



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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Warm Weekend Boosts Crops

This week started off chilly, with patchy frost across north and central Wisconsin. Some reporters noted a killing frost, though most crops were spared. Temperatures then warmed significantly by the weekend, with highs in the upper 70s and low 80s and scattered rains. Topsoil moistures fell overall with 15 percent surplus statewide compared to 19 percent surplus last week. However, fields in some areas remained too soft to support machinery after the excessive precipitation of the past few weeks. Farmers took advantage of clear days midweek to make hay, chop silage, and combine small grains. Fall tillage and winter wheat planting were beginning as fields were cleared. The cranberry harvest was underway in southern Wisconsin. Warm days and cool nights helped push corn and soybeans toward maturity. But reporters commented that high grain moisture and the overall lateness of the crops will delay harvest and fall plantings. Drier weather is needed to prepare crops and fields for combining.

There were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 67 to 72 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 44 to 50 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.26 inches in Milwaukee to 1.05 inches in La Crosse. 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/>

As of September 21, ninety-three percent of **corn** was in or past the dough stage, 72 percent was in the dent stage or beyond, and 19 percent was mature. Corn intended for silage was 18 percent harvested. Corn condition was rated 72 percent good to excellent.

Seventy percent of **soybeans** had leaves turning color and 27 percent had leaves dropping, up 25 and 16 percentage points respectively. Soybeans condition was rated 73 percent good to excellent.

Ninety-two percent of **oats** for grain had been harvested.

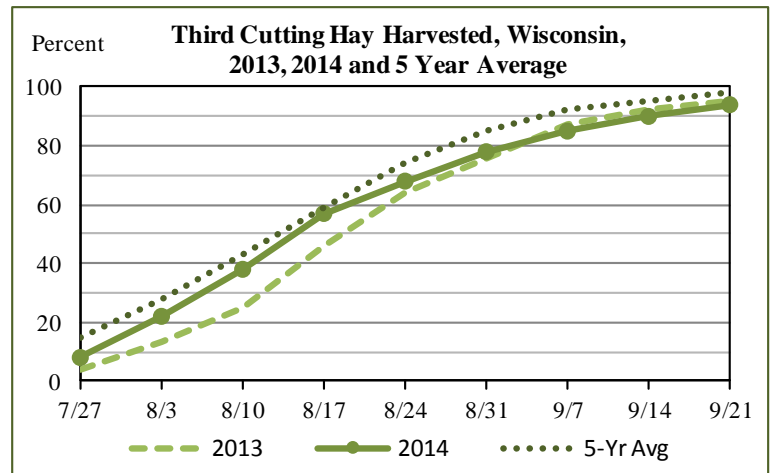
Winter wheat was 8 percent planted.

Potatoes were 54 percent harvested, with 69 percent rated in good to excellent condition.

The **third cutting of alfalfa** was 94 percent complete and the **fourth cutting** was 53 percent complete.

All hay condition was rated 84 percent good to excellent.

Pasture condition was rated 67 percent good to excellent.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 21, 2014

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture & Range	1	5	27	54	13
Hay, All	0	2	14	57	27
Corn	2	6	20	48	24
Soybeans	1	4	22	49	24
Potatoes	0	1	30	59	10

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of September 21, 2014

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
	Percent									Percent			
Corn in or past dough stage	87	91	75	96	88	89	99	100	94	93	87	90	97
Corn in or past dent stage	63	56	42	78	60	57	90	89	70	72	59	70	82
Corn mature	12	9	4	11	12	12	25	40	18	19	8	23	35
Corn harvested for silage	5	4	3	18	12	14	48	42	20	18	10	34	48
Soybeans turning color	59	69	32	77	70	59	83	84	50	70	45	67	80
Soybeans dropping leaves	23	24	11	35	18	22	35	36	17	27	11	26	43
Oats harvested for grain	95	74	86	100	99	87	100	100	100	92	85	100	100
Winter Wheat planted	17	5	9	3	10	7	3	10	15	8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Potatoes harvested	44	72	62	75	48	n.a.	100	100	n.a.	54	40	n.a.	n.a.
Alfalfa hay, third cutting	93	88	96	92	91	98	98	98	98	94	90	95	98
Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting	38	17	57	53	56	58	58	81	37	53	39	44	62

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of September 21, 2014

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	5.4	4.8	4.6	4.8	5.1	4.5	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.0	5.0
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	21
Short	6	0	0	4	1	3	12	7	6	5	6	37
Adequate	74	59	68	84	76	74	84	90	90	80	75	41
Surplus	20	41	32	12	23	23	3	3	4	15	19	1
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	27
Short	8	5	8	8	5	2	17	14	6	9	9	43
Adequate	79	58	74	83	74	76	81	81	93	79	79	29
Surplus	13	37	18	9	20	22	1	4	1	12	12	1

Wisconsin Crop Progress

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.: Corn silage harvest is underway. Frost last weekend ended growing season in parts of the county.

