



Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 15, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 28

Finally, Rain!

Good harvest weather was interrupted by periods of much-needed rain this week, with some areas in the central part of the state reportedly receiving up to 5.0 inches of precipitation. Soil moistures improved, averaging 79 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 90 percent last week. More precipitation is needed to bring soil moistures back up to normal levels; however rain received was reportedly very welcome for fall seedings. Reporters noted that additional moisture in the ground will make fall tillage easier on equipment. Progress on the corn and soybean harvests continued rapidly and remains well ahead of average. There were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 5 to 8 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 53 to 58 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 31 to 38 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.35 inches in Eau Claire to 1.75 inches Green Bay. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

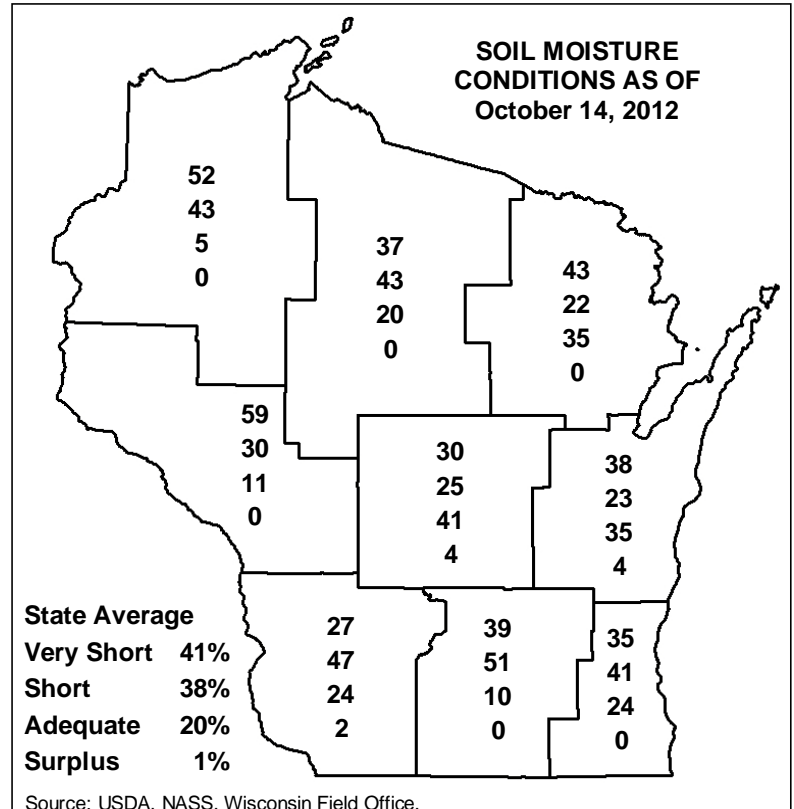
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn was 98 percent mature and 54 percent harvested for grain statewide. Corn yield reports varied widely. Moisture percentages were reportedly lower than normal. Several reporters commented that more corn stalks are being harvested than usual due to feed shortages.

Soybeans were 88 percent harvested. Moisture percentages were reportedly very low and yields highly variable.

Fifth cutting hay was 66 percent harvested.

Fall tillage was 29 percent complete. Manure spreading was ramping up as more fields were harvested.

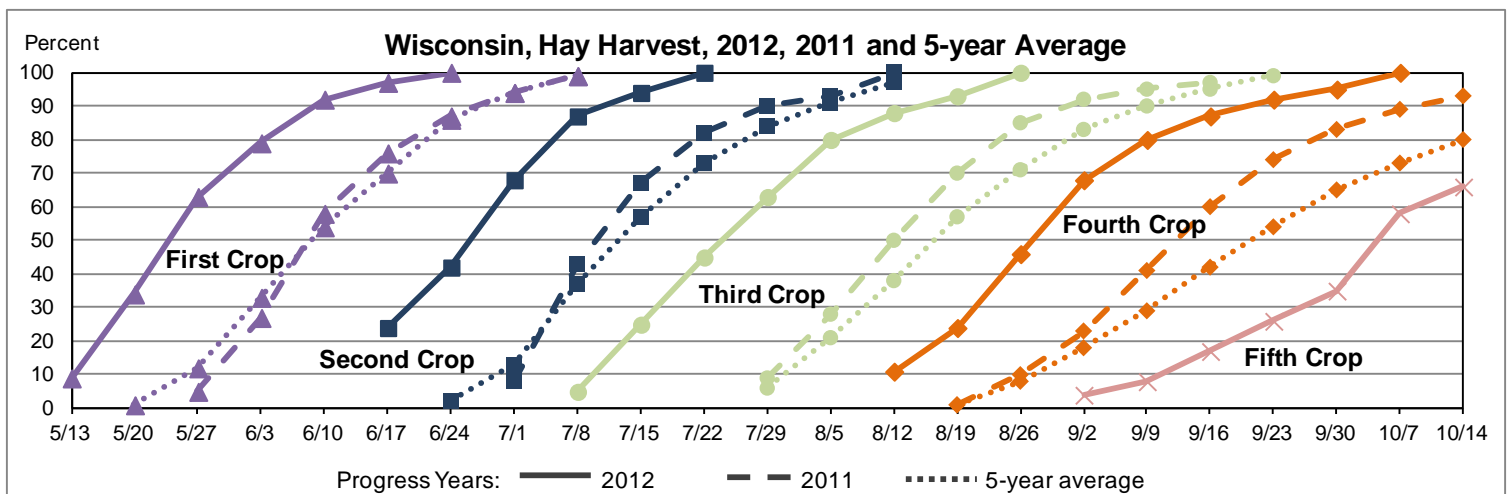


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 14, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	45	33	18	4	0

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

The **cranberry** harvest was reportedly wrapping up in Oneida County and progressing slowly with lower than expected yields in Portage County.



