



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 28, 2002

Vol. 02, No. 30

Cold and Wet Weather Delays Harvest Progress

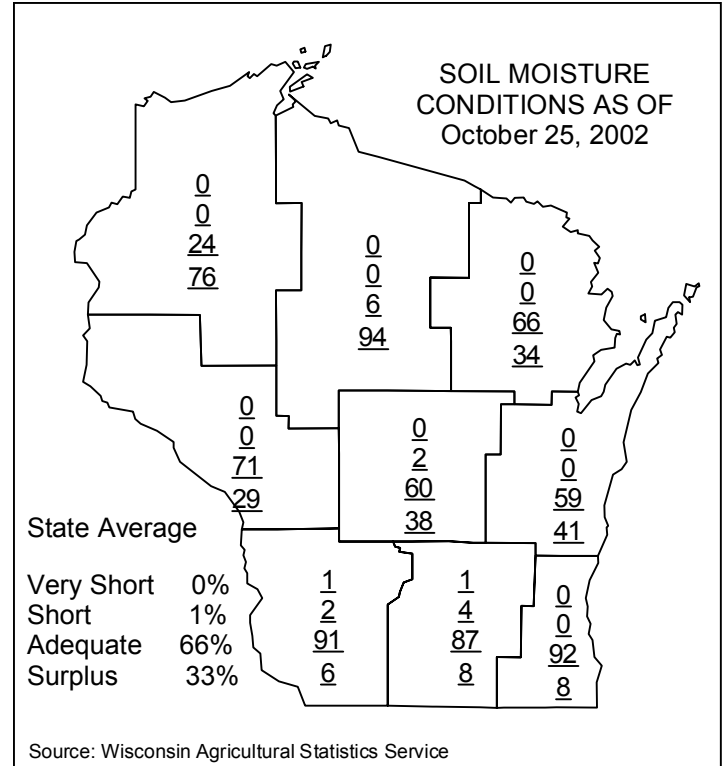
Cold temperatures continued for the second week in a row. Wisconsin averaged 6 to 9 degrees colder than normal for the week. Precipitation continued to hamper harvesting across much of the state. Combinations of snow and rain added approximately 0.5 inch of moisture. Snow remained on the ground for most of the week in many northern counties. The precipitation was scattered throughout the week and kept many farmers from getting into fields already too wet to work. The harvest continued in the central and southern counties wherever fields were dry enough to run equipment. Dry, sunny weather is needed to allow the harvest to continue in many parts of the state.

There were an average of 3.4 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 1 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 33 percent surplus. Continued snow and rain conditions plagued producers in the north and northwest. Scattered precipitation across the southern and central counties made harvest difficult. Pasture feed conditions after the statewide frost, were mostly unchanged for the week.

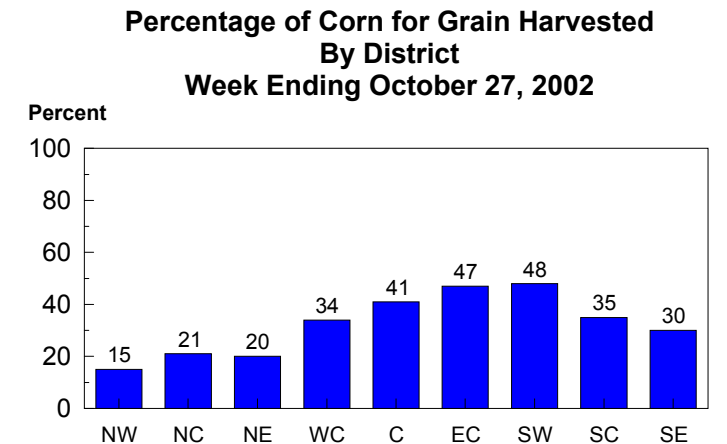
Corn harvested for grain jumped 14 percentage points higher than a week ago, to 36 percent complete. As conditions allow, many producers are changing back and forth between the soybean head and the corn head to harvest both crops. Yields in Grant County were reported to be above normal. Dane County reported variable yields, ranging from 110 to over 200 bushels per acre. Moisture levels remained in the 20 to 25 percent level around the state. Mold problems are being reported in Chippewa County. Field conditions continue to dictate harvest rate. **Soybean** harvest was slowed by weather conditions around the state. Harvest was 69 percent complete, which was 16 points higher than a week ago. Soybeans in the north were under a blanket of snow, coupled with wet fields. Yields around the state are reported to be better than normal, but harvesting continues to be a problem.

Hay cropping is nearly complete in most areas, with scattered reports of late cuttings being made. Most farmers report hay and roughage supplies to be good to very good. Late crop hay was of good quality where harvested.

