



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



Upper Midwest Region - Wisconsin Field Office · 2811 Agriculture Drive · Madison WI 53718-6777 · (608) 224-4848
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending October 28, 2018
Media Contact: Greg Bussler

Harvest Progress Surges with Dry Weather

There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending October 28, 2018, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Combines rolled across Wisconsin this week as farmers took advantage of an extended break from the rain. Temperatures were below normal, and skies were clear for much of the week. In some areas, drizzle and scattered showers slowed or halted fieldwork on the weekend. Soybeans were top priority for many farmers, as grain moistures had fallen to favorable levels for storage. Soybean yield reports were mixed, and yields had been hurt in some areas by dry conditions in July and August. Fields were still wet, and many reporters noted rutting, stuck machinery, and low spots left unharvested. Other field activities included combining corn, spreading manure, fall tillage, and planting winter wheat.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 79 percent adequate and 21 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 22 percent surplus.

Corn harvested for grain was 46 percent complete, 11 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the 5-year average. The moisture content of corn harvested for grain was reported at 20 percent. Corn condition was 68 percent good to excellent.

Soybeans harvest was 61 percent complete, 7 days behind both last year and the average.

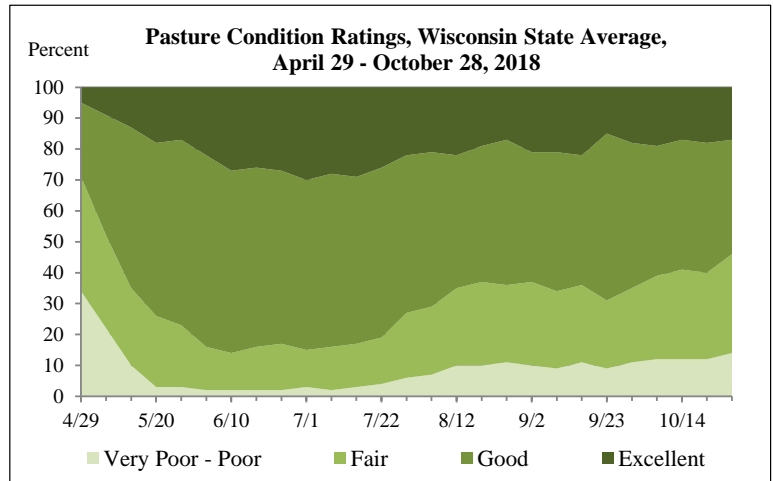
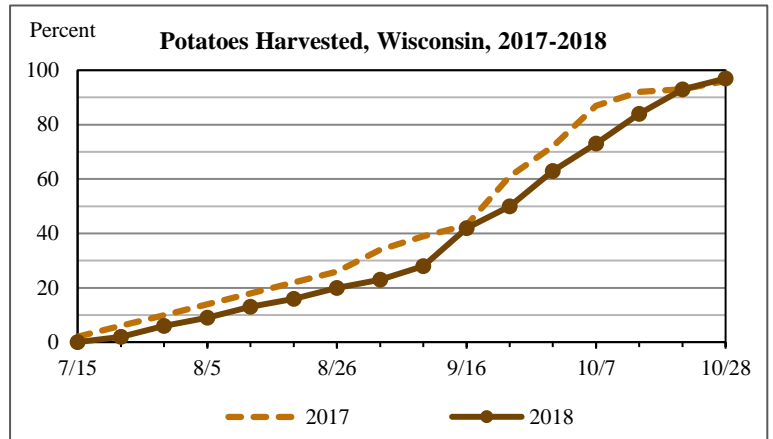
Potato harvest was reported as 97 percent complete, 1 day ahead of last year.

Eighty-six percent of **winter wheat** was planted, 6 days behind last year. Sixty-six percent of the winter wheat crop has emerged, 6 days behind last year. Winter wheat condition was 81 percent good to excellent.

The fourth cutting of **alfalfa** was 96 percent complete, 1 day behind the average.

Pasture condition was rated 54 percent in good to excellent condition, compared with 60 percent in good to excellent condition last week.

Fall tillage was reported at 30 percent complete, 3 days behind last year, and 6 days behind the average.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 28, 2018

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn.....	4	9	19	41	27
Pasture & Range..	5	9	32	37	17
Winter Wheat.....	0	2	17	57	24

Wisconsin Fieldwork and Crop Progress as of October 28, 2018

Item	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alfalfa Hay, Fourth Cutting	98	92	97	95	98	95	97	98	98	96	93	100	97
Corn Harvested for Grain...	43	45	36	41	37	30	54	58	52	46	31	24	38
Fall Tillage.....	39	26	31	22	33	38	26	26	38	30	20	34	37
Potatoes Harvested.....	96	84	98	96	98	n.a.	94	94	n.a.	97	91	96	n.a.
Soybeans Harvested.....	69	51	50	60	63	49	48	70	78	61	36	78	77
Winter Wheat Planted.....	95	90	89	84	87	90	82	75	86	86	75	91	n.a.
Winter Wheat Emerged.....	87	78	82	73	76	73	59	50	49	66	55	75	n.a.

