



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Corn and Soybean Harvest Starts

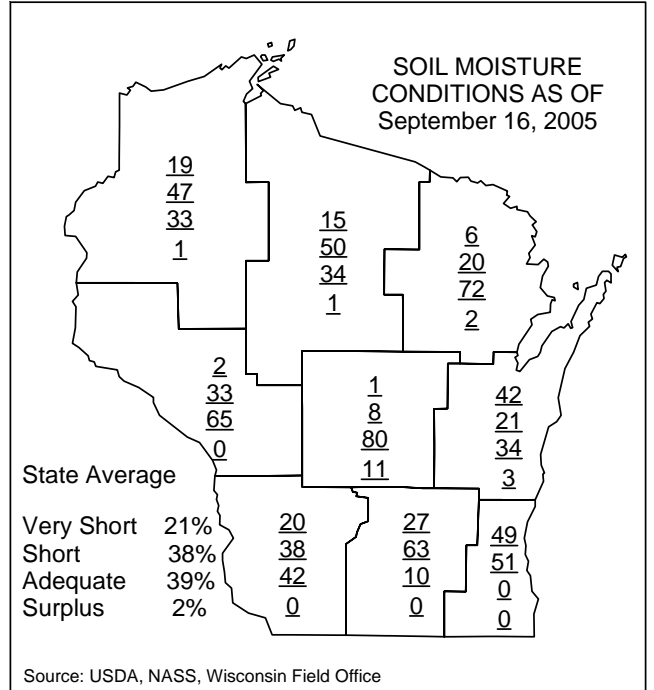
The trend of above average temperatures and rapidly maturing crops continued. These conditions allowed some farmers to begin harvesting corn and soybeans. Rainfall last week ranged from 0.01 in Madison to 3.15 inches in La Crosse. Average temperatures were 6 to 8 degrees above normal. Low temperatures were in the high 40s, while highs rose to the low 90s. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 21 percent very short, 38 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn conditions were reported as 6 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Corn dent was reported at 91 percent, higher than last year's 42 percent, and the 5-year average of 67 percent. Corn mature was at 46 percent, above last year's 4 percent and the 5-year average of 18 percent. Corn harvested for silage was at 66 percent, higher than last year's 12 percent and the 5-year average of 29 percent. A significant amount of corn silage was harvested last week as farmers tried to stay ahead of the rapidly drying crop. Although most areas have experienced a dry growing season, most reporters are seeing average corn silage yields. Corn for grain harvest has begun in central and southern areas. At this point, reports on yields have varied within counties. Several reporters stated concerns about lodging due to the dry conditions.

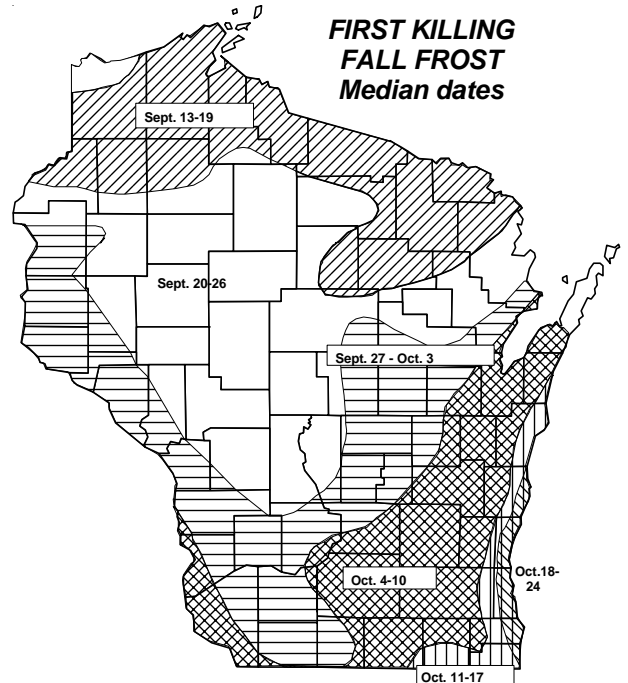
Soybean conditions were rated as 5 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Soybean leaves turning color was reported at 95 percent, ahead of last year's 52 percent, and the 5-year average of 71 percent. Soybeans dropping leaves was at 76 percent, compared to last year's 24 percent, and the 5-year average of 35 percent. Soybean harvest started during the week. Many reporters noticed that early maturing beans were very dry due to the warm temperatures. The dry summer has led to small seed size and lower yields on lighter soils.

