



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

October 5, 2009

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Harvest and Dry-Down Slowed by Cool, Wet Weather

Rainfall throughout last week kept many farmers out of the fields, but helped recently planted winter wheat and rye get a good start. Growers continued to wait for grain and beans to dry, as cool temperatures and cloudy skies slowed dry down. Frost was reported across much of the state, particularly in the three Northern Districts and the Central District, where some reported an end to the growing season.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.77 inches in Green Bay to 1.72 inches in Milwaukee. Average temperatures were 5 to 7 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 57 to 60 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 41 to 46 degrees. On average, there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn in the dent stage was reported at 90 percent complete statewide, while corn mature was reported as 33 percent complete. Growers continued to harvest silage in between showers, and corn silage harvest was reported as 53 percent complete. It was still too soon for most growers to harvest their high moisture corn.

Soybean leaves were mostly done turning color, with 96 percent reported turned, while soybeans dropping leaves was 73 percent complete. A few growers began harvesting soybeans, as harvest was reported at 4 percent complete, but rainfall held many back from beginning harvest. Other growers were still waiting for beans to dry down to be ready for harvest.

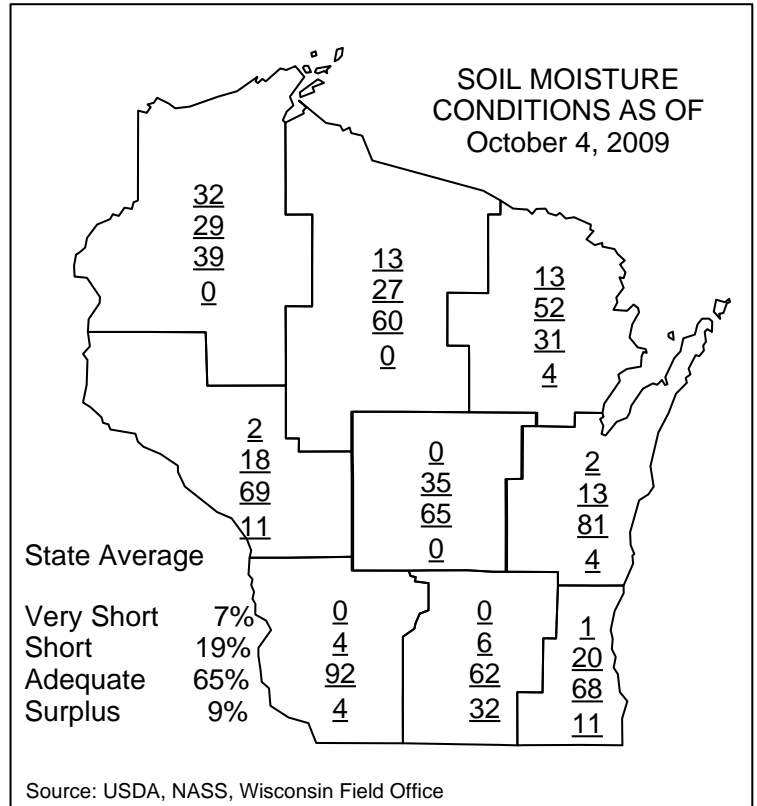
There were still some growers taking fourth cutting **hay** which was reported at 64 percent complete. The rain helped prepare hay fields for winter by accelerating regrowth.

Fall tillage increased slightly to 10 percent complete, up from 6 percent a week ago. Most growers were concentrating on harvesting and were waiting on tillage.

The rainfall benefitted recently planted **winter wheat**. Some growers were looking to plant winter wheat once beans are harvested.

Potato harvest continued across the state, with some areas wrapping up harvest.

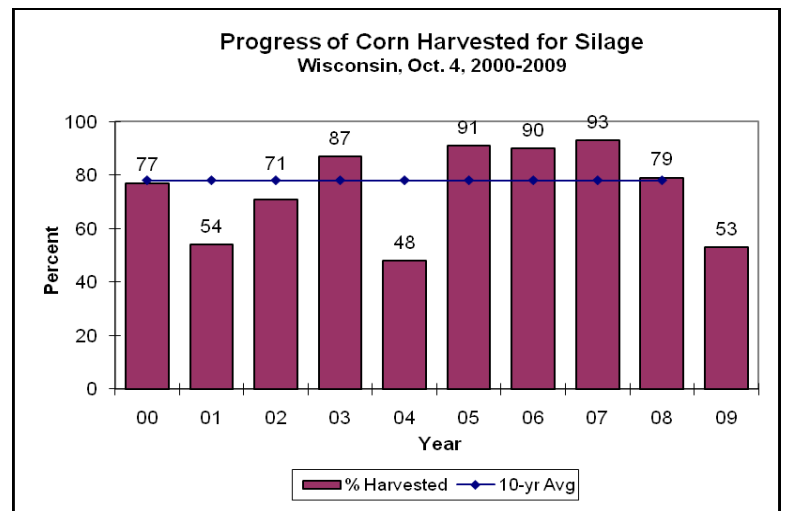
Manure was being hauled where silage and small grains were harvested.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 4, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	3	8	26	48	15
Soybeans	1	7	24	54	14
Pasture	10	22	35	31	2

