



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition

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Farmers Combat Wintry Weather

Conditions felt more like January than November this week, with temperatures running well below average, frigid wind chills, and intermittent snow showers statewide. Overnight lows dipped into the single digits across southern Wisconsin and were well below zero in northern portions of the state. Daytime highs were in the teens and 20s for most of the week, but rose into the 40s and 50s over the weekend. This warm front brought widespread rainfall, washing some frost out of the ground and melting snow cover but driving up grain and soil moistures. Producers worked long hours in difficult conditions to harvest corn and soybeans as quickly as possible. Snow-covered fields with unfrozen ground beneath meant clogged combines and heavy rutting for farmers in the northern districts. Across the center of the state, well-frozen soils helped harvest activities to progress even in areas where fields have been extremely wet. Variable frost depths in the southern districts meant some fields were too soft to support machinery. With grain moistures still high, reporters commented that driers were struggling to keep up with demand. Fall tillage was at a near standstill due to frost and snow; all remaining tillage will reportedly be prevented. Manure spreading continued wherever possible as dairies raced to empty manure pits for the winter.

There were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures were 13 to 16 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 23 to 29 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 9 to 16 degrees. Precipitation ranged from 0.00 inches in Eau Claire to 0.13 inches in Milwaukee. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

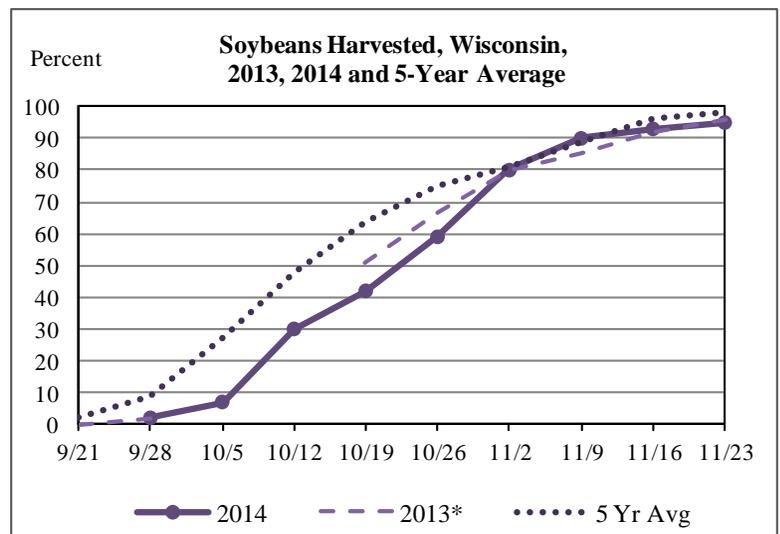
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

As of November 23, **corn** for grain was 73 percent harvested with grain moisture at harvest averaging 21 percent.

Ninety-five percent of **soybeans** had been harvested.

Winter wheat was 91 percent emerged. Winter wheat condition was rated 66 percent good to excellent.

Fall tillage was finished for the season due to frozen ground and weather conditions.



*Due to a lapse in federal funding in October 2013, the Crop Progress reports for the weeks ending October 6, 2013 and October 13, 2013 were cancelled. Therefore, previous year estimates for the corresponding weeks will not be available. Five-year average estimates will reflect the years 2009-2013 using published estimates for 2009-2012 and imputed estimates for 2013.

Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of November 23, 2014

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	0	4	30	53	13

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of November 23, 2014

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent									Percent			
Corn harvested for grain	67	60	46	71	61	52	85	92	71	73	64	81	86
Soybeans harvested	97	87	80	99	93	87	99	99	98	95	93	96	98
Winter Wheat emerged	82	96	95	80	93	90	94	98	84	91	84	n.a.	n.a.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of November 23, 2014

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	2.2	2.4	4.5	2.0	4.5	4.5	3.6	5.0	3.6	3.7	3.9	4.4
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	3
Short	3	0	0	6	0	2	4	8	6	3	5	12
Adequate	80	55	38	82	83	72	77	87	93	78	81	71
Surplus	17	45	62	12	17	26	18	3	0	19	14	14
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	9
Short	3	5	12	7	2	0	5	10	9	5	6	26
Adequate	80	54	43	85	75	75	94	87	89	81	82	58
Surplus	17	41	45	8	22	25	1	1	1	14	12	7

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Snow and cold have stopped corn harvest. Most farmers will wait for snow to fall off of corn plants to resume combining.