Third cutting **hay** harvest was reported at 92 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year's 89 percent, and the 5-year average of 91 percent. Fourth cutting hay was at 32 percent complete, compared to last year's 21 percent and the 5-year average of 25 percent. Hay yields have been below average in most areas of the state. However, many growers have been pleased with hay quality. Fourth crop harvest has been progressing slowly. Some areas may not be harvested due to possibility of inadequate regrowth before winter.

Pasture conditions were rated at 19 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. **Apple, cranberry, and vegetable** harvests continued during the week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 16, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	6	17	33	32	12
Soybeans	5	12	30	42	11
Pasture	19	22	34	22	3



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 18, 2005

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 dent	94	76	83	85	87	86	93	98	98	91	42	67
Corn mature	35	20	17	35	48	48	36	62	56	46	4	18
Corn harvested for silage	57	57	52	56	51	70	77	79	83	66	12	29
Soybeans turning color	94	98	90	85	96	93	97	99	97	95	52	71
Soybeans dropping leaves	73	74	50	55	57	80	86	87	76	76	24	35
Third cutting hay	75	89	95	94	96	95	98	99	98	92	89	91
Fourth cutting hay	21	15	35	29	26	25	58	54	30	32	21	25

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-A.B.: Corn silage yields are generally below average with a wide range of yields. Lighter soils are hurt badly while deep soils with good moisture capacity have fared much better. Early crop insurance appraisals of harvested corn indicate a range of from 30-140 bushels per acre. Weed control strategy appears to have biggest impact, even over soil type. The post applied products, especially when applied a bit late, devastated yields. Weeds stole moisture and nutrients from the crop leaving no reserve when things got dry. Soybean harvest should begin this coming week. Seed size appears to be on the small side; dry weather is to blame.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Corn yields will be below normal due to smaller cobs. Soybeans have fewer pods and fewer beans per pod. Yields of hay are down with good quality. Weeds are taking over on harvested fields.

PRICE-M.K.: Corn silage harvest is underway with yield and quality fairly good considering the dry weather. Spotty rains during the week gave topsoil moisture a bit of help in some areas, but sub-soils are very dry quite a ways down.

OCONTO-K.H.: Corn and soybeans are both maturing. Some soybean fields are starting to drop leaves. Corn silage harvest is well underway. Feast or famine weather as far as rain continues. After a couple of inches of rain that relieved the drought somewhat the third week of August we went back to dry conditions. Two plus inches of rain at the beginning of this week brought relief again.

DUNN-J.F.: Soybeans on the drought stressed area of the county look to be in the 10-20 bushel per acre yield category. Pod set was good, but soybean fill was very poor. Corn, relative to soybeans, will be a better crop.

MONROE-M.Y.: We received 0.75 inch of rain this week. Silo filling is in full swing. Corn looks better than expected considering the dry weather we had.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Harvest of corn silage is underway. Sweet corn and snapbean harvest is finishing up.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Plenty of moisture now, just hope it does not get too wet for fall harvest. A lot of corn is being chopped for silage. Abundant crop of third crop and fourth crop alfalfa.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Corn and soybeans are filling out. Soybean leaves slowly drying up. Third and fourth crop hay are a failure; not much there.

GRANT-E.B.: The prospects for a good yield on corn and soybeans will be known in about three weeks when harvest gets underway.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Those who had great timing, looked to get 3-4 nice crops of alfalfa. Our corn silage ran about 29 tons per acre at 60-63 percent moisture. Have heard talk of 50-70 plus bushels per acre of soybeans. We combined about 50 acres of corn for feed (HMSC). The moisture was variable; from the teens up to about 40 percent. Field borders dropped below 200 in some places, but so far, our corn crop looks to average about 220 bushels per acre.

GREEN-M.M.: Corn is drying down very rapidly with moisture levels already in the upper teens in some fields. The window for high moisture corn harvest will be very small this year. Soybean harvest also started last week.

RACINE-L.F.: Some much-needed rain was received this week if winter wheat will be planted. Many farmers were not considering planting because of dryness.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Corn on lower fields will be 200 bushels-plus per acre. Corn on the higher fields will be lucky to break 80 bushels per acre. Soybeans are not far from harvest, with about 30 bushels per acre on the high ground and about 45 bushels per acre on the low ground.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 18, 2005

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 Sept. 17	Mar. 1 to Sept. 17 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	79	54	90	43	67	7	2756	2320	0.45	0.98	-1.41	19.41
Green Bay	80	54	90	44	67	8	2555	2182	1.05	1.43	-0.50	18.82
La Crosse	81	58	92	49	69	6	3036	2609	3.15	3.51	1.40	23.72
Madison	81	55	91	44	68	7	2861	2550	0.01	0.01	-0.99	17.63
Milwaukee	80	62	92	54	71	7	2783	n.a.	0.50	0.55	-1.48	16.52

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.