



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

November 17, 2003

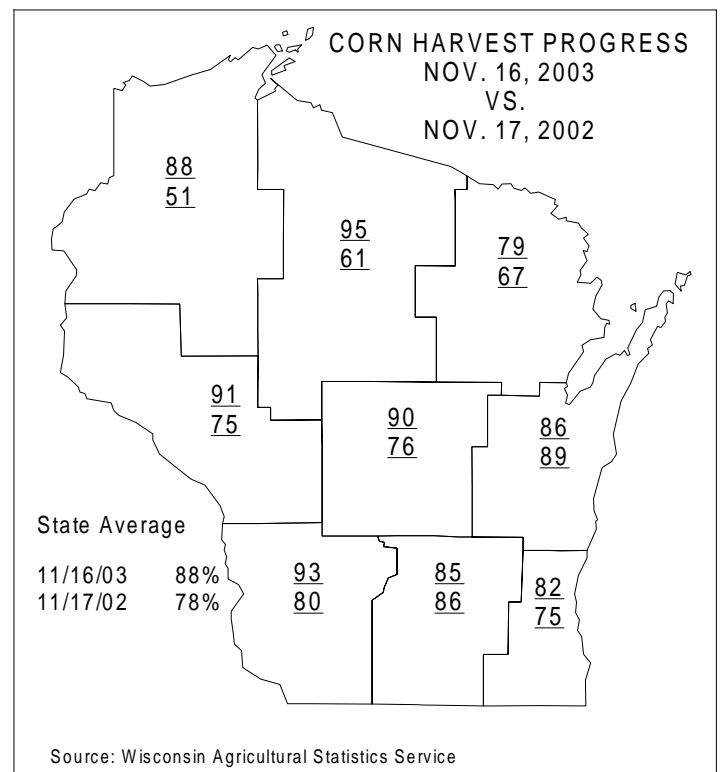
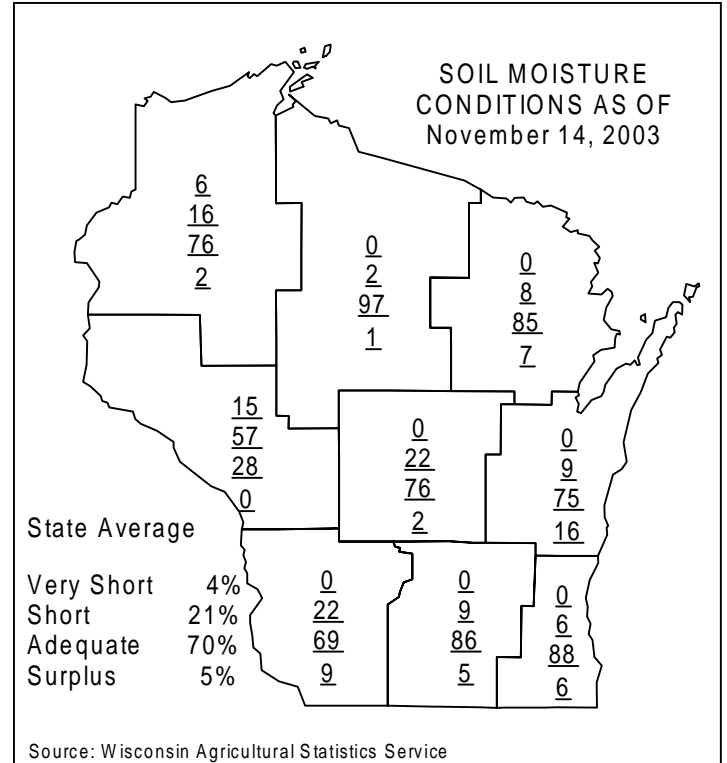
Vol. 03, No. 33

Good Week For Harvest

Wisconsin experienced near normal temperatures and light precipitation last week. That combination helped bring corn harvest nearer to completion and allowed fall tillage to advance. Scattered rains and light snow slowed progress in the middle of the week, but most farmers were able to get back into the fields fairly quickly. There was an average of 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Topsoil moisture ratings averaged 4% very short, 21% short, 70% adequate, and 5% surplus. The rains last week helped rejuvenate low moisture ratings, but many areas of the state could still use more moisture to recharge the ground before winter sets in. Reporters also commented that heavier than normal snows this winter would be welcomed to improve soil moisture levels in the spring.

Corn harvest advanced to 88% complete. This is ahead of both last year's 75% and the 5-year average of 87%. Some farmers are still waiting for corn moisture levels to drop, but many with corn left stated that fields will have to be harvested soon, at any moisture level. High winds early in the week increased lodging problems in some areas. Reports in Columbia and Dane counties indicated the winds broke off quite a few stalks. Yield reports remain highly variable. The theme remains, better than we thought earlier in the year, but, overall, yields are slightly below average.

