



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

October 3, 2005

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## Rain Slows Harvest

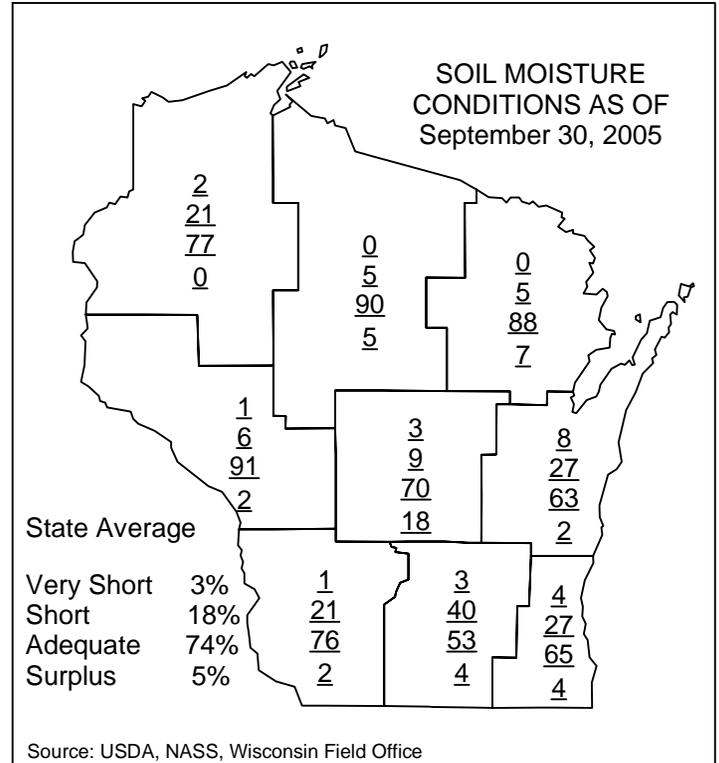
Rain across most of the state slowed corn and soybean harvesting activity during the week. However, given that most areas are still behind their yearly average precipitation, the rain was well received. Rainfall last week ranged from 1.03 in Madison to 2.77 inches in La Crosse. Average temperatures were 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Low temperatures were in the 30s to 40s, while highs reached the 80s. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 3 percent very short, 18 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. There was an average of 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** conditions were reported as 6 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Corn mature was at 80 percent, above last year's 25 percent and the 5-year average of 55 percent. Corn harvested for silage was at 90 percent, higher than last year's 42 percent and the 5-year average of 63 percent. Corn harvested for grain was at 10 percent, above last year's 1 percent and the 5-year average of 5 percent. Corn silage harvest is nearing completion in most areas. Many farmers are finishing up silage harvest with late-planted corn that lacked good ear fill. Rains during the week slowed the harvesting of corn for grain. High moisture corn is starting to fill silos. Several reports have stated that producers are waiting for corn to dry in the fields because they do not want to pay the energy costs for grain drying. Reports on yields varied depending upon location and soils. Several reporters stated that the fields with good soil were yielding better than expected.

**Soybean** conditions were rated as 4 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Soybeans dropping leaves was at 93 percent, compared to last year's 59 percent and the 5-year average of 77 percent. Soybean harvest was reported at 23 percent, higher than last year's 8 percent and the 5-year average of 13 percent. Many acres of soybeans in the state are ready for harvest. However, last week's rain slowed any type of significant harvest progress. Several reports from the southern part of the state stated that yields were higher than expected, given this year's weather.

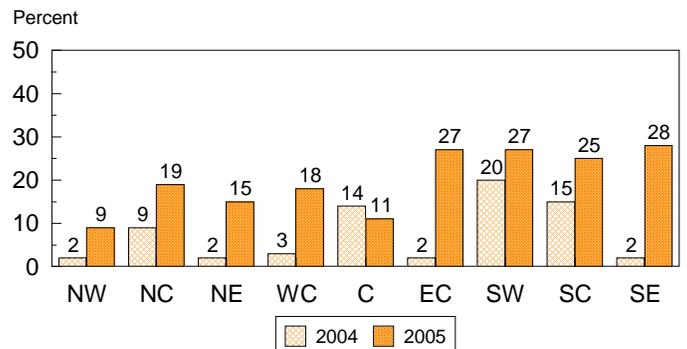
Fourth cutting **hay** was at 54 percent complete, compared to last year's 45 percent and the 5-year average of 46 percent. **Pasture** conditions were rated at 6 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

**Winter wheat** planting continued, as the recent rains have given the crop good emergence potential. **Potato** harvest is moving closer to completion. **Cranberry** harvest in the central area of the state is just getting started with an expected good crop. There were reports of **apple** harvest continuing during the week.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	6	12	25	38	19
Soybeans	4	9	27	42	18
Pasture	6	23	36	30	5

