



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

November 23, 2009

Vol. 09, No. 33

Soybean Harvest Wrapping Up

Conditions allowed growers to make good progress harvesting their corn and soybeans. Despite favorable drying conditions, moisture levels remained high in many corn fields, particularly in late-planted fields. Mold and low test weights in corn were reported as concerns for many growers. On the positive side, there were several reports of higher than expected corn yields. Soybean harvest wrapped up across most of the state with varying yields reported.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.03 inches in LaCrosse to 0.31 inches in Green Bay. Average temperatures were 5 to 8 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 48 to 50 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 26 to 41 degrees. On average, there were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

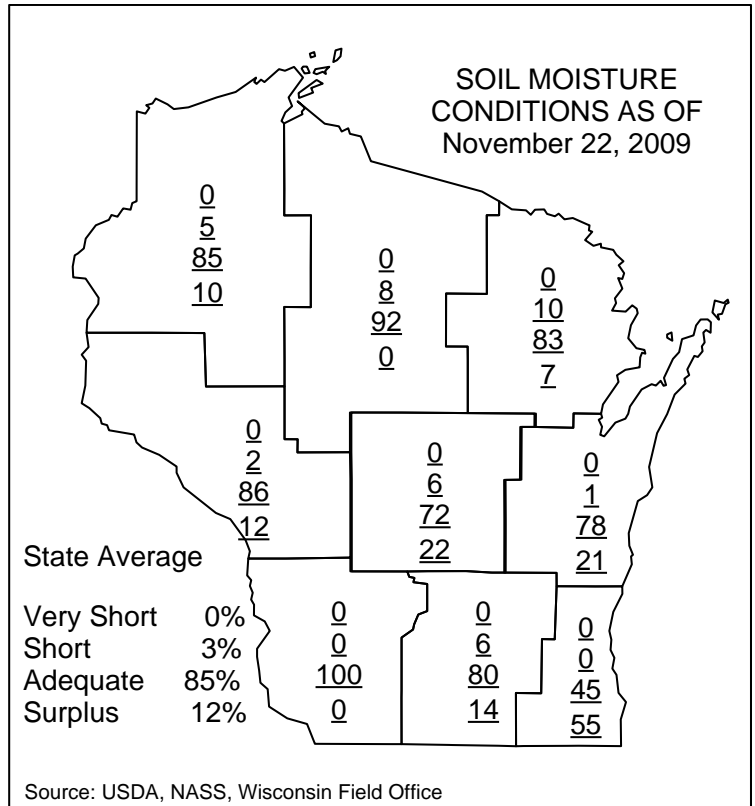
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn harvested for grain was reported at 59 percent complete, an increase of 21 percentage points from the previous week. Growers were able to get in the fields to harvest corn for grain, but high moisture levels continued to slow progress for some. High moisture levels in the harvested corn led to reports of many driers filling up.

Soybean harvest was wrapping up across much of the state, with 94 percent reported complete.

Winter wheat planting was also mostly done with 92 percent reported complete. Winter wheat was reported as 72 percent emerged. Growers reported that the winter wheat that has emerged is mostly in good condition.

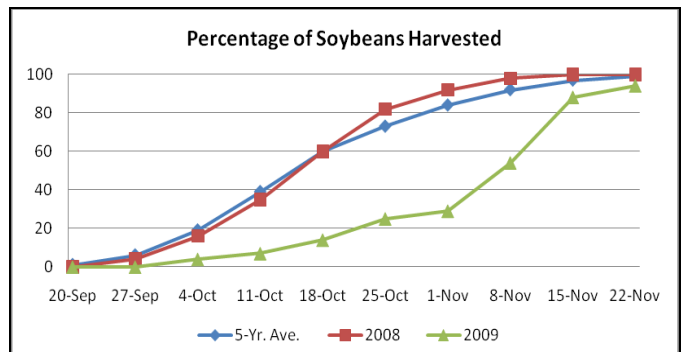
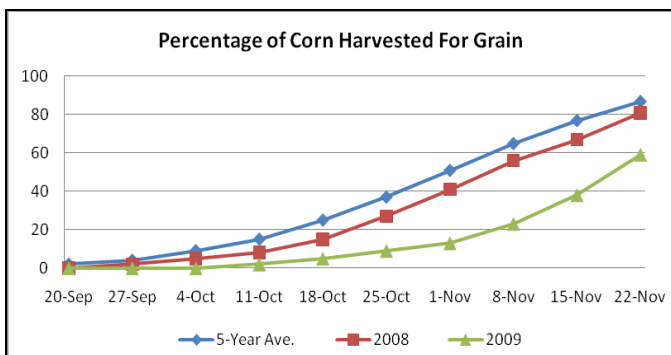
Fall tillage was reported at 46 percent complete, an increase of 8 percentage points from the previous week. Conditions were favorable for tillage, but many growers continued to focus on harvest.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of November 22, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	3	33	53	10
Pasture	8	17	48	25	2

