



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

November 3, 2003

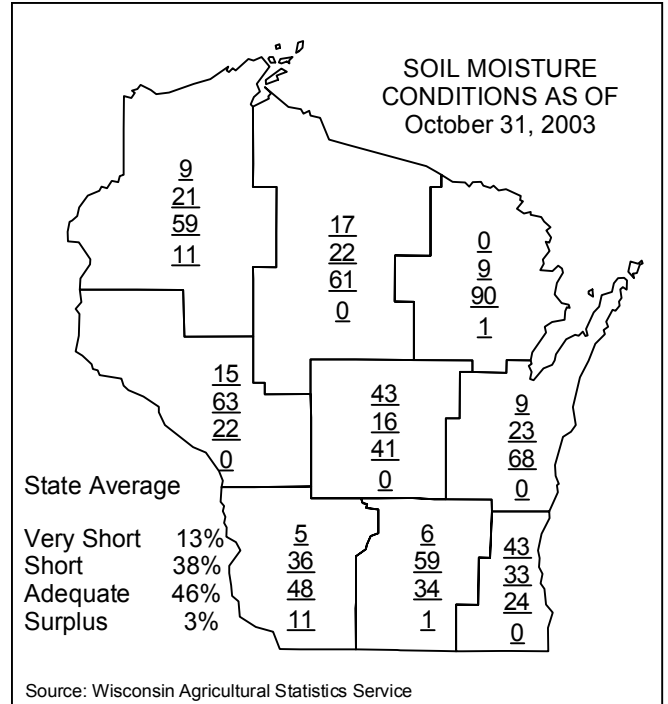
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Harvest Continues Ahead of Normal

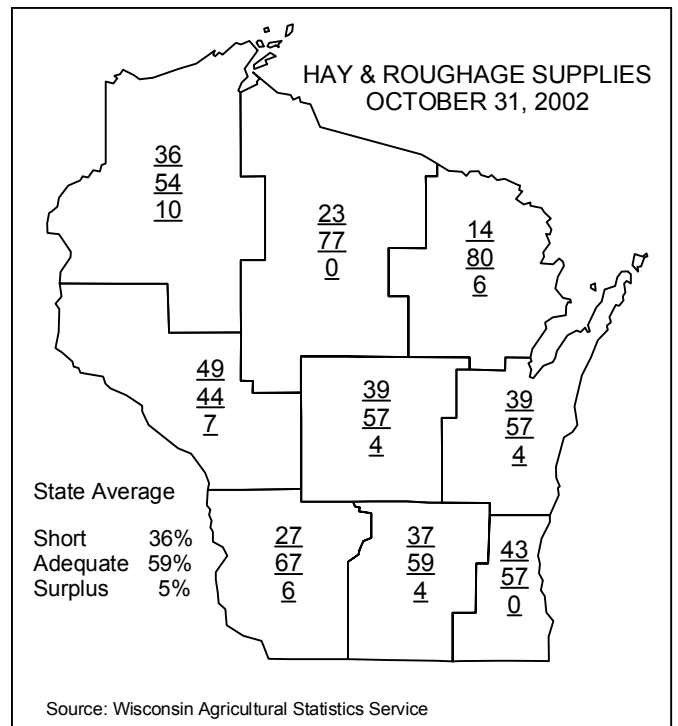
The favorable harvest conditions continued for another week across Wisconsin. Fall harvest activities remained at a brisk pace, with most producers ahead of normal schedules. There was an average of 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Temperatures for the week averaged 0 to 4 degrees below normal. The far northern areas of the state saw some of the first snows of the season. Large areas of the state saw some precipitation, with most amounts under 1 inch. The welcomed rains improved soil moisture levels and fall tillage conditions. Topsoil moisture ratings averaged 13% very short, 38% short, 46% adequate, and 3% surplus. Many areas of the state continue to be well behind normal year-to-date precipitation levels. Pasture feed conditions were rated as 16% very poor, 38% poor, 35% fair, 11% good, and 0% excellent.

Late season **soybeans** were being finished up. The harvest was reported at 96% complete, well ahead of the 77% last year and the 89% five-year average. The soybean crop suffered significant damage during the hot, dry weather that coincided with the grain fill period. Yields in heavy soils were near normal, but lighter soils had yields in the low 20's and down. With the soybean harvest nearly complete, combines worked hard to get the **corn** crop out of the fields. Moisture levels ranged from 15-25%, and farmers raced to complete harvest before lodging becomes an issue. Corn harvest progress was rated as 70% complete, ahead of both last year's 47% and the five-year average of 66%. Yields were reported to be extremely variable this season. The spotty precipitation throughout the season caused some yields to be rated as below normal.

