Corn yields are fairly good.

OCONTO-D.T.: Soybean harvest went very well and fast this last week. Corn for grain was harvested. So far, it is mostly for high moisture, but some dry grain harvesting is just starting. Winter wheat is all in, and most is up and looking well. Only a small amount of fall tillage done so far.

PEPIN-H.R.: Soybeans in this area already all combined except a few acres. Yields were down 1/3 to 1/2, depending on soil. Dry weather had more effect on soybeans than on corn. Some corn is as good as it ever has been. The sandy soil for corn was hurt much more. Moisture on corn is getting into the teens on lots of acres, but some above 20 percent yet. Lots of fall tillage being done and manure hauling also.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Harvest is progressing nicely, and dry weather is allowing bedding supplies to be made. Manure hauling is ahead of schedule. Dry soils make fall tillage difficult. Yields of soybeans generally disappointing, seldom over 25 bushels per acre. Corn is all over the place from 0 to 200 plus bushels per acre.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn yields slightly below normal, soybean yields more so. Winter wheat progressing well. Soil moisture low. Hay supplies are below normal.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Soybeans are all harvested; a lot of rather poor yields. Corn being harvested, poor yields on sandy soil and a lot of deer damage. Not much third or fourth crop hay harvested. There will be a short supply of hay.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Winter wheat looks very good. Corn still high in moisture, but good yields. Lots of hay being moved.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: It is amazing that several producers have reported that they have had the best corn crop this year that they have ever had. Really surprising when considering the dry weather and the dismal soybean yields.

RICHLAND-S.K.: Our soybean crop is nearly all harvested. Corn is coming out of the fields with very low moisture. Fall tillage is in full swing, as is manure hauling.

DANE-C.B.: Corn yields continue to surprise people, reports ranging from 120 bushels per acre to over 220 bushels per acre. This year, seems the 98 to 102 day maturities are yielding the best. Soybean harvest is wrapping up, with most yields falling between 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is progressing nicely, with most fields emerged.

ROCK-S.H.: Corn yields are fair; well below expectations. Test weights are better than expected, but moisture still remains fairly high. Heavy soils are yielding around 200 bushels. Lighter soils are ranging from 100-140 bushels. Transitional soils somewhere in between.

WALWORTH-E.P.: I found a big field of soybeans that were too green a couple of miles from me. A neighbor combined his and his yield was 51 bushels per acre. Some corn is down to 12 percent moisture. A lot of corn is out and yields are high-over 200 bushels per acre in the same field. Winter wheat is up and looks good.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Soybeans averaged 23 bushels per acre. Corn on high ground averaged 73 bushels per acre, and corn on low ground averaged about 120 bushels per acre. Last year soybeans average 45 bushels per acre. Corn about 160 bushels per acre. Corn moisture is about 19 percent; test weight 51 to 54 pounds.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 26, 2003

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. 25	Mar. 1 to Oct. 25 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	61	35	79	29	48	3	2902	2572	0.01	3.15	-2.37	20.98
Green Bay	58	37	79	31	47	2	2485	2431	0.11	4.28	-0.52	25.42
La Crosse	64	39	83	33	51	3	3196	2914	0.04	3.01	-2.09	19.87
Madison	61	36	76	28	48	1	2819	2873	0.54	5.73	0.96	22.20
Milwaukee	60	41	83	32	51	2	2662	n.a.	0.60	3.04	-2.20	16.26

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.