



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of  
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

October 20, 2008

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## Fall Harvest Continues

Harvesting of corn and soybeans continued. There were reports of moisture levels in corn starting to drop to favorable ranges for harvesting corn for grain. Fall fieldwork has been slow due to either dry or wet soil conditions, depending on location. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 5 percent very short, 28 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Average high temperatures ranged from 60 to 64 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 37 to 49 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.14 inches in Green Bay to 0.42 inches in Milwaukee. There was an average of 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** maturity was at 91 percent with 17 percent of corn harvested for grain. Corn **silage** harvest was reported at 96 percent complete with good quality and tonnage. Corn conditions were reported at 6 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Many farmers were harvesting high moisture corn.

Reports showed that 63 percent of Wisconsin's **soybeans** have been harvested, with yields varying throughout the state. Crop conditions showed a slight decline with reports at 7 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

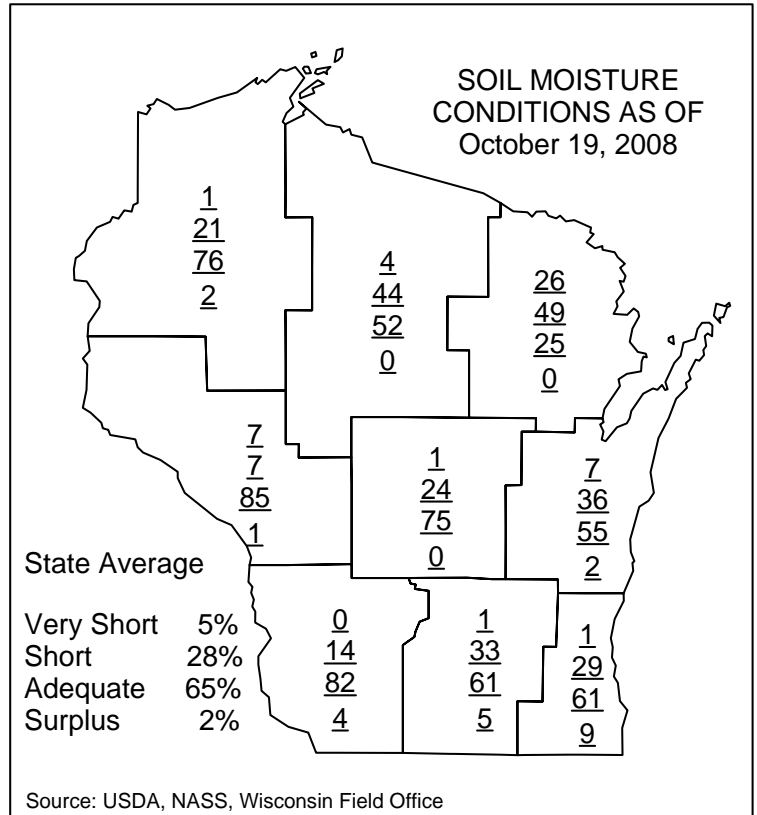
Fourth crop **hay** harvest was at 82 percent complete with reports of good quality, but poor yields. Some fifth crop hay was reported in eastern Wisconsin, but the plants were short and not much feed will be gathered from it.

**Fall tillage** was at 19 percent complete. Some chisel plowing has started and **manure** hauling and spreading continues.

**Winter wheat** that was planted early was emerging and looking good, while others finished seeding.

**Pasture** conditions were reported at 9 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

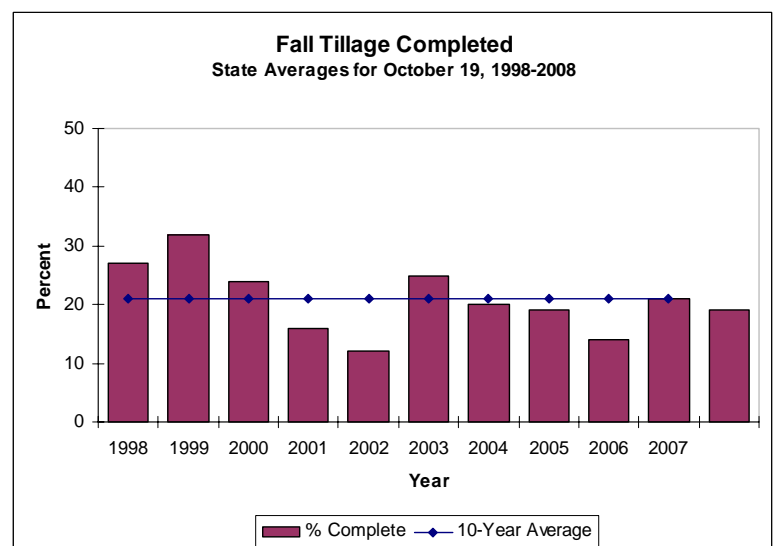
Some late **sweet corn** was still being taken off the fields in Trempealeau County. **Potato** harvest in Portage County was complete, with good yields reported. **Cranberry** harvest continued with excellent yields.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 19, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	6	11	31	41	11
Soybean	7	16	35	37	5
Pasture	9	16	49	25	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 19, 2008

