



Wisconsin Crop Progress

November 14, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 32

Wet Snow, Rain Slow Fieldwork

Reporters across much of Wisconsin noted 2.0 to 9.0 inches of heavy, wet snow this week, though the unfrozen ground and above normal temperatures allowed snow cover to melt off in most areas. Snow melt and rain slowed harvests, but soaked in quickly for most. In the wettest areas along Lake Michigan, fieldwork was halted completely and water left standing in some fields. However, the storms bypassed northwestern Wisconsin, which remained unusually dry. The Eau Claire weather station has received 4.02 inches less rain than average since September 1, leaving topsoil moistures 64 percent short to very short in the Northwest district. There were 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork.

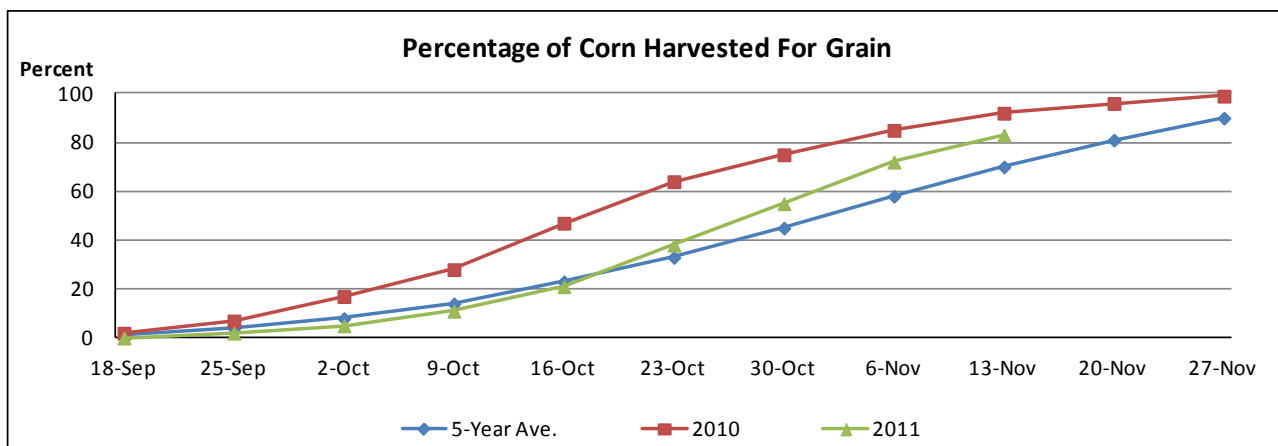
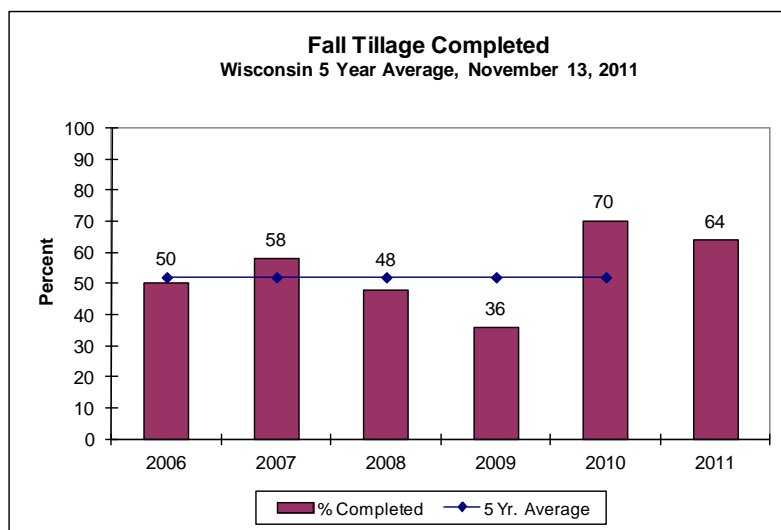
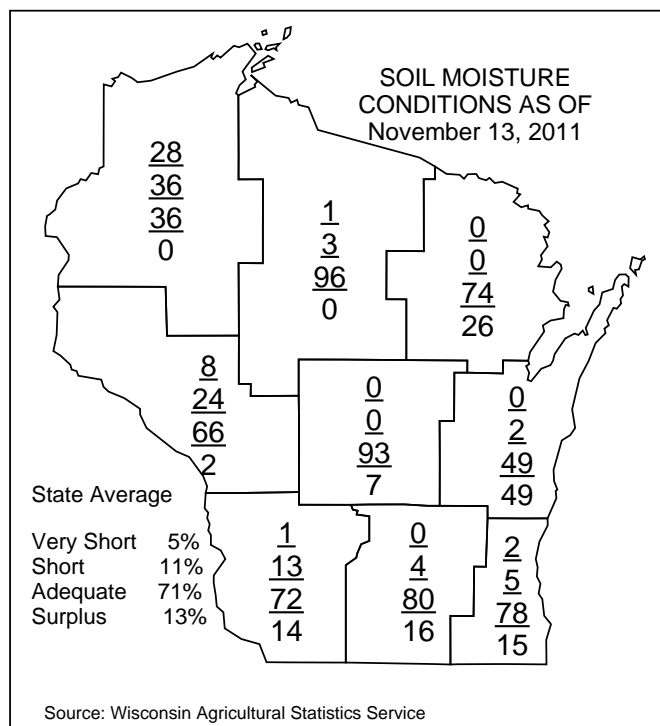
Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 48 to 51 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 32 to 37 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Eau Claire to 2.20 inches in Madison. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal for all reporting stations. 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 was 83 percent harvested statewide. Elevators and on-farm storage were filling up in some areas. Moisture levels were reported in the upper teens, though the week's damp weather drove those percentages up. Snow damage to corn fields was reported in Waupaca and Columbia Counties.