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 22, 2009

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	53	34	74	47	63	59	81	58	48	59	81	87
Soybeans harvested	95	97	97	96	80	90	97	97	97	94	100	99
Fall tillage completed	41	67	49	30	57	61	54	35	45	46	58	63

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Soybean harvest is wrapping up after two solid weeks of harvesting. Yields are good averaging around 40 bushels per acre. Corn harvest is well underway with excellent soil conditions for harvesting.

RUSK-G.P.: Beautiful November continued this week. Soybeans are mostly done with average yields in the mid 30's. High moisture corn made good progress this week. Farmers are finding that the moisture is too high for HMC and definitely too high for drying in the later maturity hybrids. They are going back to the chopper and putting it up as silage.

CLARK-R.H.: It appears soybeans are done. Corn harvest is slow. High moisture corn is being harvested with much discussion of mold on the corn and possible mycotoxins. Even with good drying weather corn moisture is fairly high and cost of drying grain would be very high. Options may still be to harvest and store as high moisture with an organic acid or buchneri product applied to the corn to stabilize the mold and feed out to cattle, or if possible sell as high moisture corn. I have heard of loads of corn being rejected because of high moisture and low test weight. Corn appears to be standing well in the field with the delayed harvest, but a heavy snow could change this. Fieldwork is progressing with dry conditions, with many trying to catch up before the Thanksgiving holiday. Wheat plantings are looking good at this time.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Soybean harvest has been finished with average to below average yield. Corn harvest for high moisture is nearly complete. Corn for dry grain has started but is moving at a slow pace due to the higher than desired moisture, still averaging around 30 percent. Most tillage is being completed as the crops come off.

LA CROSSE-S.H.: Soybeans are getting close to being completely harvested. Lots of acres of corn still standing, but some more has come off. Shred bales are being made where needed. Not much tillage as the focus is still on harvest.


WAUPACA-D.H.: We received nearly 1.0 inch of rain which will slow down corn harvest for a few days. Most soybeans are off the fields. High corn moisture and wet fields keep harvest conditions on hold in a lot of fields. Farmers just want to get corn done before a heavy snow comes.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: With the amount of daylight shrinking every day, producers have been busily harvesting the last of their corn and soybeans. Some corn is still standing, but the number of acres of it has gone down quite a bit. At this point, many people just want to get the corn off the field, regardless of the moisture in it. The drying costs for storing the corn will be higher this year, but with winter coming soon, the fall tillage has to be completed. This is especially true for those producers with any kind of clay soil. The activity most seen in the fields this past week was plowing. Both moldboard and chisel plowing were taking place, and for the most part, the fields were not too wet to allow the tillage to take place. However, the job is always easier and faster if there is a four wheel drive tractor pulling the plow. The winter wheat is up in about 90 percent of the fields where it was planted, and it looks good heading into the cold season. The fieldwork is winding down for 2009, with the next job being putting the machinery away for the winter and making sure the tractors and other motorized equipment are properly winterized.

SAUK-W.J.: Soybean harvest is finished for the most part, Corn harvest continues with most going for dry grain. Winter wheat planting is finished and emergence is mostly up.

GREEN-M.M.: Soybean harvest has been completed with yields running a little above average. Corn harvest is about 60 percent complete with yields running about 25 percent above average, but moisture levels are still over 30 percent in some fields and molds are a problem in fields with longer maturity varieties. Some winter wheat did not get planted this year.

KENOSHA - R.R.: Finished soybeans finally. Harvesting of corn is going slow. Test weights are light and moisture levels are from 20-32 percent. We need some good drying and warm days to bring moisture down.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
 P.O. Box 8934
 Madison, WI 53708-8934
 (608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Robert J. Battaglia
 Director

Craig Christianson
 Statistician

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 November 22, 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 Nov. 21	March 1 to Nov. 21 normal*	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	49	26	53	19	38	6	2500	2599	0.04	5.11	-2.29	22.13	-8.60
Green Bay	49	35	52	25	42	8	2310	2456	0.31	6.70	-0.20	24.33	-2.70
La Crosse	49	30	53	24	40	5	2833	2953	0.03	6.85	-0.21	26.61	-3.97
Madison	48	34	53	29	41	6	2639	2924	0.21	8.72	1.86	34.07	3.38
Milwaukee	50	41	54	36	46	8	2652	n.a.	0.26	7.44	-0.15	31.70	0.00