Early-seeded **winter wheat** in Fond du Lac County is reported to be looking excellent. **Fall tillage** was progressing in areas that were dry enough to work. Tillage has been reported to be slow due to late corn and soybean harvest.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 25, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	10	36	49	4



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 27, 2002												
Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn mature	97	95	85	97	97	94	98	99	99	97	92	98
Corn harvested for grain	15	21	20	34	41	47	48	35	30	36	34	51
Soybeans harvested	30	42	45	56	59	72	85	76	78	69	70	87
Fall tillage completed	11	10	15	14	28	32	15	15	18	17	23	32

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Wet, cold weather is delaying harvest. Some corn and soybean fields will need frozen ground before they can be harvested, unless dry, warm weather comes first. Starting to see mold on corn that was nearly mature at frost. Earlier-planted corn looks good as it relates to mold. Rain again today does not help.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: High moisture corn and dry corn harvest is creeping along due to snow melt and poor drying conditions. Many soybeans are still standing due to the snow and wet weather. Mold on a lot of corn. Not much fall tillage completed.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Soybean yields range from 45 to 54 bushels per acre; moisture from 11 to 13 percent. Most silage corn is harvested. Very little corn harvested for grain, as moisture is too high due to cold, wet weather. Very good hay supplies.

MARATHON-M.K.: Lots of soybeans to combine yet. Fields are very wet; 8 - 10 inches of snow on Monday. No tillage work done yet. Some will be very short on feed.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Corn and soybean harvests were slowed by heavy, wet snows. Yields for soybeans averaged in the 50's.

DUNN-S.S.: Have heard of soybean yields of 35 to 45 bushels per acre. Have not heard of any corn yields as yet, but expectations are for good yields. Have seen places where two tractors pulled chopper and chopper boxes to get corn chopped for silage.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Corn moisture is coming down with levels in the 20 percent moisture range. Yield monitors spike close to 90 bushels in soybeans and 220 bushels in corn. Whole fields and farms are averaging above 50 bushels on soybeans and in the 170-plus on the corn. About the only hay needed in this area would be a few loads of high quality dairy hay.

WAUPACA-D.H.: We are unable to do anything due to snow-covered ground or fields too wet to carry equipment. We need several weeks of sunny, dry weather.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: With the rain and snow everyday, there has not been much progress made in harvesting corn or soybeans. There is still plenty of hay in the area.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn yields vary from 90 to 150 bushels per acre. Most soybeans are harvested, with yields from 40-65 bushels per acre. Plenty of hay in our area.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Corn and soybean yields are looking very good, but the wet weather is really hampering harvest. Soybeans

were at harvest moisture, 14 percent, but the poor weather reversed that trend. Corn moisture is in the low 20 percent range. Fall tillage is progressing well, where growers can get into the fields.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn is being harvested, good yields and good size ears and kernels. Yields are going to be high in corn and soybeans. Never seen so many beans on stalks as I have seen this year. Hay supplies are plentiful in our area. Still seeing fourth crop hay being made after freeze. Fall tillage slow due to harvesting of corn and soybeans, also it's been dry in our area most of the fall. Winter wheat looks good.

SAUK-C.N.: Not much progress with harvesting this week. Snow late in the week made conditions wet and brought harvesting to a halt. Still plenty of soybeans left to harvest.

DANE-J.K.: Harvest is pretty well slowed down due to cold, damp weather; however, many farmers are still going anyway, especially corn. Yield and moisture continues to be good, but soybeans have picked up moisture to about 12-15 percent. Saw some winter wheat going in. The early part of this week field conditions were good and dry, ideal for planting. Fall tillage conditions are very good to slightly dry. Hay supplies are very good, even though it was dry for most of the county. A lot of good quality hay was put into bags.

GREEN-F.Z.: Some corn and soybeans are done. A little hay left, but will never get dry.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Bean harvest is wrapping up. Corn shelling in progress. Yields vary from next to none to fair. Hard frost last week has pretty much stopped pasture growth.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Corn is not drying down. Soybeans are damp, and most weeds in soybeans are staying tough.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Soybeans are about all harvested. Yield is about 40 bushels. Corn harvest in full swing.



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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 October 27, 2002

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. 19	Mar. 1 to Oct. 19 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	41	35	45	33	38	-6	2870	2545	0.63	10.87	5.27	38.79
Green Bay	43	32	47	29	38	-7	2616	2405	0.65	5.44	0.59	26.31
La Crosse	43	33	46	29	38	-9	3160	2880	0.44	6.98	1.81	29.67
Madison	45	35	50	30	40	-6	2903	2837	0.41	4.78	-0.04	24.43
Milwaukee	48	39	50	33	43	-6	2982	n.a.	0.47	4.48	-0.85	25.10

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.