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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 mature stage	96	99	100	99	98	90	99	100	98	98	92	84	84
Corn harvested for grain	60	71	36	55	37	36	64	55	44	54	36	18	20
Soybeans harvested	91	92	91	94	84	78	80	95	87	88	75	52	46
Fifth cutting hay	33	0	90	83	33	62	94	84	72	66	58	n.a.	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	30	50	19	20	32	31	30	20	34	29	21	21	19

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-J.C.: Rain helped moisten top soil but none reached sub soil. Corn yields are wide ranging. Some tillage occurring.

RUSK-G.P.: Soybeans are mostly done, yields 25-50 bushels per acre depending on when they were planted. Corn is really rolling now, moistures mostly in the teens with yields on the high end pushing 200 bushels per acre, exceptional for us. Hay is now dormant with several nights in the teens and twenties for low temps. Very dry weather has limited fall work and winter crop emergence.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Average highs in lower 50s, average lows in the lower 30s. We saw about 0.65 inches of precipitation, mostly in the form of rain, with a light dusting of snow on several mornings. Cranberry harvest is complete, and vines are already going into dormancy.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Harvesting progressed very well and some elevators are full or near full with beans and corn. Fall tillage is well under way.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Received 0.4 inches of rain the other day, still very hard to get tillage equipment in the ground. Bean harvest about done, most round and big square bales made out of bean stover that I have seen. Yields in the 30-35 bushels per acre range. Corn harvest is varying from 100-150 bushels per acre range. A lot of corn in the 14-16 percent moisture range, test weights are better than anticipated.

MONROE-M.Y.: It rained 0.3 inches on Tuesday.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Been nice weather for harvesting. We could use moisture. Too dry for tillage.

JUNEAU-J.W.: There was a big push to get soybeans off last week prior to the weekend rain. A lot of corn came off as well. Soybeans are dry and yields have been good on the heavier soils but anything planted on the light sandy soils was very bad. The county received a wonderful rain over the weekend. Some places received 3.0 inches and I think every drop soaked into the ground. There shouldn't be too much of a delay in harvest.

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Over 3.0 inches of rain over the weekend.

CALUMET-B.L.: Continued very, very dry and with lots of wind this last week. Some winter wheat is emerging. Silage is basically complete but the combines are waiting for the most part. Soybeans are mostly combined with very good yields reported by most producers. Manure continues to be

applied under excellent dry field conditions. Fall tillage is difficult due to the very dry soils.

DOOR-T.S.: Fall seeded alfalfa is struggling to take off with the very dry conditions. A lot of wheat is in the ground but not much has emerged and what has emerged has been uneven.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Corn and soybeans in the county have been doing surprisingly well. While there are "pockets" where such crops have been hurt because of the drought, the overall "big picture" has shown pretty respectable yields. While both corn and soybeans are ready for harvest at the same time, many area farmers are taking advantage of the nice weather and harvesting soybeans. Winter wheat is being seeded, some wheat has germinated. It appears apple production in the county has been doing very well. Fall tillage is being performed, manure is also being applied. So far it's been a good fall, a nice rain would be welcome, no strong storm, just a good rain as we are about 8.0 inch below normal for the year.

RICHLAND-J.C.: A nice rain was received across the county on Saturday and Sunday. More rain is expected for the coming week. Although it will slow harvest, we are in need of soil bank moisture.

ROCK-C.O.: Rain on the weekend will considerably help with winter wheat. Most are done with the harvest and welcome the rain. Most common comment was how fast the dry ground is wearing out shovels on chisel plows, etc.

KENOSHA-R.R.: A lot of winter wheat is being planted.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: As of this time of writing - had 2.0 inches of rain on Saturday 10/13. Sunday 1.1 inches. No water standing any place. Came down all day long - very welcomed after the long wait.



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Director

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 14, 2012

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 Oct. 13	Mar. 1 To Oct. 13 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	53	31	63	21	42	-8	3192	2515	0.35	1.36	-3.32	20.52	-7.58
Green Bay	53	33	60	26	43	-7	3057	2377	1.75	2.84	-1.16	24.77	0.49
La Crosse	57	35	67	24	46	-8	3503	2846	0.64	1.78	-2.56	20.77	-6.92
Madison	57	36	62	24	47	-5	3429	2801	1.01	2.34	-1.62	19.31	-8.27
Milwaukee	58	38	65	33	48	-6	3290	n.a.	0.94	3.27	-1.03	23.12	-5.42

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.