



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

September 18, 2006

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Rain Slows Harvest

Rain across the state slowed harvest progress for fall crops, as farmers were having difficulty working in the wet fields. Temperatures ranged from 0 to 3 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures were in the high 60s to low 70s across the state. Lows averaged in the 50s for the week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.42 inches in Eau Claire to 2.00 inches in La Crosse. Soil moisture conditions were at 2 percent very short, 17 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 3.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

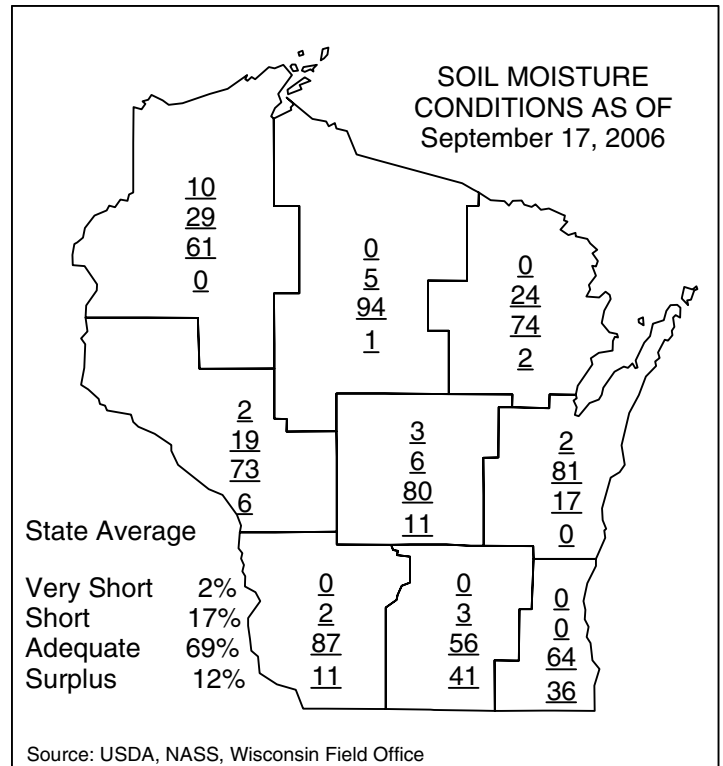
Corn in the dent stage was at 88 percent, behind last year's 89 percent, but well ahead of the 5-year average of 67 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn mature was at 21 percent, half of last year's 42 percent and close to the 5-year average of 20 percent. Corn silage harvested was at 39 percent, behind last year's 62 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 35 percent. Corn conditions were rated as 8 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Some farmers in the southern part of the state reported slower corn growth due to the rain. Corn combines were starting to roll in a few locations.

Soybean leaves turning color was at 75 percent, lower than last year's 94 percent, but higher than the 5-year average of 71 percent. Soybeans dropping leaves was at 33 percent, significantly below last year's 70 percent, but only slightly below the 5-year average of 38 percent. Soybean conditions were rated as 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Soybeans continue to mature at a good pace, especially in the northern parts of the state. A few reporters noted that soybean harvest had begun in their area.

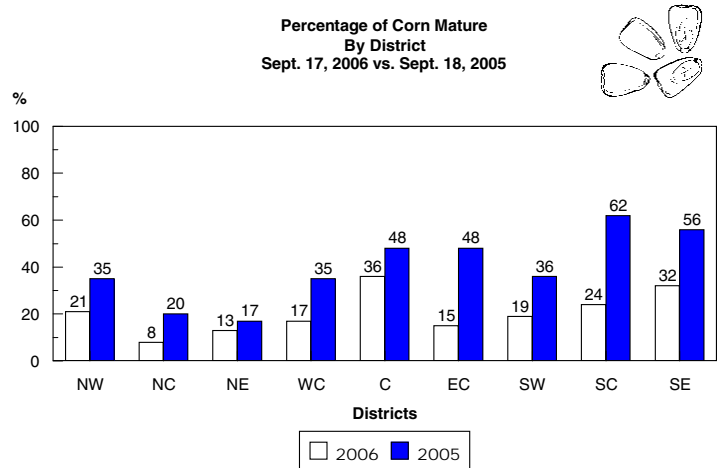
Third cutting **alfalfa** was at 96 percent complete, ahead of last year's 91 percent and the 5-year average of 89 percent. Fourth cutting alfalfa was at 34 percent complete, in front of last year's 30 percent and the 5-year average of 25 percent. Rains have helped the quality and quantity of both cuttings.

