



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 20, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 24

Cooler Days and Rain Slow Harvest

Another week of below average temperatures and scattered rain slowed fieldwork for many. Corn and soybeans continued to dry down. Despite some fields being too muddy to enter, many reported that they were able to get into fields and harvest corn silage. Manure and fertilizer was reported as being spread in La Crosse County.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 0 to 3 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 66 to 73 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 47 to 54 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.38 inches in Milwaukee to 2.20 inches in Eau Claire. There were 5.1 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 dented was reported at 93 percent complete statewide and corn mature was reported at 47 percent complete. Corn harvested for silage jumped 21 percentage points from last week to 65 percent complete across the state. A few began harvesting corn for grain, with 2 percent reported complete statewide. Some reports indicated that harvest of corn silage was slowed by the recent moisture, but corn harvested for silage continued to be well ahead of the five-year average. Corn silage yields were reported as average to above average.

Soybean leaves turned was reported at 86 percent complete statewide, while soybeans dropping leaves jumped 25 percentage points from the previous week to 50 percent complete. As day length shortens soybeans continue to mature and dry down. A few reports stated harvest of soybeans began.

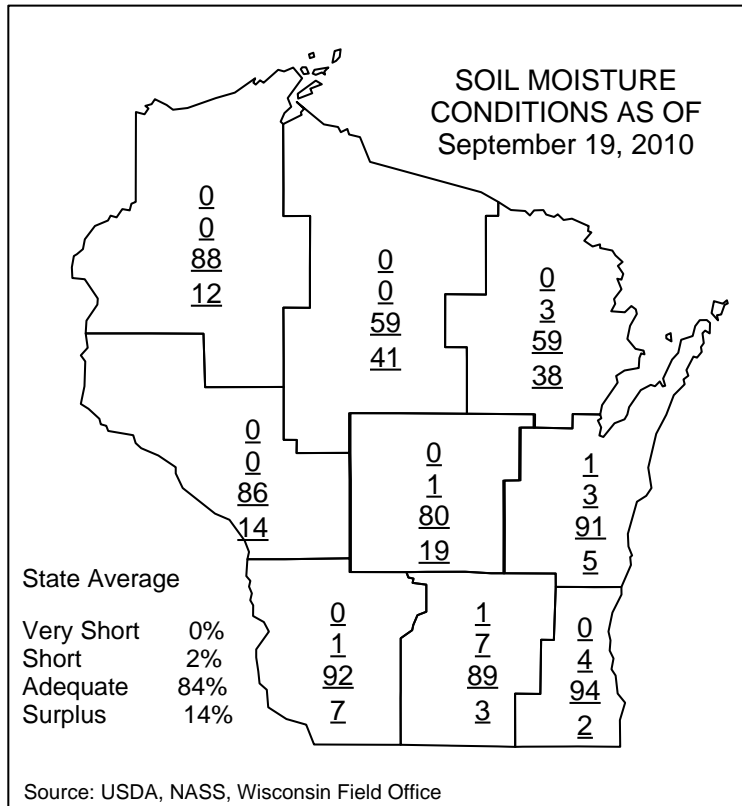
The rain hindered some from finishing third cutting **hay**, but a few were still able to get into the fields as third cutting hay was reported at 96 percent complete, 4 percentage points above the previous week. Fourth cutting hay was reported at 55 percent complete across the state. Fourth crop hay was reported as looking thin in La Crosse County and lower yields were reported in Monroe County.

Some fields were reported as planted to **winter wheat** in Shawano and Buffalo Counties, while a report from Calumet County stated that fields were being prepared for planting of winter wheat. More tillage may be needed in some fields before planting of winter wheat due to large ruts created during harvest earlier this year.

Potato harvest was stalled in Langlade County due to the wet conditions, but continued in Portage County with reports of good yields.

Apple harvest was reported as being ahead of schedule in Crawford County.

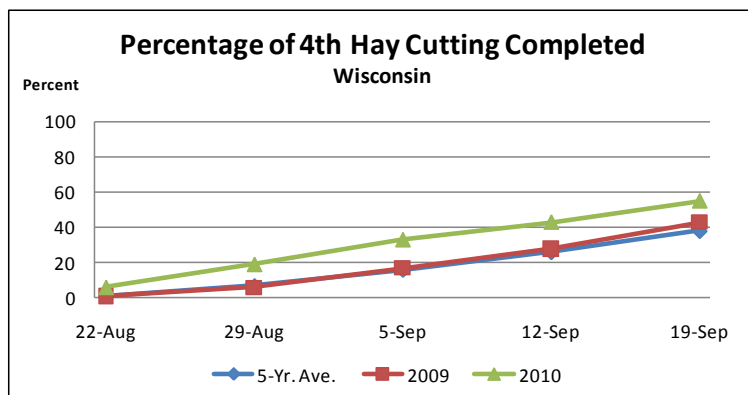
Green Beans were reported as harvested in Polk County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 19, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	3	13	43	40
Soybean	1	3	14	47	35
Pasture	0	2	18	56	24

