



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of  
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

October 11, 2005

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## Fall Harvest Continues

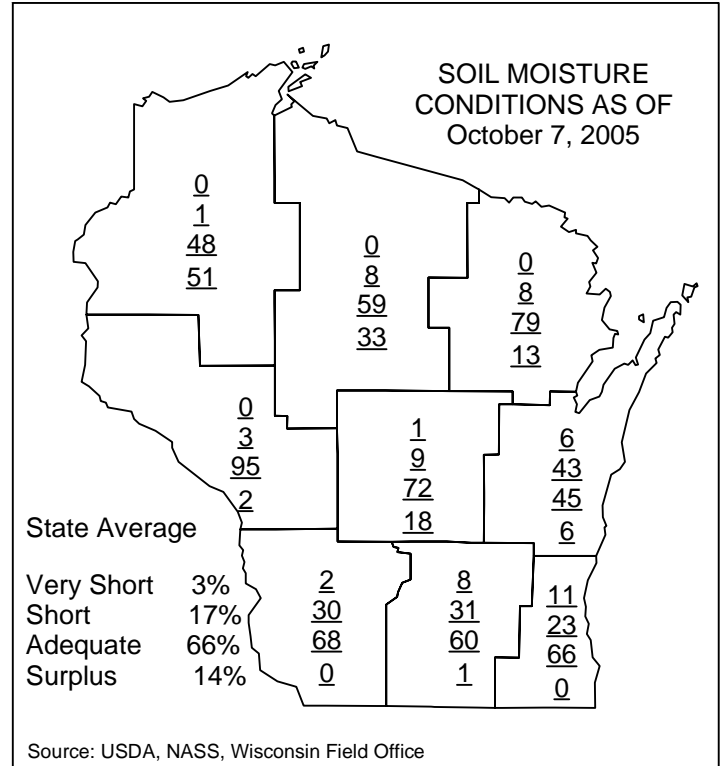
Most areas of the state saw little rainfall while corn and soybean harvest continued. The week started with high temperatures and humidity. Temperatures then turned much cooler by the end of the week. Heavy rains and frost hit the northwest corner of the state. There were reports of some areas receiving 8 to 12 inches during the week. Official rainfall totals last week ranged from 0.03 in La Crosse to 0.77 inches in Green Bay. Average temperatures were 6 to 9 degrees above normal. Low temperatures dipped to 29 in Eau Claire, while highs reached the 80s in most locations. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 3 percent very short, 17 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** conditions were reported as 4 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Corn mature was at 90 percent, above last year's 42 percent and the 5-year average of 71 percent. Corn harvested for silage was at 94 percent, higher than last year's 66 percent and the 5-year average of 79 percent. Corn harvested for grain was at 20 percent, above last year's 5 percent and the 5-year average of 11 percent. Most corn silage has been harvested with only a few water-logged fields left. Corn for grain harvest gained some momentum during the week as most areas saw little rain and warm temperatures for at least part of the week. Harvest progress is well ahead of last year's pace and the 5-year average. High moisture corn continued to be harvested during the week. Dry corn harvest started to increase in many southern and central counties. Harvest in northern parts of the state stopped about mid-week due to rain.

**Soybean** conditions were rated as 3 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Soybeans dropping leaves was at 98 percent, compared to last year's 80 percent and the 5-year average of 89 percent. Soybean harvest was reported at 48 percent, higher than last year's 26 percent and the 5-year average of 32 percent. Heavy rains in the northwest stopped most harvesting for the week. With the high humidity and rain, some reporters have noticed dry pods, but tough, green stems. This has given some growers concerns about shatter loss. Yield reports continue to vary, but most areas are expecting an average crop.

Fourth cutting **hay** was at 60 percent complete, compared to last year's 57 percent and the 5-year average of 57 percent. This cutting may be the best for many producers in the eastern part of the state. Overall, hay harvest has slowed, while some farmers are waiting for the first frost to get their last cutting. **Pasture** conditions were rated at 5 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

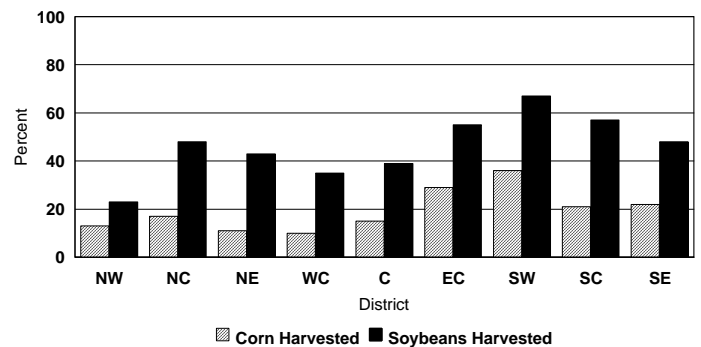
**Winter wheat** planting continued, as the recent rains have given the crop good emergence potential. **Cranberries** harvested during the week had good color and yields. There were reports of **apples and beets** being harvested during the week, along with the last of the canning **beans**.



| Wisconsin Crop Conditions<br>as of October 7, 2005 |         |      |      |      |           |
|--|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Item   | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Percent  |         |      |      |      |           |
| Corn   | 4       | 11   | 24   | 42   | 19        |
| Soybeans   | 3       | 10   | 31   | 40   | 16        |
| Pasture  | 5       | 19   | 42   | 27   | 7         |

