



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

September 29, 2008

Vol. 08, No. 25

## Fall Begins With Above Average Temperatures

Temperatures were up last week, ranging from 7 to 9 degrees above normal around the state. The average high temperatures ranged from 82 to 84 degrees. Average low temperatures ranged from 51 to 59 degrees. The warmer weather helped corn and soybeans to mature. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Green Bay and Milwaukee to 1.25 inches in LaCrosse. Soil moisture conditions were rated at 14 percent very short, 41 percent short, 44 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

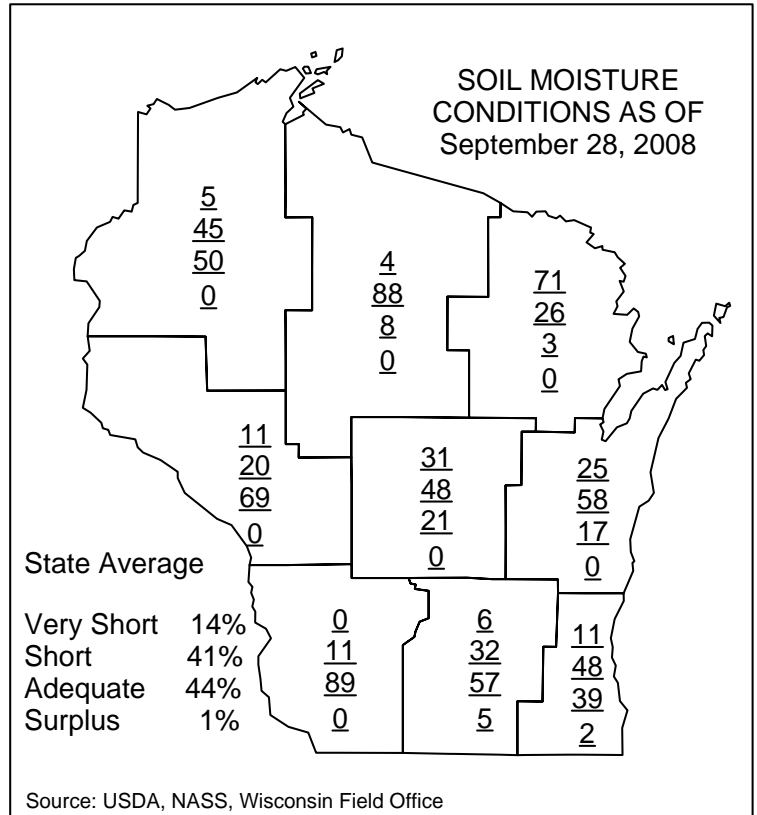
**Corn** in the dent stage was 84 percent complete, below both last year's 100 percent and the five-year average of 91 percent complete. Thirty-six percent of the corn crop was reported as mature, below both last year's 70 percent and the five-year average of 54 percent. Combining was reported to be just starting in a few areas, with corn harvested for grain 2 percent complete. Corn harvested for **silage** was in full swing with 58 percent complete, an increase of 24 percentage points from the previous week. Early corn yields are reported as being variable, with some reports of lower yields due to the dry weather.

**Soybeans** turning color increased to 95 percent complete. This is below last year's 100 percent but equal to the five-year average. Soybeans dropping leaves jumped 32 percentage points to 79 percent complete, below last year's 86 percent, but slightly above the five-year average of 76 percent. Soybean harvest is starting up in some areas of the state, with 5 percent harvested. Variability in many soybean fields has led to some uncertainty on expected yields.

Fourth cutting **alfalfa** was reported as 52 percent complete, slightly below last year's 55 percent, but above the five-year average of 46 percent complete. Rain in some parts of the state, combined with the warm weather helped to improve **pasture** conditions. Pasture conditions were reported as 8 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 24 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**Winter wheat** was being planted across the state, and other fall field work continued as well.

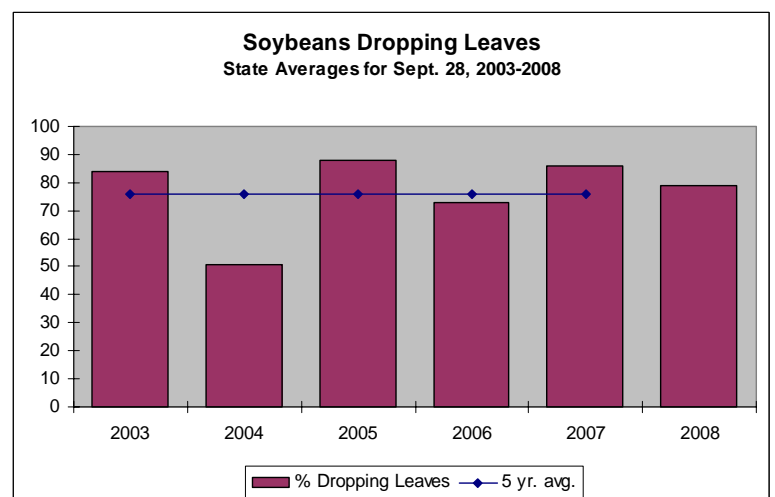
**Potato** harvest continued, with reports of good yields. Dry conditions have benefitted **squash** and **pumpkin** harvests.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 28, 2008