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 week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dent stage	89	86	95	95	97	89	94	97	97	93	87	62	79
Corn mature	29	22	36	49	46	35	35	72	59	47	27	9	28
Corn silage harvested	57	40	72	72	79	52	74	78	90	65	44	11	43
Soybean leaves turned	85	85	81	79	81	84	85	89	98	86	66	68	82
Soybean leaves dropped	34	49	31	38	39	42	50	68	68	50	25	21	47
Third cutting hay	94	90	94	98	93	97	97	99	97	96	92	97	96
Fourth cutting hay	36	27	62	53	54	64	64	68	60	55	43	43	38
Fall tillage	3	4	3	4	7	7	3	4	5	5	n.a.	n.a.	0

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

CHIPPEWA-G.L.: Pasture growth has slowed a little with the cooler weather, but still green and lush.

POLK-A.M.: Excessive rains this week caused delay in some fieldwork. Silage is nearing completion. Green beans are being harvested.

MARATHON-S.N.: Corn and soybeans are maturing. Shorter day length has accelerated the drying up of soybean plants. Corn is being harvested for silage mostly in South Western Marathon county. However, it is creeping slowly to the East as it depends on when the crop was planted and field conditions. The week of September 13 the county received 2.0 inches of rain. Spotty fall tillage has begun with some disking. The trees are beginning to change color.

VILAS-R.K.: Needs to dry out to facilitate harvest.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Continues to be very wet and limited sunshine, 1.7 inches this past week and 6.0 for September. Harvest activities are slow, hard to get in fields, no potatoes dug for last ten days.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Another wet week, 2.6 inches of rain halted field activity again. High moisture corn harvest will start when fields dry. Some rye and winter wheat has been sowed.

ST. CROIX-D.K.: Crops are excellent.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Corn silage harvest is wrapping up. Expect to see high moisture corn harvest starting this week. Corn moisture is the mid 20's.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Some corn being harvested, moisture tests at local elevators are in the low 20 percent range on early planted, early maturity varieties.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Rain slowed fieldwork. Potato harvest continues, good yields. Silage harvest continues, variable yields

WAUPACA-D.H.: Corn and soybean maturity has been slowed due to this week's wet weather. Weather also hampered hay harvest. Hay is good in quality and quantity.

CALUMET-B.L.: Was gone a week and crops moved along considerably. Corn silage is progressing but with small showers periodically, and some corn less mature than it appears, the season is longer than many thought it may be. Soybeans are dropping leaves rapidly and some ground is being prepared for winter wheat. There will be more tillage needed in our winter wheat fields this year due to large ruts created during harvest in many of them.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Very good yield on corn silage. Hoping for good weather for wheat planting.

LAFAYETTE-M.O.: Started to take 90 day corn out, moisture was 18 percent on corn for grain.

VERNON-K.L.: Corn silage harvest progressing at a fast rate. Weather cooperating for hay harvest, yields fair to good. Soybeans dropping leaves rapidly and should be harvesting within a week. Some fall tillage and fall seeding has been completed.

DANE-J.K.: Potatoes look very good and are being dug. Some are rotting, best to get them out of ground. Veggies are the same. Corn and soybeans look the best I have ever seen for this time of year. Third and fourth crop yield down some. A lot of winter wheat going in already and with corn silage going in so early it prompted it. Also there will be more after soybeans which will be an early harvest. Some fieldwork being done and also some liquid manure going on. Field conditions are excellent at this time. It is said there is some corn stalk rot, but I have not seen much. Talk about ears falling off but have not seen any. Corn for high moisture going in also, about 28 to 32 percent moisture and of very good quality.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Wrapping up the snap bean harvest, some are starting to harvest soybeans; lot of pods but the beans are small. High moisture corn is harvesting small ears, moisture is running around 26 percent. The ground is starting to show cracks.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Corn silage harvest is wrapping up along with fourth cutting hay. Hay yields have been really good this year. Soybeans were just starting to come off before the rain came late in the week. Yields were reported to be in the 50 to 60 range.



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

Colette Childs
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 September 19, 2010

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 Sep. 18	Mar. 1 to Sep. 18 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	66	47	78	42	57	-3	2803	2332	2.20	3.81	1.26	28.19	2.57
Green Bay	68	47	78	44	58	-2	2669	2194	0.80	1.86	-0.20	30.16	7.82
La Crosse	71	50	83	46	61	-3	3135	2622	0.51	1.12	-1.16	30.56	4.88
Madison	73	49	80	46	61	0	2975	2564	0.50	2.61	0.49	32.94	7.01
Milwaukee	71	54	81	49	62	-2	2955	n.a.	0.38	2.04	-0.15	30.43	4.20

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.