## Percentage of Corn and Soybeans Harvested

By District, October 9, 2005



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 9, 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 mature                 | 88               | 71 | 90 | 85 | 98 | 89 | 99 | 94 | 94 | 90            | 42        | 71             |
| Corn harvested for silage   | 93               | 93 | 97 | 91 | 89 | 94 | 99 | 98 | 99 | 94            | 66        | 79             |
| Corn harvested for grain    | 13               | 17 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 29 | 36 | 21 | 22 | 20            | 5         | 11             |
| Soybeans dropping leaves    | 99               | 97 | 98 | 96 | 97 | 95 | 99 | 99 | 99 | 98            | 80        | 89             |
| Soybeans harvested          | 23               | 48 | 43 | 35 | 39 | 55 | 67 | 57 | 48 | 48            | 26        | 32             |
| Fourth cutting hay          | 55               | 46 | 61 | 50 | 65 | 51 | 85 | 65 | 60 | 60            | 57        | 57             |

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**WASHBURN-K.S.:** While last week's extremely high rainfall (6-10 inches) was a welcome relief to the local drought situations, it was too much, too late. Hay and winter wheat fields have responded and greened up nicely. We even saw some corn and soybeans not killed by the drought or frost green up too. As a result of the rain, some fields are water-logged and harvest may be delayed. The quality of the corn is quite variable. Some fields have very low test weights and low yields, while others are more normal. Soybean yields, in general, are below normal from previous years. Those that cut late season hay/alfalfa should see much better quality and quantity than earlier harvests.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Corn is yielding 200 bushels per acre, and soybeans are yielding 50-60 bushels per acre. Lots of feed.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** A number of fields in the area are now in excessive moisture. Combines are leaving ruts in both corn and soybean fields. Those few that have silage left to take off are confronted with difficulty in getting through the field. A few soybean harvest reports are coming in between 40-60 bushels per acre. High moisture corn harvest is at full speed now.

**MONROE-W.D.:** Some higher, lighter ground, earlier-planted soybeans are being harvested. Yields range from 20-70 bushels per acre. Waiting for corn to make high moisture and some silage to get done. No frost as of yet.

**ST. CROIX-K.P.:** Corn is very good to excellent with yields from 175-265 bushels per acre. Soybeans are also very good with 45-65 bushels per acre.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Had killing frost on Friday. Corn and soybean harvest is moving slowly.

**WINNEBAGO-R.H.:** Corn silage harvest is almost all done, as the corn dried very fast. Soybeans are being combined when weather permits. Fourth crop alfalfa is being harvested, not the quantity of the third crop. Quality is good. Sweet corn harvest is over for this year. Late-planted sweet corn has been good in this area.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Corn silage is very good, lots of corn in silage, which makes silage very high quality. Very high yields in early

harvest field of 100-day or early corn; yields around 200 bushel or much better. Some reporting 260 bushels reported on their combines. Soybean yields also very good, not as many soybeans harvested as of now. Most fourth crop hay is being made already, very nice yield.

**DANE-J.K.:** Corn silage harvest is about complete, except for some late-planted and after first crop hay. Quality and quantity was lower on late-planted corn, depending on which side of the county you farmed. Most corn for grain is much better than thought earlier, with exceptional yields in some fields. Some reports of 300 bushels, but most averaging about 150-180 bushels. Soybean and corn yields differ from field to field, according to location and rainfall. Not much hay being made now, but some may be made after first killing frost, which could be soon. There has been some corn stalks chopped for bedding and feed after corn taken off for high moisture and some grain. Winter wheat is all planted and up and growing after the recent rains, some fields are green. Some tillage being done, soil sowing and small amount of plowing.

**DODGE-G.R.:** Unusually warm weather at the beginning of the week allowed combining of soybeans to progress rapidly. Shelling corn for high moisture ensiling has begun. Most unusual this year is ears with husks dry and cobs dropping, while many plants are still quite green. Kernel moisture varies greatly across fields; a function of soil type and topography. No fourth crop alfalfa cut in our area as yet. Some fields of winter wheat has been planted.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** Winter wheat planting is done and most is up. Some fall tillage is done.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 9, 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 Oct. 8                          | Mar. 1 to Oct. 8 normal * | Last week     | Since Sept. 1 | Sept. 1 dep. from normal* | Year to date |
| Eau Claire | 67          | 50        | 84        | 29       | 59   | 7                     | 3022                                      | 2476                      | 0.75          | 4.62          | 0.27                      | 23.05        |
| Green Bay  | 71          | 51        | 86        | 36       | 61   | 9                     | 2828                                      | 2341                      | 0.77          | 3.85          | 0.19                      | 21.24        |
| La Crosse  | 70          | 53        | 88        | 34       | 61   | 6                     | 3343                                      | 2799                      | 0.03          | 6.95          | 2.96                      | 27.16        |
| Madison    | 71          | 51        | 87        | 34       | 61   | 7                     | 3159                                      | 2751                      | 0.17          | 2.12          | -1.53                     | 19.74        |
| Milwaukee  | 72          | 56        | 86        | 42       | 64   | 8                     | 3108                                      | n.a.                      | 0.0           | 4.17          | 0.24                      | 20.14        |

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.