Fields freezing over night and thawing during the day made **fall tillage** a challenge in some areas. However, many farmers were able to continue with fall operations. Heavy stalk cover has kept the ground warm in some areas. Tillage completed for the fall reached 64%, well ahead of both last year's 43% and the 5-year average of 60%. Producers continue with stacking of soybean and corn fodder to add to short forage and bedding supplies in some areas. Other late season activities include moving hay bales and manure application. Winter wheat stands seem to be progressing nicely in most areas.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 16, 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	88	95	79	91	90	86	93	85	82	88	75	87
Fall tillage completed	73	76	70	56	75	74	54	57	56	64	43	60

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Ground was frozen; 1.0 to 2.0 inches deep on bare ground, slowing fall tillage. Corn yields vary from 70 to 130 bushels per acre. The drought did not reduce yields as much with corn as it did with soybeans.

POLK-C.S.: Corn yields are about 20 percent less than last year. Winter wheat looks alright. Fall tillage is done for the year, ground is hard.

RUSK-G.P.: Corn harvest is winding down. Rain and snow the middle of the week slowed progress, but the good weekend forecast should get everybody back out in the fields. Expect a big push this last week, as farmers like to have their fieldwork done.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Early-planted corn is yielding well. Late-planted yields are low, with short cobs and stalks with no ears. Soybean yields are from 10 to 30 bushels per acre. Seeds are small. All hay crops had yields below normal. Oat and barley yields were near normal. 2003, overall, has not been a good year for farming. Hay supplies are below normal.

SHAWANO-B.R.: High yielding cornfields have posed a tillage problem for some farmers. Some of the yields are around 200 bushels per acre and this makes for a lot of stalks to contend with for both conventional and chisel plows. Some fields are also very wet in the area.

DUNN-S.S.: Corn yields really varying, but better than what most expected; 60 to 200 bushels per acre. Most winter wheat is planted that is going to be planted. Soybean harvest is completed with yields below average; 20 to 40 bushels per acre. Fall tillage has been in full swing. Hay continues to be short.

MONROE-W.D.: The unexpected snow on Wednesday has put a halt to harvest. There are soybeans and quite a lot of corn to combine yet. Most hope the wind, snow, and cold are not signs of things to come.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Ground was frozen hard 3.0 inches of frost in some places. Last weekend made chisel plowing difficult. Last of the corn is coming out of the fields. Winter wheat looks very good.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn yield was good; 100 to 160 bushels per acre. Fall tillage has gone well, but too wet now. Winter wheat is off to a good start. The 2003 growing season was not good due to very dry conditions in summer.

KEWAUNEE-J.B.: Rain and wet fields have stopped combining and fieldwork.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Corn yields were around 140 bushels per acre. Most winter wheat is up. Nice plowing and some chisel plowing done. The 2003 growing year was very good. A little short on first and second crop of hay, but third crop alfalfa was the best. Very little fourth crop alfalfa was cut.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn is yielding 100 to 200 bushels per acre where moisture was more plentiful. Sandy soil was 5 to 35 bushels per acre, most was chopped for silage. Winter wheat is up and green. Fall tillage stopped for a few days also. Corn harvest slowed down also, still more to harvest. As a whole, the growing season was not that bad; drier than normal.

DANE-D.F.: Most corn yields appear to be between 140 to 150 bushels per acre, although limited areas are reporting 100 to 120 bushels per acre. Others are reporting 190 to 200 bushels per acre. Some areas are reporting fall tillage becoming difficult with soil being a little too wet.

DODGE-L.P.: The corn yield was all over. Wheat is looking fair. Plowing is going slow.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: A few farmers are hard at combining corn with moisture at 18 to 22 percent moisture. Wheat is doing well. Plowing, deep tillage, manure spreading, stalk chopping for round bales is all going on. 2003 has been yet another challenging year. Despite continued dry conditions, there have been some pleasant surprises. Hay quantities will be short this year. Soybean yields are definitely down. On the bright side, corn is yielding above normal with low moistures, and wheat yields are well above normal.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Winter wheat looks very good with the last rains. Fall tillage is about 55 percent done.



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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 November 16, 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	44	26	56	8	35	1	2902	2574	0.11	3.87	-3.16	21.70
Green Bay	45	27	53	13	36	0	2488	2433	0.21	6.83	0.39	27.97
La Crosse	46	30	59	14	38	1	3200	2923	0.27	4.49	-2.11	21.35
Madison	47	28	55	13	37	0	2834	2884	0.03	11.01	4.58	27.48
Milwaukee	48	31	59	19	40	0	2679	n.a.	0.03	5.77	-1.35	18.98

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.