



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

November 12, 2002

Vol. 02, No. 32

Yields Higher Than Expected

After a challenging growing season, farmers across the state commented on better than expected yields. Wet soil conditions, combined with poor drying conditions, kept northern farmers from getting into fields and delayed harvest progress. Trace rainfall, combined with cool temperatures and overcast skies, left soil moisture levels adequate to surplus across the state.

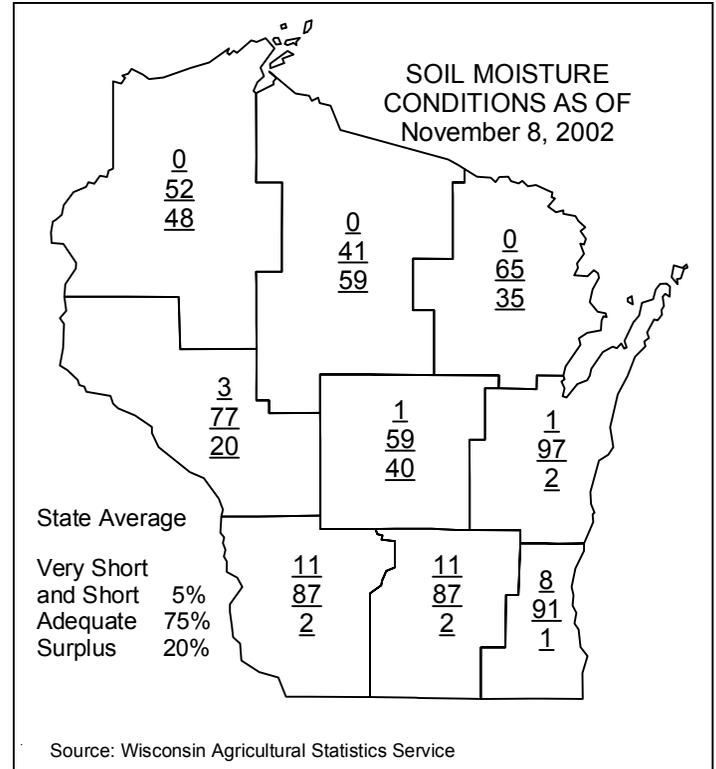
High soil moisture levels kept farmers in northern Wisconsin from field work last week, although 5.5 days were suitable for fieldwork. The topsoil moisture was estimated at 5 percent very short to short, 75 percent adequate, and 20 percent surplus.

Corn harvested for grain advanced to 58 percent complete with most of the activity occurring in the southern tier. Dry soil conditions were desired as harvest remains behind last year's 70 percent complete and the 5-year average of 79 percent. Reported yields continued to be good, surprising most reporters after the challenging growing and harvest season. Corn moisture was still being reported in the mid-to-high 20's, with some waiting for corn to dry-down naturally. An Iowa County farmer reported grain elevators were getting full; empty bins were hard to find in the final stage of an excellent crop harvest.

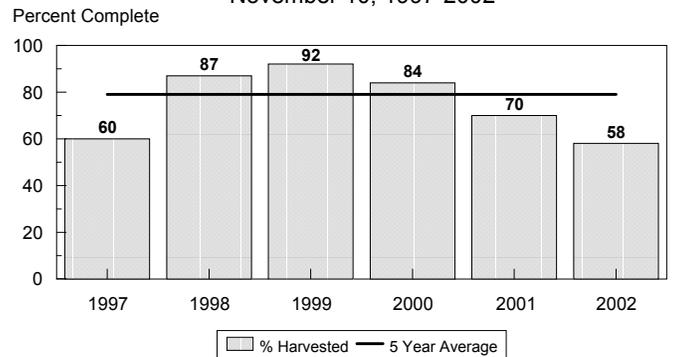
Soybean harvest neared completion with a state average of 89 percent. Even though harvest conditions were less than ideal, soybean harvest was only slightly behind last year's 93 percent, but further behind the 5-year average of 98 percent.

Hay harvest continued in scattered areas of the state. A Dunn County farmer reported concern that some hay shortages may occur by spring, depending on the upcoming winter season.

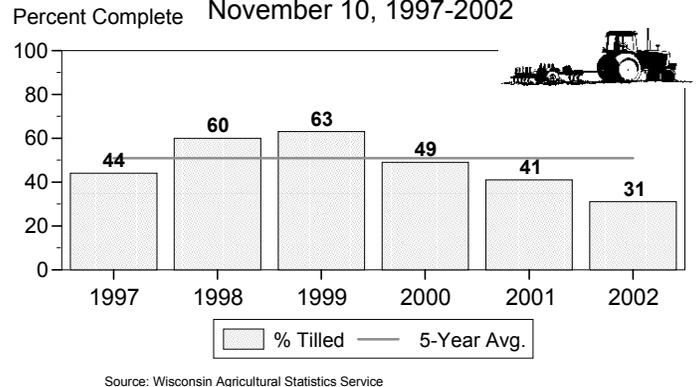
A Dodge County farmer mentioned if corn and soybean harvest would have occurred more rapidly, more **winter wheat** might have been planted. Statewide, many reports mentioned winter wheat at a standstill with the cool weather since planting. **Fall tillage** was at 31 percent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 51 percent. Fall field activities are being put off as harvest activities extend into November. Many reporters mentioned that manure hauling, stalk chopping and baling, and tillage activities were occurring on dry ground; while waiting for the rest of fields to dry and harvest to continue.



