



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

October 27, 2008

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Corn Harvest Slowly Progresses

Corn and soybean harvesting continued across Wisconsin this past week. Moisture, maturity, and yields continue to vary across the state. Winter wheat was off to a good start, giving farmers hope for a good crop. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 6 percent very short, 20 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus.

Average high temperatures ranged from 54 to 58 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 36 to 43 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.25 inches in Eau Claire to 0.65 inches in Madison. There was an average of 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn maturity was at 95 percent, with 28 percent of corn harvested for grain. One area reported yields higher than expected, while another area reported yields were much better on heavier soils that held moisture longer. Corn does not seem to be drying down very fast. Many farmers were waiting to save on drying costs. Corn conditions were reported at 5 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

Soybeans were coming off the fields very fast this past week. Harvest was nearing completion in many areas, and averaged 85 percent complete. Some soybeans that were planted late were still in the field.

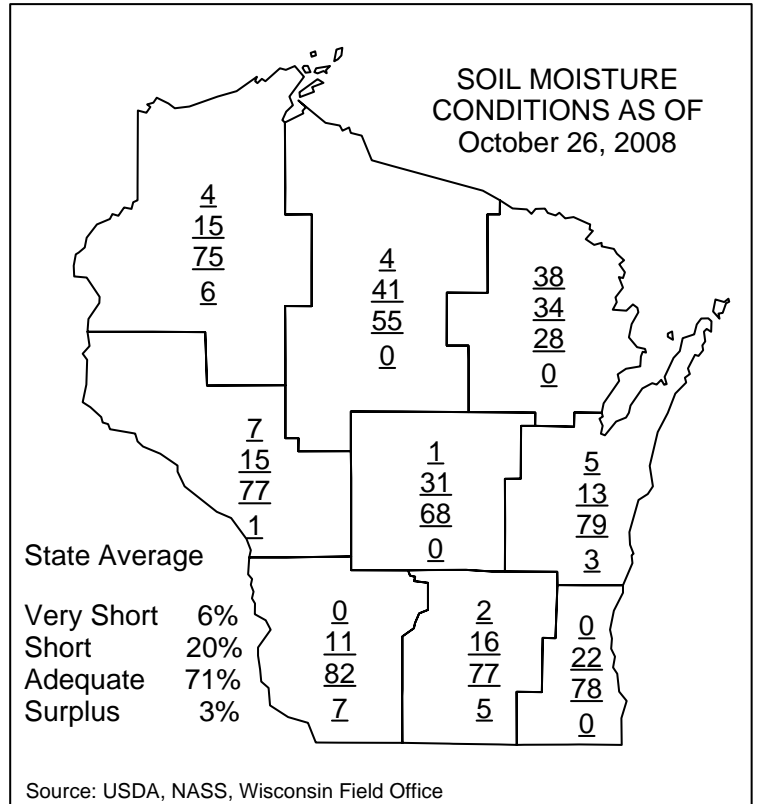
Dry hay harvest was wrapping up, and is done for the year in most parts of the state.

Fall tillage was at 27 percent complete and field work was progressing well. Some manure pits were being emptied as manure hauling continued. Chisel and moldboard plowing was taking place.

Winter wheat was off to a good start, but could use a little more moisture, in some areas to set it up for winter. Some seeding continued in harvested soybean fields.

Pasture conditions continued to improve with conditions at 8 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

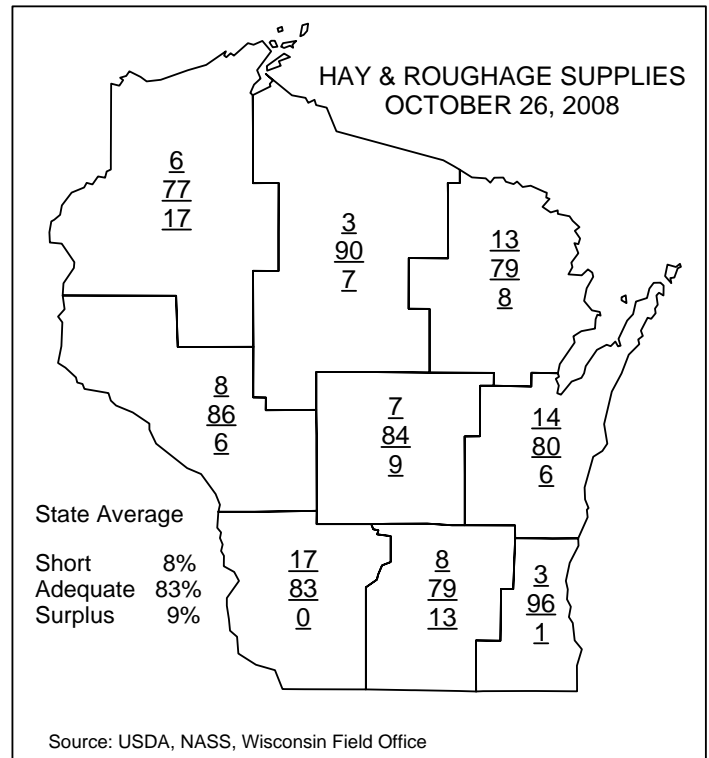
The **apple** crop this year was good. However, apples were somewhat small in size. **Rye** was being planted. **Cranberry** harvest was nearing completion with excellent yields reported.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 26, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	5	10	28	47	10
Pasture	8	19	37	33	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 26, 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	92	95	100	99	98	95	96	94	93	95	100	97
Corn harvested for grain	33	19	34	29	35	44	29	26	20	28	50	43
Soybeans harvested	72	95	89	93	84	87	84	82	62	85	65	77
Fall tillage complete	14	32	23	13	48	55	20	22	24	27	28	28

