



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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Good Week For Harvest

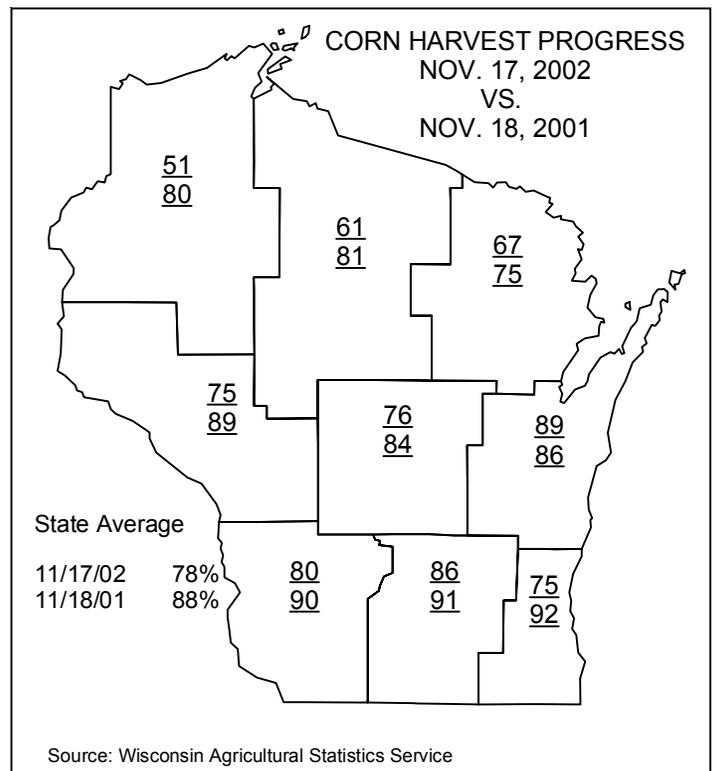
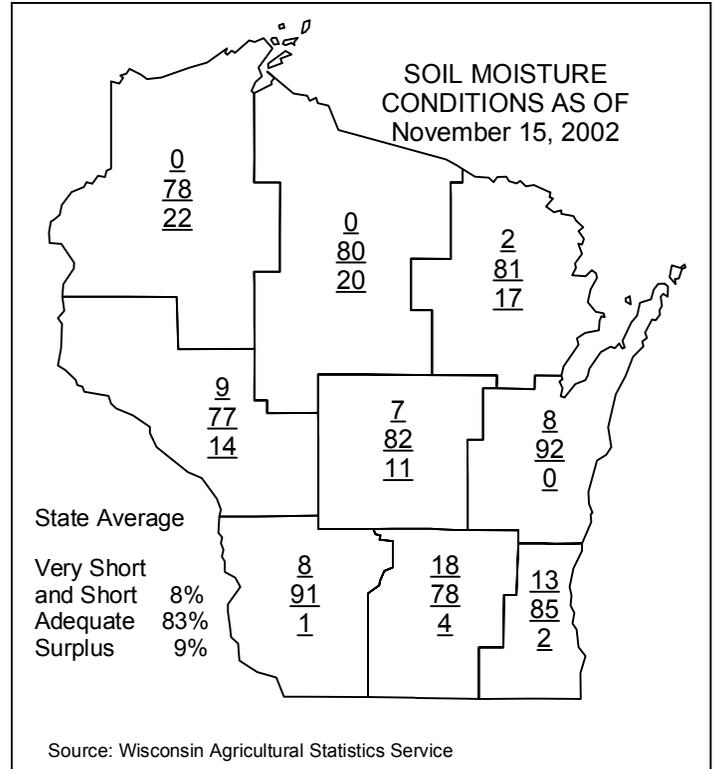
Wisconsin experienced near normal temperatures and light precipitation last week. That combination proved to be beneficial to farmers, who have been waiting for both corn moisture levels and the ground to dry down, so they can complete harvesting. Some northern Wisconsin grain producers have been paying extra for fuel to dry down crops this year. They feel they need to get their crops out of the field before the snow starts to fly.

Statewide, there were 5.9 days were suitable for fieldwork last week. Wisconsin's topsoil moisture was estimated at 8 percent very short to short, 83 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus.

Corn harvested for grain advanced to 78 percent complete, with good progress made in most areas of the state. This is a jump of 20 percentage points from the previous week. This year is still running behind last year's 86 percent complete and the 5-year average of 88 percent. Reported yields continued to be good, but corn moisture was still being reported in the mid-to-high 20's, especially in the north. Farmers are hoping that snow will hold off for a couple weeks to enable the remaining acres to be harvested.

Soybean harvest neared completion with a state average of 96 percent. As soon as the remaining wet fields dry up, or the ground freezes, soybean harvest should be complete. Both last year and the 5-year average, showed soybean harvest was virtually completed at this time.