Corn Harvested
Yearly Averages for Wisconsin
November 10, 1997-2002



Fall Tillage Completed
Yearly Averages for Wisconsin
November 10, 1997-2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 10, 2002

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 harvested for grain	32	42	41	54	62	78	70	68	64	58	70	79
Soybeans harvested	70	74	80	83	87	92	96	92	96	89	93	98
Fall tillage completed	20	25	28	28	40	50	25	33	37	31	41	51

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-K.S.: Many fields have unharvested patches, and ruts from harvesting equipment are very common. Soybean yields are above average, but soybean moistures are running high. Most corn being harvested is for high moisture shell corn. A lot of corn still in the mid to upper 20 percent moisture range.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Corn is all in the crib, some of the nicest yields ever. Some of the ears were large and above average. A great week for harvesting the last of corn and soybeans.

PRICE-M.P.: All week was suitable for fieldwork if you could get in the fields. Our fields still have standing water in them. A lot of corn and second and third crop hay is still standing in the fields.

VILAS-L.K.: All tillage has stopped due to frozen ground.

LANGLADE-K.W.: Still some corn out that is being harvested as high moisture shell corn. Wet all week, not good for soybeans. Some area farmers roasting soybeans for feed now.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Soybean yields are strong throughout the county. Yields around 50 bushels per acre are pretty common.

Corn yields from combine monitors and the test plots are very strong. Almost all over 150 bushels per acre.

DUNN-S.S.: Soybean yields are in the 60 bushels per acre range and corn yield is 150 to 200+ bushels per acre. It has been a good week for getting crops harvested. Winter wheat looks good at this point. There might be some hay shortages by spring depending on how hard the winter is.

MONROE-W.D.: Most soybeans are finished. Yields at 41 bushels per acre. Most high moisture corn is done with average yields. Grain harvest is moving into high gear. Some is at 16 percent moisture. This Indian summer will help speed up harvest.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Soybean harvest progressed nicely at the expense of corn getting done. Some bedding was made, and livestock units are getting manure on the ground. Lime trucks have been rolling as well.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Soybeans and corn are yielding slightly below normal. Fall tillage and sowing of winter wheat is going well.

WOOD-F.M.: Soybean harvest finishing up with combines still rutting fields. Still some corn silage being harvested with changing wagons on each end of field. Lot of acres left for high moisture. Too wet to do tillage work.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Excellent harvesting for a second week in a row. Some winter wheat has been in the ground for three weeks and still not sprouted. Still very high moisture corn being harvested. Several hay fields harvested the past two days.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Both soybeans and corn are yielding very well, some record yields. Overall, they are above average. Winter wheat planting is still going on as the last few fields get seeded into soybean stubble. Those already seeded have germinated and look to be in good shape.

GRANT-E.B.: Light rain and snow slowing fall work. We were still trying to bale hay on Thursday and Friday. We have been tilling; and the ground seems very hard. Early-planted wheat looks good. Some planted three weeks ago has not sprouted yet.

SAUK-C.N.: Finally able to get back to harvesting soybeans. Many reports in the 50 bushels per acre range. Some a little higher, and quite a few areas in the 30 bushels per acre range.

GREEN-F.Z.: Corn is drying down fast, some in the teens. Still a little hay being cut. Moisture just about right for harvesting and fall tillage.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Good week for harvest. Soybeans are done. Corn is winding down. Fall tillage and manure hauling in full swing. Need drier weather to harvest corn stalks for bedding.

RACINE-L.F.: It has been a great fall for harvesting crops. The yields are actually higher than many had originally thought. The eastern part of the county had yields for corn up to 180 bushel per acre and soybeans over 50 bushels per acre.

WALWORTH-P.R.: Soybean and corn yields are varying widely. A county average on soybeans would be about 32 to 35 bushels per acre and corn 100 bushels per acre. The best yields are on low ground because of the drought this year.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Bob Hunter
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 10, 2002

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. 19	Mar. 1 to Oct. 19 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	49	27	64	21	38	1	2870	2545	0.04	10.98	4.41	38.90
Green Bay	50	30	62	22	40	2	2616	2405	0.13	6.06	0.12	26.93
La Crosse	51	31	63	22	41	1	3160	2880	0.17	7.20	1.00	29.89
Madison	49	32	62	20	41	1	2903	2837	0.09	4.93	-1.00	24.58
Milwaukee	52	37	66	25	44	1	2982	n.a.	0.12	4.57	-1.95	25.19

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.