RUSK-G.P.: Winter in Wisconsin, 20 below on Thursday morning with what looked like permanent snow cover, to snow mostly gone and 40s on Sunday, to plummeting temps and snow back again. Corn slowly coming off and hopes of getting some of the last of the beans off. Wheat was covered, now uncovered so not sure what's going to happen with that.

ASHLAND-C.B.: Substantial snowfall throughout the area has halted most fieldwork.

PRICE-D.E.: Extremely cold weather this past week with several inches of snow delayed any harvesting. Despite the cold, the fields are muddy and wet.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Not much change from last week. Was very cold so no snow melted until this weekend when it got into the 40s. A few acres of corn were chopped but hauling down the road to the farm was difficult because of the icy roads. No frost in the ground so any melt we had is going right in. More snow predicted for early next week.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Corn growers are hustling to get the corn off and other field work done. This quickly came to an end when snow fell and the temperatures dipped. There is still some corn in the field and, unless the weather turns, it will be there in the spring.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Snow has melted off the corn so combining has started again.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn harvest progressed significantly with frozen ground that now allows equipment on the fields. Still some soybeans to be harvested! Moisture remains high due to rainy weather over the weekend. Wintry weather is forecast to return early in the week. Farmers are anxious to get crops out of the fields before more losses due to wind and snow damage.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: The cold temperatures of the past few weeks have stopped any tillage since the frost is so deep. Some corn and soybeans were harvested in the past week, but the intermittent snow that has been falling has slowed the progress. Over this past weekend, temperatures did warm, but the warmth was

accompanied by rain. A few more inches of snow is forecast and then back to the cold once again. The slow pace of this fall's harvest will continue, with some of the corn not coming off the field until late winter or next spring. The fall tillage may turn into spring tillage, which will really back up next year's growing season. The early onset of winter has also caused problems for those who need to empty their manure pits. Some hauling has been going on this week, but the manure has been spread on frozen ground. The rain that has fallen could carry some of this manure away, depending exactly where in a field the manure was applied and how much rain actually comes down. Some producers may be waiting to haul until some of the frost comes out of the ground so the manure can be incorporated right away, but the weather forecast does not look promising. The lessening of the frost will also help the tillage but it may be temporary, since colder temperatures will be returning soon.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: There is still approximately 25% of corn for grain needing to be harvested. With winter weather setting in, area farmers will need a hard freeze before completing the 2014 harvest season.

VERNON-K.L.: Below normal temps slowed all harvesting. Ground froze. Combines still trying to work on corn. Test weights running good.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: Frozen ground stopped all fall tillage this past week. Just a light dusting of snow slowed the corn harvest for a day. Corn moistures remain high as farmers harvest late planted corn fields. Little to no field drying occurred due to extremely cold air temperatures.

ROCK-C.O.: Frost is now at a point where fall tillage has stopped. Perhaps the predicted rain will bring it out, so tillage may continue. The last corn acres being harvested are still higher than you would expect in moisture for this late in the season.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: About an inch of snow on ground, froze to depth of 6 inches. Some corn to be combined yet. Will finish mine today, (11-22).

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 23, 2014

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 Nov. 22	Mar. 1 to Nov. 22 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	23	9	37	-4	16	-15	2688	2599	0.00	8.42	0.97	41.09	+10.43
Green Bay	26	13	42	3	20	-13	2457	2456	0.06	8.49	1.54	29.21	+1.92
La Crosse	28	15	49	4	21	-14	3168	2953	0.02	6.51	-0.56	35.99	+5.49
Madison	28	12	50	2	20	-15	2940	2925	0.03	5.37	-1.60	33.18	+2.46
Milwaukee	29	16	48	9	22	-16	2607	n.a.	0.13	4.65	-3.09	29.94	-1.91

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