## Soybean Harvest in Wisconsin By District, Oct. 3, 2004 vs. Oct. 2, 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	74	64	71	74	84	77	89	86	91	80	25	55
Corn harvested for silage	88	90	85	84	81	92	98	96	99	90	42	63
Corn harvested for grain	6	10	4	5	8	10	19	11	20	10	1	5
Soybeans dropping leaves	98	95	95	85	93	92	98	95	99	93	59	77
Soybeans harvested	9	19	15	18	11	27	27	25	28	23	8	13
Fourth cutting hay	48	43	60	48	55	49	70	60	57	54	45	46

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

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** Corn is being chopped for silage and has good quality and lots of it. Most silos are filled up with hay and corn silage.

**BURNETT-R.B.:** Lots of poor corn being put into silos. There was no corn for grain harvested because we had a hard frost. Some fall plowing was done.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** Yields of corn for grain are down due to small cobs. Soybeans have fewer pods and less beans per pod. Corn silage harvest is going well with less tons per acre. Winter wheat and rye is being planted. Recent rains have ended the drought.

**MARATHON-M.K.:** Cutting fourth crop hay; which is very nice. We have a big crop of corn for silage.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** A little high moisture corn is starting to come off the fields. Some soybeans are ready; but the rains have delayed combining. Fourth crop hay is the best we have seen in years-most of it lodged across the entire field. Plenty of moisture for fall tillage, some of the places have excess moisture.

**DUNN-S.S.:** Corn drying down; really looks good in the fields. Look for later harvesting, as most farmers are letting it dry, when possible, in the fields due to high price fuel. The drier corn and soybeans will be harvested earlier. Fourth crop hay was very short. There is very little planting of winter wheat as of yet. Have not heard any yields on soybeans.

**LA CROSSE-S.H.:** We are still waiting for some more dry down of corn for grain, although high moisture corn is being taken off. Not much soybean harvest as of yet, but with a nice week projected for next week, things may change.

**MARQUETTE-K.V.:** Wednesday night we had a light frost that will speed up soybean leaf drop. Short season corn varieties are testing at 20 to 25 percent moisture.

**WOOD-F.M.:** September rains have changed the drought. Central part of county had 8.5 inches of rain, which slowed harvesting. Reports of hay forage supplies are good. Corn and soybeans are ahead in drying down. Corn silage reported from 120 to 200 bushels per acre. Some soybeans have also been harvested.

**CALUMET-M.G.:** Soybean yields have been surprisingly good. Corn is drying down very fast.

**GRANT-E.B.:** We did high moisture corn this week. Moisture was 28 percent, and it yielded 192 dry bushels to the acre. Rye cover crop seeded on silage ground emerged in seven days.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** Saw two farmers cutting nice alfalfa this past week. Grain yields are much better than we expected. We finished soybeans this week averaging about 65 bushels per acre; much better than we had expected. Filled another silo with high moisture sweet corn this week. Moisture ranged from 21 to 27 percent. A twenty-five acre field averaged 238 bushels per acre. A combine operator reported a couple spots running 290-plus bushels per acre.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** The 3.0 inches of rain in the last two weeks has greened things up, but down below one foot, the soil is extremely dry yet. Corn and soybeans are ripening nicely. Harvest likely to start next week. Shelled corn and pellet stoves selling like hot cakes in this area.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** Corn and soybean yields have been surprising everyone. Soybeans are from 48 to 60-plus, corn from 150 to 220-plus. Corn drying rapidly, with most high moisture corn in silos already. Wheat planted Thursday is up already. Wheat acres appear to be up due to early soybean harvest. At this pace, all harvesting and fieldwork could be done by the end of October. Still need lots of rain before freeze up to rebuild subsoil moisture.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** Late-planted corn and sweet corn is chopped. Soybean harvest is at full speed. Yield 40 to 60 bushels per acre. Wheat is being planted. Need to spray for weeds. Some corn is combined with good yield, but in some fields, corn is flat.



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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 2, 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. 1	Mar. 1 to Oct. 1 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	70	47	82	36	58	3	2932	2426	1.82	4.05	0.23	22.48
Green Bay	69	48	79	39	58	4	2732	2293	1.28	3.30	0.13	20.69
La Crosse	71	50	80	38	60	2	3244	2740	2.77	7.25	3.77	27.46
Madison	70	48	81	38	59	3	3061	2688	1.03	2.73	-0.40	20.35
Milwaukee	70	50	79	43	60	1	2998	n.a.	2.56	4.24	0.85	20.21

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.