Fall tillage advanced to 64 percent complete. Muddy fields stalled tillage across the eastern portions of the state.

Winter wheat was reportedly emerging well across the state, though very wet fields may see some drowned out areas in the spring. **Cover crops** were flourishing with the above average temperatures of the past few weeks. Wisconsin's **deer** harvest was ongoing, with bow hunting season in full swing.



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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 harvested for grain	87	76	66	88	84	76	86	86	75	83	72	92	70
Fall tillage completed	62	81	62	67	78	63	48	57	65	64	51	70	52

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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.: Everything is almost ready for "old man winter" to appear.

WASHBURN-E.M./T.F.: Conditions are very dry right now.

ASHLAND-C.B.: Continued dry throughout the area. Above normal temperatures for this time of the year. Topsoil moisture is inadequate throughout most of the area.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Still some corn in the fields waiting for the combine. Manure pits are mostly emptied and fall tillage is done in many areas.

FLORENCE-T.B.: A winter storm dumped 4.0-6.0 inches of snow on Wednesday. A lot of moisture with the snow which made any field work come to a stop. Winter crops look good.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Wet, sticky snow shut us down for a few days.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Corn storage is a problem, everything is full locally. Been a good week for harvest and stalk chopping, bedding and tillage. Corn moisture is 14 to 19 percent yet.

DUNN-J.R.: Corn harvest is winding down. Yields reported are average to above average. Fieldwork has not been hampered by weather as most fields could use some additional moisture.

EAU CLAIRE-D.S.: All crops harvested.

PORTAGE-J.B.: The 8.0 inches of VERY wet, VERY heavy snow put a halt to everything. Power out for 32 hours at my house Wednesday morning through Thursday. Then the melt came and now everything is mud. Need frozen ground to get anywhere now. Combines are starting back up in the flat areas where not too wet but very limited. Most of the harvest is done. Fall tillage for this year is over.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: The 8.0 inches of wet snow on Wednesday morning put most fieldwork at a standstill. Still some snow on the ground.

DOOR-T.S.: Corn harvest has stalled with the excess rain this past week. Standing water in low areas will hold up tillage as well. Winter wheat is looking good.

OUTAGAMIE-J.B.: Wet and snowing.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Snow brought corn harvest and tillage to a standstill. The moisture helped to sprout the wheat.

SAUK-C.N.: Several inches of wet snow halted harvest for the week.

VERNON-K.L.: Parts of Vernon County had up to 4.0 inches of heavy, wet snow this past week, all of which had melted by the end of the week. A few acres of unharvested soybeans remaining. Corn harvest slowed due to the weather.

DANE-J.M.: Harvest seems to be complete as of this week. Baling of stalks I believe to be almost complete also. 2.0 inches of rain last week and another 0.5 inches as of Monday night will bring almost all fieldwork to a close.

GREEN-J.T.: There is a lot more standing corn than I thought.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Soybeans are completely done. Corn was progressing nicely until it rained. Everything now stopped.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Rain, snow, and cold. Some corn still standing. Fall tillage almost 50 percent done. Seen some stalk baling on Monday 11/7. Good soil moisture for fall tillage.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Most wheat is up and growing.



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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 November 13, 2011

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. 12	Mar. 1 to Nov. 12 normal*	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	50	32	61	23	41	5	2819	2591	0.00	2.68	-4.02	30.17	0.30
Green Bay	48	35	58	31	42	4	2666	2448	1.62	8.05	1.86	34.89	8.46
La Crosse	51	33	62	27	42	2	3162	2942	0.45	5.25	-1.15	33.36	3.58
Madison	50	34	61	26	42	3	3028	2908	2.20	7.69	1.54	27.99	-1.78
Milwaukee	50	37	59	29	44	2	2877	n.a.	1.43	6.50	-0.34	29.79	-1.24

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.