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Supplies as of October 28, 2018

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	4.8	5.0	5.7	4.9	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	4.5	4.2
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Adequate.....	81	90	58	77	77	75	91	74	83	79	76	86
Surplus.....	19	10	42	23	23	25	9	25	17	21	24	8
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short.....	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	9
Adequate.....	82	93	59	84	71	73	86	72	60	77	74	85
Surplus.....	18	7	36	13	29	27	14	27	40	22	26	5

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BARRON-T.B.: Rain held off to make it a good week for harvesting. Corn and soybeans coming off all over the area. Grain moisture reports ranged from 9-14 percent for soybeans and corn 15-19 percent. Yields varied widely from soybeans coming in around 35-55 bushels per acre and corn from 140-200 bushels per acre. Yields were very dependent on areas that had no drought relief in July and August or areas that had some timely rains during that period.

BAYFIELD/DOUGLAS-C.B.: Nice dry week. A lot of soybeans harvested this week. Yield reports good to very good. Some mud problems hindering harvest in low lying fields.

CLARK-R.H.: Combines are humming around the county this week. Reports are coming in that soybeans are yielding very well or below expectations. Some areas in county had dry conditions that may have reduced yields. Most are trying to get the soybeans off this week as the crop is dry enough to store soybeans. Many report as soon as they wrap up soybeans they'll take corn to the drier. Many farmers have cut the balance of their hay and most are getting it picked up this week. Most is being stored as haylage or baleage as it is difficult to get dry hay late in the season.

SHAWANO-B.R.: The weather was not great for soybean harvest this week but combines ran hard whenever they could and got a lot of them taken off. The moisture range was 13-16 percent and yield was 50-70 bushels per acre. A little corn was combined for grain with moisture in the 18-24 percent range. A number of combines got stuck in the neighborhood with the very wet field conditions. Many farmers did not get winter wheat planted due to the wet fields.

TREMPEALEAU-L.N.: Finally able to string together dry days to make a big dent in the soybean harvest. Yields throughout the northern part of the county are terrible due to the 8 weeks without rain in July and August. Areas with timely rains showing good yields.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Good week for corn and soybean harvest, some wet field conditions. Cranberry harvest nearly complete. Supplemental feeding of cattle outside continues. Manure hauling and fall tillage continues. Good pumpkin crop.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: The weather early this past week was good enough so that quite a few acres of soybeans were harvested. The fact that the ground is still soft and wet didn't slow down the combining too much. The right equipment was required so that the beans came off and didn't stay in the field. Four wheel drive is a necessity and machines with tracks are also quite useful. In the lower areas of certain fields, ruts formed and filled with water. Yields in this area were generally from 50 to around 60 bushels per acre. And even though conditions are damp, the moisture content of the beans was generally in the 13 percent range. The sun and warmth of a few days really made the beans ready to harvest, and producers took advantage of those conditions to get the crop off. And almost at the same time, many acres of corn were starting to get combined. At this time of year, the corn really won't dry much from this point forward, so harvesting it now makes sense. However, the ground will be just as wet for the corn as it was for the soybeans, so getting the crop into the bin will require equipment that can handle mud. The tilled fields won't pose as much of a problem as non-tilled land. The fall jobs of tillage and hauling manure will be more difficult this year because of the extremely wet ground. Some of this work may not get done at all this fall or will have to wait until the ground is frozen. And just about the time the ground was starting to dry a little, another round of rain fell this past weekend. In this area, nearly three-quarters of an inch fell, exactly what was not needed.

FOND DU LAC/WASHINGTON -B.B.: A cold but nearly dry week and mostly sunny helped to pull moisture from the soils and crops. A very few soybeans started to come off but rain showers on the 28th will hit the pause button again.

VERNON-K.L.: Finally some sunshine and harvesting back in full force. Soybean harvest hit hard this week and corn harvest to follow. Soybeans running good and moisture reported between 11.5-13.5 percent. Farmers could finally get some cover crops planted this week. The mood of everyone has improved with better weather. Some corn fodder shreds being made as well.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: Lots of soybeans harvested this past week. Saturday and Sunday saw that come to a standstill due to damp, rainy weather. Soybeans were very dusty as combines rolled across the fields this fall.

ROCK-C.O.: Most fields have spots where crop will not be harvested until water table goes down. All have had stories of being stuck somewhere. Winter wheat going in.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 28, 2018

City	Temperature (degrees F)						Growing degree days (modified base 50) ¹		Precipitation (inches)				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Oct. 27	Mar. 1 to Oct. 27 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date	Year dep. from normal*
Eau Claire	52	30	61	20	41	-4	2893	2580	0.09	8.61	+2.91	35.44	+6.63
Green Bay	52	34	62	28	43	-2	2845	2437	0.00	9.46	+4.51	36.55	+11.35
La Crosse	55	35	66	26	45	-3	3451	2922	0.20	8.79	+3.53	37.93	+9.20
Madison	53	32	63	22	42	-5	3068	2882	0.01	12.89	+7.98	51.87	+23.22
Milwaukee	53	37	64	28	45	-4	3112	n.a.	0.00	11.93	+6.54	42.74	+13.27

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>

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.