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	87	86	99	95	94	84	91	90	88	91	100	95
Corn harvested for grain	28	10	25	23	31	16	13	11	11	17	35	30
Soybeans harvested	41	65	72	67	55	66	79	63	42	63	50	64
Fourth cutting hay	67	74	99	90	93	80	94	98	65	82	80	75
Fall tillage complete	8	24	20	10	43	39	16	16	14	19	21	20

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**BARRON-R.C.:** Corn silage harvest is nearly complete with both tonnage and quality being reported as good. Not much high moisture corn has been taken off to this point, as moisture levels are still too high. Soybean harvest is nearing 50 percent completion, with yields ranging from 20 to 30 bushels per acre.

**CLARK-R.H.:** Soybean harvest is going forward with many producers done. Some farmers are moving into high moisture corn. Fieldwork is being done. Winter wheat is emerging.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Soybean harvest is progressing. Not much corn being combined yet. Fall manure spreading and some tillage are continuing. Wheat looks good at this stage.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Soybean harvest is near the end with yields reported to be between 15 to 45 bushels per acre, with the majority running in the low 30's. High moisture corn combining has started, with those fields coming off at 25 to 34 percent moisture. Yields are much better on the heavier soils that held moisture longer. Winter wheat is looking real nice. The soil is still very dry for fall tillage.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Soybean harvest is 90 percent done. Yields are from good to excellent on heavy soil and poor on lighter soil unless it was irrigated. Some high moisture corn was done the first part of the week. Most farmers are waiting for it to dry down. A good hard frost is needed now. Some chisel plowing and manure hauling is going on. Soil is plenty dry where it has been worked.

**TREMPEALEAU-D.D.:** Soybean combining weather gets harder to come by, so progress is slow. Corn grain yields look better than expected while soybeans are poorer. Some late sweet corn is still being taken off the fields, and the last of the alfalfa is coming off.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** There is not much corn being harvested as of yet. There is very little corn below 25 percent moisture. Soybeans are being harvested when weather permits. Winter wheat planting is finishing up.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** High moisture corn is harvested but not much for grain. Nearly all of the soybeans have been harvested. Some of the soybeans in sandy soil only yielded 16 bushels per acre.

**FOND DU LAC-R.P.:** Some corn silage is still being harvested. Most soybeans have been harvested. Yields are 15 to 45 bushels per acre. Some high moisture corn was harvested. Lots of wheat is still being seeded after

soybeans.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** As of today's date, nearly all the soybeans have been harvested. The yields this year have been respectable, but not what most producers were hoping for. Yields in the 30 bushel per acre range are quite common. Nearly all the corn silage has been taken off, with only corn meant for high moisture or storage still left. Quite a bit of winter wheat has been planted with nearly half of it being planted no-till. Wheat has been planted in the stubble of corn silage as well as soybeans, and, for the most part, it is all looking good. More and more fieldwork is going on, with a lot of chisel plowing and moldboard plowing taking place. Some fourth and fifth crop hay is being made, but the plants are short and not much feed will be gathered. After the corn that is standing is taken off, most of this year's fieldwork will be done.

**GRANT-G.C.:** No one seems to be in a big hurry to harvest corn. Yields are acceptable with moisture from 16 to 30 percent. Soybeans with yields of 55 bushels per acre and 12 percent moisture have been harvested.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** Corn yields have been reported as half of normal. Soybeans are below average; bean size is smaller. Having a tough time finishing up harvesting as we get a little shower followed by cool weather.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** Soybeans are yielding 25 to 40 bushels per acre with the average being 30 bushels. No corn is harvested. A lot of wheat has been planted.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 19, 2008

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. 18	Mar. 1 to Oct. 18 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	60	37	78	28	49	1	2600	2544	0.16	3.22	-1.81	27.28	-0.84
Green Bay	63	42	82	32	52	4	2631	2404	0.14	3.22	-1.13	25.92	1.47
La Crosse	62	42	80	34	52	0	2942	2880	0.35	2.96	-1.66	32.15	3.95
Madison	63	41	83	31	52	2	2809	2836	0.26	3.85	-0.42	40.12	12.07
Milwaukee	64	49	78	42	56	4	2766	n.a.	0.42	5.97	1.27	38.17	9.48

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.