



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Harvest and Tillage Drawing to a Close

With frost penetrating the ground and snow in some areas of Wisconsin, crop harvest and fall tillage were nearing the end. Some farmers were hoping for more time, but it looks like winter has arrived.

The northern part of the state received lake effect snow this past week, but there was little precipitation in the rest of the state. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 1 percent very short, 18 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

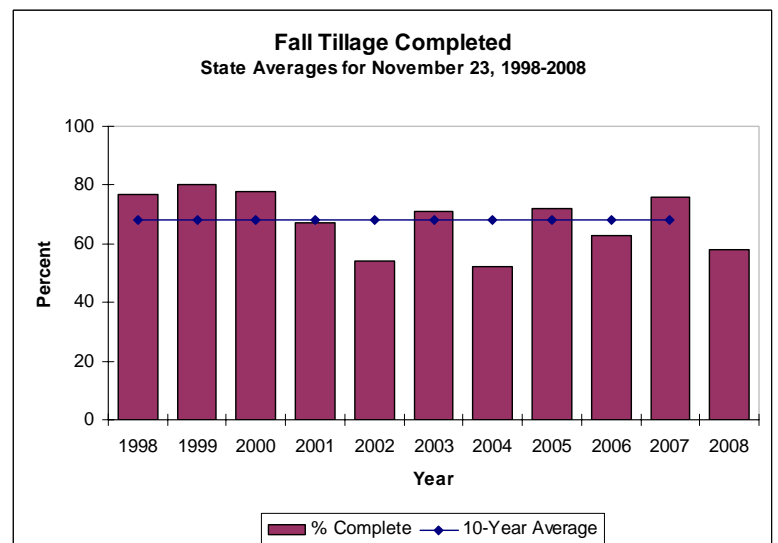
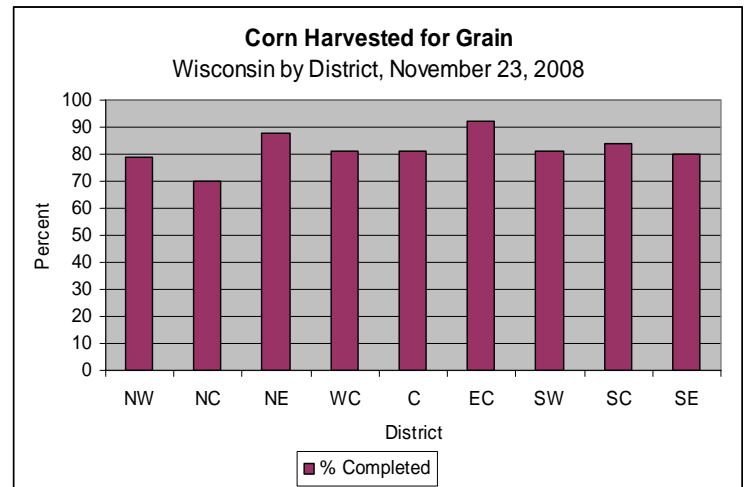
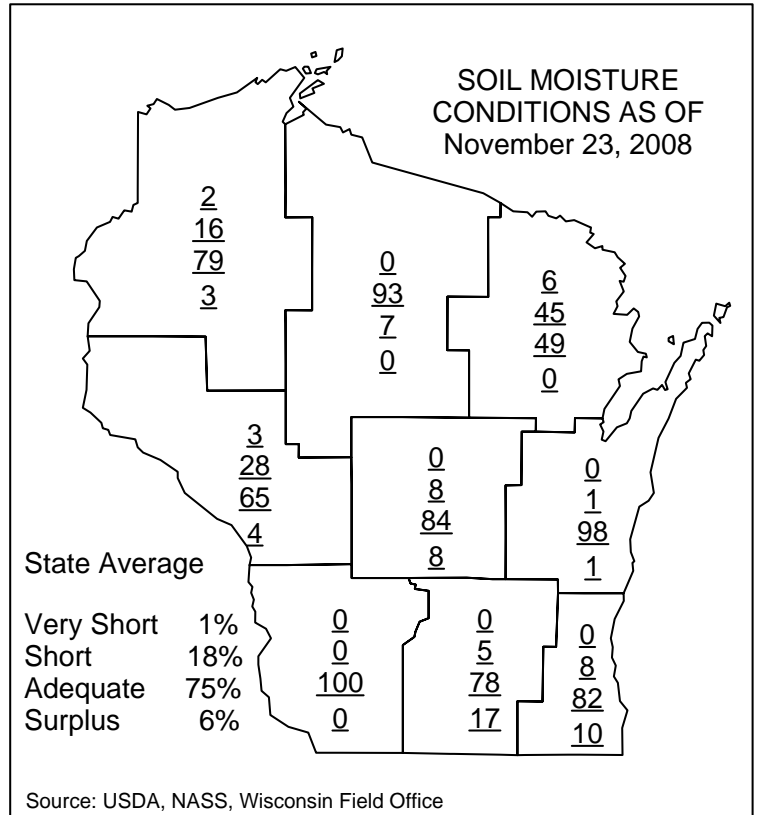
Average high temperatures ranged from 31 to 35 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 15 to 22 degrees. These temperatures were, on average, 8 degrees below normal. There was an average of 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn harvest progressed this past week with corn harvested for grain reported at 83 percent complete. In some areas, dryers were getting backed up and corn was piled to keep trucks and wagons unloading. Some high moisture corn was still being ground into silos, and corn stalk baling was still in progress. Some west-central counties reported that this was a very good crop year with enough corn, soybeans, and hay for the cattle.