| Item    | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
|         | Percent |      |      |      |           |
| Corn    | 7       | 12   | 34   | 38   | 9         |
| Soybean | 9       | 14   | 28   | 42   | 7         |
| Pasture | 8       | 21   | 45   | 24   | 2         |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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| 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                   | 85               | 72 | 90  | 85 | 91 | 75 | 97  | 84 | 77 | 84            | 100       | 91             |
| Corn mature                 | 40               | 13 | 29  | 43 | 57 | 23 | 17  | 49 | 36 | 36            | 70        | 54             |
| Corn harvested for silage   | 51               | 20 | 88  | 62 | 74 | 53 | 84  | 64 | 56 | 58            | 88        | 73             |
| Soybeans turning color      | 97               | 97 | 100 | 91 | 97 | 88 | 100 | 96 | 96 | 95            | 100       | 95             |
| Soybeans dropping leaves    | 76               | 81 | 85  | 70 | 72 | 72 | 96  | 84 | 76 | 79            | 86        | 76             |
| Soybeans harvested          | 1                | 0  | 7   | 7  | 1  | 6  | 0   | 7  | 0  | 5             | 10        | 9              |
| Fourth cutting hay          | 45               | 38 | 70  | 57 | 57 | 52 | 82  | 57 | 26 | 52            | 55        | 46             |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**RUSK-G.P.:** Another week without frost has really helped the corn. Looks like a lot of the corn will reach maturity. Corn silage is starting; quality and quantity are OK. Soybeans are really changing, harvest could start in a week to ten days. Rain this week has helped the hay. Winter wheat and alfalfa seeding are done and looking good. Fall fertilizer application is way down.

**CLARK-R.H.:** Corn & beans look good with another frost-free week. Much of the corn is maturing. Fourth cutting yield is lower with the dry weather. Wheat is being planted in some fields. Fall seeded alfalfa needs some moisture to build root reserves. Fall manure hauling will follow corn silage harvest & then fall tillage. A few fields of prevented planting is going into winter wheat. Corn silage yields are good, except where there was weed pressure or drought conditions.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Soybeans are starting to come off with disappointing yields as the dry weather has really taken a toll on them. Moisture of the beans dropped fast to 10-12% on many, with 20-35 bushel yields being reported so far. Corn seems to have fared better and high moisture corn harvest will probably start this coming week. The summer seeded alfalfa fields still haven't fully germinated yet and will not be good going into winter.

**LACROSSE-S.H.:** Corn silage continues to come off. Some farms are hauling manure onto those fields that have had silage taken off from them. Corn for grain and soybeans continue to mature. Some rain would be beneficial.

**WAUPACA-D.H.:** Corn and soybeans are maturing rapidly with the warmer weather. Hay crop is short due to the prolonged dry spell. Corn silage harvest is in full swing.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** This week saw the beginning of the soybean harvest. It's hard to believe that beans could be harvested in September, but with the kind of weather that was experienced this summer (namely the dry weather), this wasn't all that unusual. Moisture levels in the beans at a few selected sites were in the 12% to 14% range. The soybeans really changed in the last few weeks. It did not take long for them to drop their leaves and mature. Once the sun comes out later this week, the harvest will really pick up. Corn silage harvest is continuing and in some areas, beginning to wind down. For the most part, the silage produced should be of good

quality. However, the quantity of silage will be down. The corn did not grow as tall as in previous years due to the dry weather. The rest of the corn is maturing, but it will still be a few weeks before any of that is taken off for either high moisture or for drying. Winter wheat planting is continuing, with more than a few producers trying to beat the September 30 crop insurance final planting date. Some of the wheat planted earlier has already shown signs of emerging. Not too many producers are making any kind of hay right now. Most everyone has enough hay to get them into next year. In this area, the hay has not been growing due to the dry weather, so any alfalfa that has been cut will not yield well at all. Apple picking is in full swing right now. This year should see a bumper crop, with many trees loaded.

**GRANT-G.C.:** Week very busy putting up corn silage. Bean combines will probably start very soon. Most corn safe from frost damage, but needs to dry down more.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** Soybean harvesting is started. Silo or bunker filling is progressing rapidly. Rain is a rare commodity around here. Could use more.

**DANE-J.K.:** Corn and soybeans continue to progress well with the excellent weather. Yields and quality are down as expected, but very variable from field to field. Fourth crop alfalfa was average in quality and yield. Winter wheat planting starting in full force now, conditions very good. Fall field work being done on the silage ground. Some liquid manure is going on fields again. Silage yields are down due to wet spots and drought.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Corn silage was thirteen tons per acre. Beans are fair. Corn looks fair. Planting winter wheat.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 28, 2008

| 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. 27                        | Mar. 1 to Sept. 27 normal * | Last week     | Since Sept. 1 | Sept. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 77          | 54        | 82        | 44       | 66   | 9                       | 2464                                      | 2416                        | 0.45          | 1.64          | -1.84                      | 25.70        | -1.07                   |
| Green Bay  | 78          | 51        | 84        | 42       | 64   | 8                       | 2492                                      | 2282                        | 0.00          | 1.76          | -1.07                      | 24.46        | 1.39                    |
| La Crosse  | 80          | 56        | 83        | 48       | 68   | 8                       | 2766                                      | 2722                        | 1.25          | 1.63          | -1.50                      | 30.82        | 4.26                    |
| Madison    | 80          | 54        | 82        | 47       | 67   | 9                       | 2656                                      | 2676                        | 0.09          | 2.87          | 0.00                       | 39.14        | 12.52                   |
| Milwaukee  | 75          | 59        | 82        | 54       | 67   | 7                       | 2596                                      | n.a.                        | 0.00          | 4.93          | 1.91                       | 37.13        | 10.03                   |

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.