Winter wheat and **fall tillage** have taken a back seat to the later than normal grain harvest this fall. Some winter wheat was planted later than normal this year. Reporters in Waupaca and Jefferson counties reported slow growth or wheat just now emerging. Dodge County reported some winter wheat has not yet emerged. Fall tillage was at 45 percent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 63 percent. Fall field activities are being put off in areas where harvest activities continue. Many reporters mentioned that manure hauling, stalk chopping and baling, and tillage activities were occurring in areas where harvest is complete.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 17, 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	51	61	67	75	76	89	80	86	75	78	86	88
Soybeans harvested	87	91	97	96	92	96	97	98	98	96	100	100
Fall tillage completed	32	37	48	43	49	65	37	52	48	45	55	63

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Soybean yields were normal to slightly above normal. Average yield for the county will be in the 40 to 42 bushel range. Around 25 percent of corn is harvested. Several farmers who were harvesting all reported test weights low (50-54) pounds and moisture levels in the mid to high 20's. One grain producer with 600-plus acres used less than 7,000 gallons to dry corn last year, has used 10,000 as of today, and still has 170 acres still in the field.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Soybeans are yielding 40 to 50 bushel per acre, while corn ranges from 130 to 180 bushels per acre. Overall, above average yields. Lowest yields are on fields that suffered moisture stress in July and August.

WASHBURN-B.S.: Our extremely wet soil conditions are really a challenge in completing fall tillage, as well as harvesting the remaining wet areas. It is not cold enough to freeze hard enough to cross these muddy acres. Hopefully, the snows will hold off to enable the remaining acres to be harvested.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Very successful week, with most of the soybeans off and a lot of corn combined. Moisture of corn still in low to mid-twenties. Tillage work moving along at a fast pace.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Harvesting stalks and spreading manure. Still some corn to harvest. Frost may stop fall tillage. Winter wheat germinated, but hasn't emerged.

DUNN-H.A.: Soybean yields are above average, also corn is above average, but also higher in moisture.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Soils are drying, as weather has improved for harvest to move along nicely. Could use a soaking prior to freeze-up, but many would like another week to wrap up manure and lime spreading.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Cold weather has delayed fall growth of wheat and rye. Fall tillage is on schedule. Corn yields are mixed, with sandy soils in the 40 to 80 bushels per acre. Some fields in loam are in the 150 bushel per acre yield.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Yields of corn and soybeans above average. Remainder of harvest will be dictated by field conditions.

WAUPACA-G.K.: Soybeans and corn yielding better than average. Moisture about average. Storage bins are overloaded. Wheat growth has been slow because of cool weather.

DOOR-M.F.: Door County most likely had the best crop yields, overall, that it has ever had. Now all we need is the milk price to

increase to help keep our dairy farmers in business.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: The growing season was better than expected, with corn yields from 90-180 bushels per acre and beans from 40 to 65 bushels per acre. We also had good weather for the cutting of hay this year. Winter wheat is up and doing well.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: All ground fieldwork has stopped due to frozen ground today. 2002 was too wet in May; too dry and hot in summer, which caused a poor corn crop in most fields.

GRANT-L.F.: Soybeans are mostly harvested, yields were real good; 50 to 65 bu per acre. Still lots of corn to be harvested as grain. Some putting up new corn drying bins, as yields have been in the 180 to 200 + bushels per acre. Some standing corn is being left in fields for further drying down. It has been a good year for crops. Winter wheat looks good.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Quite a bit of fall tillage is still going on. Also corn and soybean fodder is being baled.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Winter wheat has not much size. It has been in the ground a long time and not much more than emerging. Soybeans were harvested over the weekend and early this week. Corn has been going off rapidly. Fall tillage has had to take a back seat to harvesting.

DODGE-G.R.: Soybeans virtually all harvested, and yields above expectations. Corn not yet completed, many fields are standing with hopes of further dry down before combining. Most all winter wheat in the area is planted, none has emerged.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Wheat has grown with the warmer weather last week. Small farmers are all but done. Noticed corn planted last yielded the same, or better, than first fields planted.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: The high land corn ran about 85 bushels per acre. The corn in the low lands ran as high as 170 bushels per acre.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 17, 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	40	22	51	16	31	-2	2870	2545	0.00	10.98	3.95	38.90
Green Bay	43	28	55	20	35	0	2616	2405	0.09	6.16	-0.39	27.02
La Crosse	45	27	59	21	36	-1	3160	2880	0.34	7.54	0.87	30.23
Madison	45	30	58	21	38	2	2903	2837	0.66	5.58	-0.90	25.23
Milwaukee	47	35	60	31	41	1	2982	n.a.	0.22	4.78	-2.46	25.41

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.