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-J.D.: The lack of moisture in July and August had a large effect on corn and soybean yields.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Soybean harvest continues and is nearing completion with yields slightly below normal. Corn harvest is just beginning on early maturing fields.

CLARK-R.H.: Good week of weather. Soybeans are coming off very fast this week. Some moisture this morning will prevent harvesting today, some later planted soybeans are still in the field. Corn silage is wrapping up, and high-moisture corn is starting. Limited amount of corn is going to the dryer. Fall manure hauling and tillage are chasing the combines off the field. A little moisture should help the planted winter wheat set up for winter as we near the risky time for planting.

VILAS-L.K.: First crop hay was harvested. Some manure spreading is going on. Rye is being planted.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Soybeans are finishing up with yields of 10 to 30 bushels per acre. High moisture corn harvest is yielding 30 to 80 bushels per acre. Light tillage is being done simply to dry before deep tillage is done.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Soybean harvest went fast last week. Moisture was good but beans were small. Yields were below average. Corn for grain harvest began in earnest, and yields are coming in a little higher than expected, at 110 to 130 bushels per acre. Winter wheat planting is almost wrapped up except for some seeding into harvested soybean fields. The wheat emergence looks good especially with last week's rain.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Soybean harvest is completed with yields of 25 to 35 bushels per acre. Corn harvest will be really late. All the corn is above 30 percent moisture. Corn stalk bedding will be short in supply with a later corn harvest.

PIERCE-J.K.: Corn does not seem to be drying down very fast. The larger producers have begun harvesting along with those feeding high moisture corn. The rest of us are waiting for the corn to dry down some more. Some manure pits are being emptied.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Combines are running full-tilt harvesting high moisture corn. Yields are average at best. Most soybeans are harvested. Winter wheat has emerged since the recent rains.

WOOD-M.L.: With the dry weather, soybeans have been harvested. Wheat has been planted and fall tillage has progressed very well. The rain at the end of the week was needed.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn and soybean harvest has gone well. Tillage is going well with good weather. Some fourth crop hay is still being made.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Soybean harvest is nearing completion in our area. Corn silage harvest is also nearing completion. High moisture corn is beginning. Winter wheat was been planted in the last two weeks.

GRANT-R.R.: Continued wet weather makes it difficult to get any fieldwork done.

GRANT-E.B.: Those with soybeans still in the field are getting nervous. Some are buying them. Corn moisture is still in mid 20 percent and up. We need nice sunny days to get harvest of corn and corn stalk harvest under control.

ROCK-C.O.: Rain yesterday and today will halt all fieldwork for a few days. There are still disappointing yields being discovered in many fields. Moisture, maturity, and yields are variable. Winter wheat appears to be off to a good start and is the bright spot of the crops. Dairy farmers are looking for hay and are struggling to find dairy quality. I am afraid a cold and long winter feeding season will be detrimental to many.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: We have had some good harvest days this week, mostly for soybeans. Corn has yet to start in earnest.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 26, 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. 25	Mar. 1 to Oct. 25 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	55	36	63	23	45	0	2619	2575	0.25	3.47	-2.03	27.53	- 1.14
Green Bay	54	36	62	29	45	0	2647	2433	0.38	3.60	-1.20	26.30	1.26
La Crosse	58	40	68	28	49	1	2971	2918	0.28	3.24	-1.82	32.43	3.99
Madison	55	37	62	29	46	-1	2829	2877	0.65	4.50	-0.28	40.77	12.26
Milwaukee	55	43	62	37	49	0	2784	n.a.	0.83	6.80	1.57	39.00	9.68

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.