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



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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 in dent stage	90	73	95	92	92	88	98	95	80	90	92	95
Corn mature	32	16	16	37	58	22	13	54	18	33	49	65
Corn harvested for silage	52	15	65	67	75	56	48	57	41	53	79	80
Soybeans leaves turned	95	99	99	97	95	94	98	99	85	96	100	98
Soybeans dropping leaves	74	75	89	76	52	73	74	86	47	73	91	86
Soybeans harvested	2	1	3	7	5	6	1	3	1	4	16	19
Fourth cutting hay	50	55	55	80	60	56	83	82	55	64	60	59
Fall tillage	12	7	6	5	15	14	2	17	12	10	2	4

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: The hard frost on Wednesday morning has put an end to our growing season. Temperatures ranged in the low to mid 20's. Most corn did not make a black layer.

Soybeans were mature before the freeze. The 1.5 inches of rain we received locally has brought soil moisture back. Some fall fieldwork is going on behind corn silage.

CLARK-R.H.: Frost on Wednesday ended the growing season. Corn and soybeans are ok. Some fields may not be mature at this time so adjustments may have to be made for harvesting the crop depending on maturity. We are extremely dry at the surface and within the soil structure.

We have received welcomed moisture. As some corn silage and small grains have come off the fields manure has been hauled and incorporated, but that is about all the fall fieldwork done at this time.

MARINETTE-S.R.: We had a killing frost in most of our area on Thursday morning.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybean harvest had just started when rain came so will have to wait to dry out again to get rolling. Many would like to plant winter wheat as soon as the soybeans are off. Corn silage is about 3/4 done with yields that varied all over the place. Even with recent showers, the field condition are still quite dry.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Valley land crop froze with the 28 degree temperature. Crops on ridge land had no frost. Corn is still too wet for vertical silos. We have received 1.5 inches of rain so far this week. A lot of hay was chopped earlier in the week. Bunker corn silage is mostly done.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn has really progressed this past week showing lots of dry ears. Soybeans should be harvested soon. Soil is still on the dry side. Most corn silage is done now. Kidney beans are also being combined which was a very good crop. Early potatoes are also being dug with good yields.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: We have had two mornings in a row with a killing frost of 29 degrees. Soybean harvest is not going very fast; too much damp humid weather. Corn silage harvest is nearly all done. Potatoes are being harvested. We had a good apple crop this year.

WAUPACA-D.H.: The 2009 growing season pretty much ended with killing frosts on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Late-planted corn did not mature enough for grain. Winter wheat is emerging now with the recent rain.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn and soybeans are progressing well due to rain and warm temperatures. Corn chopping is mostly done in our area. Fourth crop hay was short but had good quality.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Frost hit corn fields and now cobs and leaves are dropping after the heavy rain; poor yields are coming. Ground turned nicely while plowing before the last rain.

CRAWFORD-A.B.: One grower started combining soybeans. Many corn fields are showing anthracnose and blight symptoms across the county, some very severe. Corn silage is yielding well.

GRANT-G.C.: Despite cold and wet conditions, corn and soybeans continue to progress toward maturity.

COLUMBIA-J.B.: Soybean harvest started last week but was slowed by the rains. We could use a dry stretch to help with harvest and winter wheat planting.

GREEN-M.M.: No killing frost as of yet. The majority of corn looks like it will reach maturity as long as frost is delayed another week. Corn silage harvest is in full swing, but delayed somewhat due to wet fields. There is a wide range in maturity of soybeans with some field's just changing color and others having already dropped their leaves and are not far from harvest.

WALWORTH-E.M.: Maturity is slow in the corn and soybeans. We had a light frost on Thursday morning. We received 1.0 inch of rain Thursday evening and 1.0 inch of rain Sunday and Monday with blustery winds. No black layer in corn as of yet. There is one half milk line in kernels.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Rain has slowed fieldwork. I tried to combine soybeans but it was too wet. Had a light frost on Wednesday and it killed the top 2.0 inches of corn and some of the soybeans.



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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 4, 2009

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	March 1 to Oct. 3	March 1 to Oct. 3 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	57	41	70	30	49	-6	2419	2443	1.20	1.77	-2.25	18.79	-8.44
Green Bay	58	41	72	31	49	-5	2226	2309	0.77	1.69	-1.62	19.32	-4.24
La Crosse	57	45	70	34	51	-7	2715	2760	1.17	2.04	-1.60	21.80	-5.45
Madison	59	43	72	34	51	-5	2521	2710	1.31	5.32	2.02	30.66	3.53
Milwaukee	60	46	74	40	53	-6	2522	n.a.	1.72	2.56	-0.99	26.82	-0.82

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.