

Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

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November 10, 2008

Growers Still Waiting for Corn to Dry Down

Many areas of Wisconsin are finished harvesting soybeans, while corn for grain harvest is still underway. Yields vary across the state depending on the amount of rain received throughout the season. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.33 inches in Milwaukee to 0.77 inches in Eau Claire. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 4 percent very short, 21 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus.

Average high temperatures ranged from 58 to 62 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 40 to 46 degrees. There was an average of 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn harvested for grain was at 58 percent complete with conditions reported at 6 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Harvest was slow in some areas due to rain and snow. High moisture corn harvest was progressing on many farms. Some moisture issues were causing farmers to have to pay high drying costs. Stalks were being baled or cut for bedding.

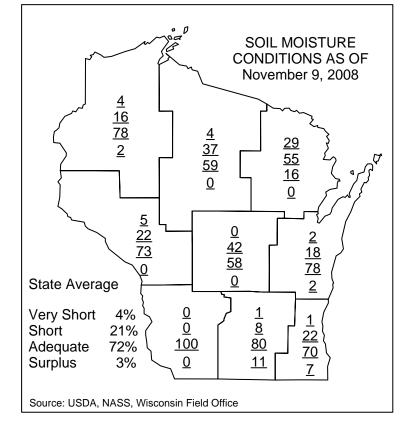
Soybean harvest wrapped up this past week with 98 percent completion reported.

Winter wheat has had a good start and looks good.

Fall tillage was 43 percent complete. The late, dry fall has allowed more plowing and disking to be done. Manure trucks were moving steadily, with hauling drawing to a close.

Pasture conditions were reported at 7 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

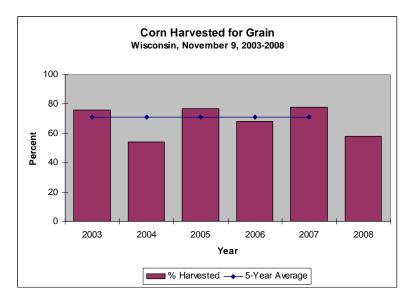
Some **apple** quality in the western part of the state was harmed by hail in early summer. **Rye** was looking good.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions

as of November 9, 2008											
Item	Vpoor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent						
	Percent										
Corn	6	11	26	44	13						
Pasture	7	15	46	30	2						

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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Crop and percent		District average									State average		
of acreage		NC	NE	WC	С	EC	SW	SC	SE	This	Last	5-year	
of acroage	NW									year	year	average	
Corn harvested for grain	40	53	69	54	56	73	54	59	53	58	78	71	
Soybeans harvested	96	100	98	99	94	95	100	98	100	98	93	92	
Fall tillage complete	25	68	54	26	68	66	47	33	38	43	48	48	

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn harvest has slowed down due to rain and snow after two weeks of great harvesting weather. Yields are ranging from 100 to 200 bushels per acre. Apple yields were good although quality was hampered by hail earlier this summer.

CLARK-R.H.: It appears soybeans are done. High moisture corn is going in on many farms. Some moisture issues are pushing for harvesting corn for the dryer. Even some needed moisture yesterday did not slow down fall tillage. The winter wheat and rye crops are looking good, have had some nice growth with recent showers to allow plants to be ready for freeze up. **PRICE-M.K.:** Unseasonably warm and dry weather through most of the week allowed further fall tillage and corn harvesting operations to proceed easily. The late, dry fall allowed more plowing and disking to be done than normal.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Soybean harvest is almost finished. I have only seen one field still standing in our area. Corn harvest is in full swing and steam is drifting out of every grain drying system in the area. This year's growing season started out snowy, cold and wet and after waiting to get crops in, planting happened in a hurry. After a promising early growing season, it turned extremely dry and stayed that way past the point of recovery for soybeans. The weather also hurt late cutting hay yields. The early cuttings of hay were tremendous and helped replenish depleted hay stocks after last year's drought. The small grain yields were very good, taking advantage of favorable early season growing conditions.

LACROSSE-S.H.: Soybean harvest for the majority is complete with plenty of corn still to harvest. Some fall fieldwork has been completed.

MONROE-W.D.: This past week was perfect for finishing up late-planted soybeans. Throughout the harvest, soybeans have been running from 15 to 45 bushels per acre. High moisture corn is about done. A few hayfields have been sprayed.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Soybean harvest is nearing completion. Corn is one third harvested off the field. Corn moisture is in the high teens and low 20's. Some irrigated corn is yielding over 200 bushels per acre. Dry land corn is doing better than earlier anticipated. Soybean yields were disappointing.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Corn and soybean harvest is going very well due to good harvesting conditions. Fall tillage is going well. Wheat has had a good start.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Fall tillage is going well with the ground breaking apart nicely now. Corn harvest is slow with not much combined yet.

GRANT-R.R.: With the continued wet weather, it is difficult to get the fall harvesting done. The corn is still wetter than normal for this time of the year, and it is slow in drying down.

DANE-C.B.: Corn harvest has slowed down due to cold, wet conditions. Corn moisture is ranging 12 to 22 percent in the same field with yields of 80 to 180 bushels per acre. It is what everyone expected, but we hoped not to see this much variability. This coming week looks good to get fall tillage done.

DODGE-G.R.: It has been unseasonably warm during the first half of this week. It has facilitated harvest of corn and fourth crop alfalfa. Soybeans are virtually finished. High moisture corn is nearing completion and some loads of corn are going to storage.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Chopped fifth cutting of hay on Wednesday. Corn harvest is in full swing with moistures between 18 to 22 percent.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: We are done around here.



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Director Statistician 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 9, 2008

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/							
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Nov. 8	Mar. 1 to Nov. 8 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *	
Eau Claire	60	41	74	30	51	13	2690	2587	0.77	4.10	-2.40	28.16	-1.48	
Green Bay	58	40	74	30	49	10	2698	2446	0.48	4.02	-1.89	26.72	0.53	
La Crosse	62	45	75	33	54	13	3059	2937	0.54	3.78	-2.31	32.97	3.27	
Madison	61	45	72	34	53	12	2903	2903	0.34	4.77	-1.11	41.04	11.52	
Milwaukee	61	46	73	35	54	11	2855	n.a.	0.33	7.08	0.59	39.28	8.60	

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.