Precipitation over the last week has helped to green up the **winter wheat** crop around the state. The moisture has also helped in **fall tillage** operations. Completion of fall tillage was rated at 46%, ahead of last year's 24% and the five-year average of 37% complete. Many farmers report that conditions are very good for fall soil preparation. With many producers ahead of schedule this season, farmers are turning to other fall activities. **Hay and roughage supplies** for the end of the season were rated as 36% short, 59% adequate, and 5% surplus. Producers are stacking corn and soybean fodder to be used as bedding and to supplement feed supplies.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 31, 2003					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	16	38	35	11	0



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 2, 2003

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 for grain harvested	64	75	44	73	79	68	82	64	61	70	47	66
Soybeans harvested	93	97	86	96	97	94	98	96	99	96	77	89
Fall tillage completed	43	63	47	35	69	65	30	43	38	46	24	37

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-A.B.: Winter wheat planting is completed. 80 percent has emerged. Corn yields are highly variable, but look to be in the range of 80 to 140 bushels per acre. County average should be around 120 bushels per acre. Soybean yields are poor. I expect average to be about 20 bushels per acre for the county. Hay supplies are very short, but western hay is moving in to the area for, what appears to be, normal seasonal values for western hay.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn and soybean harvest is nearing completion. Fall tillage is progressing due to early harvest in many drier areas. Forage supply is low in some areas of county.

RUSK-G.P.: Soybean harvest is done; overall, averages are around 30 bushels per acre. Corn harvest continues between showers. High moisture continues, but the cold, damp weather has slowed dry-down harvest. Tillage conditions are improving with the light rains.

SHAWANO-T.A.: All in all, a pretty good year. Good yields this year. Tremendous headway bringing in the crop this past week.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Corn moisture is running 18 to 22 percent. Starting to see fall tillage going on.

DUNN-S.S.: Corn and soybeans yields vary so much—depends on who got the rains at the right time. All in all, believe in most cases, yields were better than expected. Winter wheat is up, where planted. Hay seems to be what is going to be the big shortage for most.

PEPIN-H.R.: Soybeans are down in yields on all types of soil. On sandy soils, soybeans yield 5 to 10 bushels per acre and on heavy soils, yields are 20 to 55 bushels per acre. Corn also has yields similar to soybeans, 10 bushels per acre to over 200-plus on the heavy soil. We had corn hit 260 bushels per acre on the combine monitor. Lots of fall tillage is done. Stalks baled and fourth crop alfalfa is done.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Fall grains look good. Fall tillage is going along well.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Corn is being combined at full tilt. Yields are about average. We had good rains in early August that kept crops growing.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Soybeans are yielding in the 25 to 30 bushels per acre range. Corn is surprising folks with yields running from slightly below average to better than average.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Soybean yields were poor, most in the 20-bushel-per-acre range yields. Corn is very surprising, as the yields are very good at 100 to 150 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is all planted and very slow at emerging in the dry soils. Early wheat looks good. Fall tillage is getting done as soon as soybeans and corn are harvested.

GRANT-L.F.: Yields in soybeans was the most noticeable at 16 to 25 bushels per acre. There were a few reports in the 40-bushels-per-acre range. Corn yields are spotty depending on soil and rains in the area. Corn yields are 35 to 200 bushels per acre on sandy soil. Winter wheat is coming up and also some rye sown as cover crop, looks green. Fall tillage slow due to dry weather.

Lots of corn fodder being cut and baled for bedding and also feed. Some pasturing fourth alfalfa crop because too short to harvest.

GREEN-F.Z.: Farming is progressing normally, maybe a littler faster than normal due to the drier fall. Some crops as good as ever, and some crops are below normal.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: About an 1.0 inch of rain in the past week. Still need more to replenish soil moisture. Soybeans are done. Corn harvest is progressing rapidly. New and old seeds look good. Winter wheat is coming nicely.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Corn is yielding 70 to 100 bushels per acre and averages run 120 to 130 bushels. Soybean average is 38 bushels per acre. Wheat grows well with the rain and has been all planted. Spraying is going on and also plowing.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Corn average is 60 bushels per acre, and soybeans average 15 bushels per acre. Buying hay is tough this year.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 2, 2003

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. 1	Mar. 1 to Nov. 1 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	42	31	48	25	37	-4	2902	2574	0.26	3.42	-2.58	21.25
Green Bay	48	36	55	32	42	0	2488	2433	0.81	5.10	-0.26	26.24
La Crosse	46	34	57	26	40	-4	3200	2923	0.15	3.17	-2.49	20.03
Madison	50	37	65	31	43	-1	2834	2884	0.24	5.98	0.65	22.45
Milwaukee	53	40	66	35	46	0	2679	n.a.	0.41	3.46	-2.40	16.67

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.