Pasture conditions were rated as 5 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Potato harvest continues to progress and looks good. Some **apple** growers reported excellent quality and yields.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 17, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	8	9	28	35	20
Soybeans	3	6	29	39	23
Pasture	5	9	30	45	11



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 17, 2006												
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	91	80	86	87	84	82	94	89	93	88	89	67
Corn mature	21	8	13	17	36	15	19	24	32	21	42	20
Corn harvested for silage	27	26	24	45	32	51	57	43	56	39	62	35
Soybeans turning color	88	87	77	69	78	66	80	74	75	75	94	71
Soybeans dropping leaves	53	48	30	31	31	48	35	33	27	33	70	38
Third cutting hay	97	98	97	98	90	85	97	99	99	96	91	89
Fourth cutting hay	39	42	48	35	28	12	45	34	16	34	30	25

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Corn silage harvest is going full tilt for those who are putting it in bunkers and bags. Third crop alfalfa cutting is about done, and some fourth crop hay is being cut.

BURNETT-R.B.: Still no rain. We have had some frost.

CLARK-N.S.: Farmers harvesting forage have switched to corn silage. Soybean plants look like they have a pretty good number of pods, but the plants are short.

TAYLOR-M.B.: Corn silage dry downs are coming in at about 65-70 percent moisture-we will be chopping very soon.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Corn silage is just starting with 70-75 percent moisture. Grain corn is at half milk line. Soybeans are turning.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Leaves are starting to drop off the soybeans. Corn for silage harvest will be in high gear as soon as the fields dry off. We received about 3.0 inches of rain this past week.

DUNN-S.S.: Corn silage is in full swing; lots of piles everywhere. Soybeans are maturing very fast. Third crop hay is quite good. Some fourth crop hay is being made. Hard to get dry with shorter days and cooler weather.

PEPIN-H.R.: Lots of corn is getting chopped for silage. Corn is turning yellow. Soybeans are really turning colors and dropping leaves. Hail also hurt many soybeans by knocking off pods and stems. Hay is growing very good, but hard to dry. Lots of grasshoppers in the fields. Lots of potatoes are being dug.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Soybeans look much better than expected.

Corn silage yields are about 50 percent of normal on a county-wide average. The last crop of hay was very good.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Silage harvest, potato and apple harvest, and third crop haymaking are the major activities for this week.

WOOD-F.M.: Corn silage harvest progressing. Fourth crop hay hard to get dried. Soil moisture is good for forage regrowth and harvesting. Pastures are in good condition.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Finally some rain! We had 2.0 inches this week. Some wheat planted last weekend. Most corn silage harvesting is done for the year. Some soybeans and high moisture corn should be ready in ten days or so.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Rain came too late; corn stalks have no cobs. Soybeans are drying up due to hot and dry ground.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn and soybeans are very good, lots of dry husks are starting to show in corn fields. Corn has lots of kernels on cobs, but I think yields will be shorter than last year due to a short dry spell right when it was pollinating. Third and fourth crop alfalfa hay is great. Pastures have improved greatly over the weekend due to 4.5 inches of real nice rain. Not much work done the first of the week through Wednesday.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: Very little fieldwork this week. Lots of rain the last couple of weeks has really brought the pastures back, but put a real damper on hay and silage making.

DODGE-G.R.: Rain and dropping temperatures dominated the week. A good start has been made on the corn silage harvest. Crop is well-eared with lots of stalk. Moisture uneven across fields; hills and knolls are rather dry, while low areas are on the greener side. Fourth crop alfalfa regrowth is excellent. Soybean fields are turning rapidly, with some leaves dropping.

RACINE-L.F.: Excessive rains this week have put a stop to everything. Most will not start soybeans for another couple of weeks - worried about getting winter wheat planted in time.

WALWORTH-P.R.: August and September rains have slowed corn and soybean dry down. Generally, both look good; however, pod abortion during the hot part of the summer will keep soybean yields down somewhat. Fewer corn rootworms scouted during egg laying than the last couple of years. Fourth cutting of hay looks very good with good quantity and quality.



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This report has been 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 September 17, 2006

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. 16	Mar. 1 to Sept. 16 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	71	50	81	40	60	0	2831	2309	0.42	0.47	-1.76	19.74
Green Bay	67	50	78	41	59	-1	2437	2171	0.96	2.20	0.39	22.29
La Crosse	69	54	82	48	61	-3	2951	2596	2.00	2.68	0.68	24.47
Madison	67	52	79	45	60	-1	2637	2536	1.96	3.07	1.20	30.00
Milwaukee	68	59	75	53	64	0	2649	n.a.	1.80	2.52	0.60	27.96

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.