RUSK-G.P.: Fall is coming fast this year, looks to be a very good year for fall colors. Crops are hanging in there, some kill from frost but a lot just touched and seems to be moving along. Corn silage is just starting, moistures mostly still around 70%. Beans are turning and look to be a decent crop. Corn for dry grain will be limited this year because of high moistures, low corn prices and high LP prices. Some nice hay being put up.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Much colder this past week, with highs and lows again well below normal averages. Got 0.50 inch of rain this past week. Cranberry harvest will begin here next week.

PRICE-D.E.: Frost last week affected some crops, was not a killing frost. Many fields of hay were harvested in the past week. Fields are soft due to rain, but a lot of progress was still achieved on harvesting. Some corn has been taken off for silage, but it is still very green. Soybeans are turning quickly and dropping leaves, but the beans are very green.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Finally a couple of days with no rain, salvaging harvest of crops that should have been done a month ago.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Frost damage in some areas.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Half the fields were killed by frost. Corn silage harvest just starting. Bow deer and bear hunting happening. Difficult to make hay. Leaves starting to turn colors.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Cranberry harvest starting with good yields. Sweet corn harvest resumed after 2 slow weeks, good yields, passing acreage. Snap bean harvest complete, passed acreage because of good yields. Hay harvest slowly moving along.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: A couple shots of rain last week, 0.4 and 0.2 inches, crops look good at this time, damage from dry weather in July and August to corn and soybeans is apparent. We're also 250 heat units below average for base 50 which will mean high moisture for corn harvest this fall.

FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Very little corn silage harvested yet, but should be in full gear by the end of the week. Maturity of corn and soybeans still a concern.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Most of the past week saw dry conditions in this area and accordingly some field work did resume. However, the work was limited since the ground is still very wet. Some third crop and fourth crop hay was taken off and some manure was hauled out as well. Even these two jobs were a challenge because of the wetness of the soil. Not getting stuck and not making ruts while working in the fields seem to be the target of most producers at the present time. This was made more difficult after approximately an inch of rain fell again this past weekend. The water that was standing before had gone away only to be replaced with new water. The coming week is predicted to be sunny and dry, a welcome change by all in this area. If the ground can dry out and stiffen up, more work can and will be done. One job that may be delayed is planting winter wheat. The soil will have to dry quite a bit before it can be tilled prior to planting. Even no till planting will require drier ground so compaction will be less of a problem. Corn silage harvesting has not really begun yet. The corn has been slow to mature, so this is delaying all aspects of the corn harvest. Soybeans have really started to turn color and some leaves have started to drop. Combining of the bean crop is still a few weeks away. More of the remaining oats to be harvested for grain were taken off this past week. Yields this year have been okay, but not great.

GRANT-T.B.: Crop conditions in southwest Wisconsin are good, with most farmers expecting good to excellent yields.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: Large changes to the color of corn and soybeans this past week. Dry down began in a big way. No frost in Columbia County yet, but crops are maturing. Pastures are in excellent condition. Grazers have been smiling all season long.

OZAUKEE-G.S.: Have not seen any silage being made yet.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: First crop of early pears was poor due to frost that took blossoms off. Second crop - good.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 21, 2014

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. 20	Mar. 1 to Sep. 20 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	70	46	77	37	58	-2	2370	2279	0.17	5.33	+2.54	38.00	+11.98
Green Bay	67	44	75	39	56	-3	2166	2141	0.64	4.31	+2.05	25.03	+2.49
La Crosse	72	49	80	44	61	-2	2747	2562	1.05	2.59	+0.10	32.07	+6.00
Madison	69	45	78	37	57	-4	2562	2497	0.28	1.79	-0.53	29.60	+3.64
Milwaukee	68	50	78	44	59	-4	2242	n.a.	0.26	1.07	-1.30	26.36	-0.26

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

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.