Winter wheat looked to be doing well and has a good start going into winter.

Fall tillage was moving at a slow pace with 58 percent complete, compared with 52 percent complete last week. With cold temperatures, fall tillage will soon be coming to an end. Manure was being applied in the rush to get as much done before the frost gets too deep into the ground. Deep ripping and chisel plowing was occurring.

Pasture conditions were reported at 7 percent very poor, 25 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.



This is the last weekly *Wisconsin Crop Progress* for the season. The review of the 2008 growing season will be released in mid-December. The Wisconsin Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service wishes to thank the many farmers, county agents, and others that made this report possible each week. Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 23, 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 harvested for grain	79	70	88	81	81	92	81	84	80	83	97	90
Fall tillage complete	39	80	75	45	88	84	60	45	52	58	76	67

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn harvest has progressed rapidly this past week, but some corn is still standing. Yields are good, ranging from 120 to 200 bushels per acre. This year has been a good growing season compared to the past three.

RUSK-G.P.: Corn picked up this week with more corn coming into local elevators. Yields ranged from 115 to 135 bushels per acre. Soybeans are done with yields around 30 bushels per acre on average. Winter wheat and rye are looking good going into winter. Forage supplies, especially hay and corn silage should put farmers in a better position than last year.

VILAS-L.K.: Crops are all harvested. The ground is frozen and covered with snow.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Most of the work has wrapped up with the exception of some of the corn. It is fortunate that the corn has stood well with very little lodging. The combines should take a good share of it this next week.

MONROE-W.D.: This past week quite a few acres of corn were harvested. There is still a lot to go. One farmer is still grinding high moisture corn into silos. Most soybeans are done. Some corn stalks are baled for bedding. This has been a good crop year. We have enough corn, soybeans, and hay for the cattle.

PIERCE-J.K.: Farmers in my area are saying this is the best corn crop they have ever grown. Most corn yields ran from 180 to 250 bushels per acre. Tillage appears to be done for the year as the ground is frozen 2.0 inches down.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Corn harvest resumed this week with the dry, cold weather. Fall tillage will end soon with cold temperatures as the ground begins to freeze.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: There are still some soybeans that are not harvested. Corn harvest is about 70 percent done with very little drying in the field. Most corn for grain is 17 to 23 percent moisture.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Soybean yields in our area were around 45 bushels per acre range on average. Corn yields are good with some fields at 185 to 205 bushels per acre, using weigh buggies as the measuring stick. This does not take into account drowned out areas in the fields. Winter wheat looks good in our area.

GRANT-R.R.: There is still a lot of corn left in the field. A lot of stalks are being baled. We finally had a week of dry weather.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: Finally able to make a block of progress in the corn harvest. If the weather holds, harvest should be done by Thanksgiving. Forage supplies are good in our area. Grain yields are better than anyone expected after the floods in June. There is still quite a bit of flood erosion damage done to the fields that will have to be repaired before next crop year.

DANE-J.K.: Corn and soybean yields were a lot better than expected. Corn was at about 150 bushels per acre. Soybeans were at 50 bushels per acre with fairly good test weights: 53 to 54 pounds. Overall, a very unusual year but that is farming. Farming is interesting every year, but it keeps us going. Winter wheat looks ok. It should make it through the winter.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Winter wheat looks good. Soybean yields were very disappointing. Corn yields are down from last year. Quality is less than last year. Also there are areas that flooded out. Everything considered, it was not a good year for grains.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Most corn is off. Not all fall tillage is done. Cold temperatures have put an end to tillage for now.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 23, 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 Nov. 22	Mar. 1 to Nov. 22 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	31	15	37	7	23	-8	2690	2598	0.00	4.50	-2.87	28.56	-2.14
Green Bay	32	18	35	9	25	-8	2698	2456	0.00	4.69	-2.31	27.39	0.28
La Crosse	33	20	38	10	26	-8	3059	2952	0.01	4.57	-2.57	33.76	3.07
Madison	33	20	43	12	26	-8	2905	2925	0.00	5.49	-1.45	41.76	11.06
Milwaukee	35	22	43	15	29	-8	2860	n.a.	0.00	7.73	0.00	39.93	7.99

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.