



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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Favorable Weather Pushes Harvest Closer to Finish

Temperatures around Wisconsin were very near normal for this late in the harvest season. The best news was that precipitation was very light. The north and western areas were dry and cold, enabling producers to get into fields and finish corn harvest. The southeast received light rainfall, which improved soil moisture levels where most crops have already been harvested. A wide variety of activities, including harvest, tillage, chopping of corn stalks and fall application of nitrogen, were all possible in the past week.

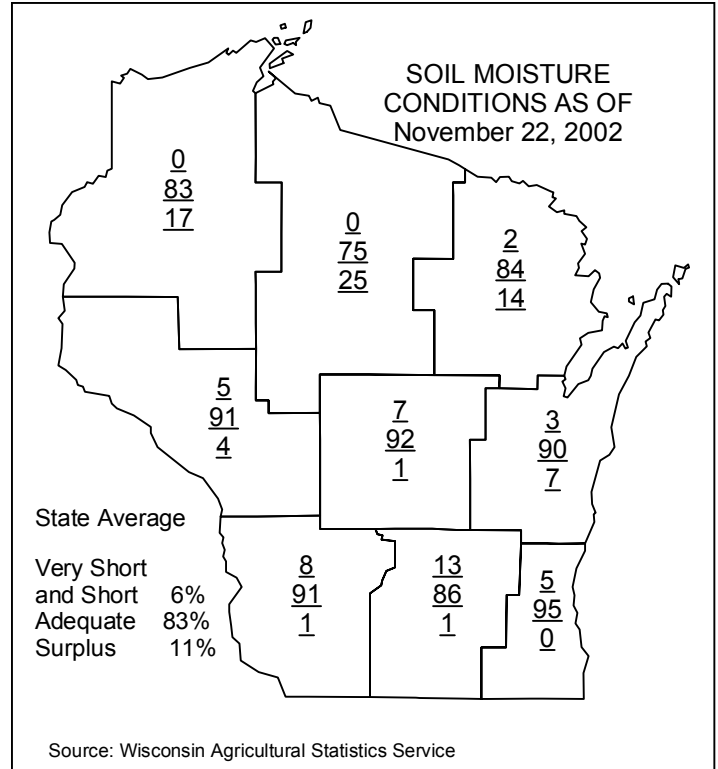
Statewide, there were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Wisconsin's topsoil moisture was estimated at 6 percent very short to short, 83 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus.

Corn harvest for grain neared completion for the 2002 season. The harvest was rated 88 percent complete, statewide. This was an advance of 10 percentage points from last week, but remained behind last year's 98 percent and behind the 5-year average of 95 percent. The cold, dry weather allowed producers in the northwest to get into fields previously unavailable due to wet ground. Many producers reported corn moisture levels still in the 20-27 percent range. Snow cover up to this point has not been a problem, and farmers are anxious to get corn out of the fields. Yields around the state have been reported at better than normal. Storage space is at a premium in some parts of the state.

The 2002 **soybean** harvest was mostly complete across the state. A few isolated areas are cleaning up on wet areas that are now accessible to harvesting equipment. Yields for the crop have been good in most parts of the state.

Early-planted **winter wheat** was reported to be in good condition, statewide. Due to soybean harvest delays, the later-planted fields have yet to emerge in some areas and may have difficulties establishing a good stand for next year. Fall tillage remains behind schedule this year. Producers report **fall tillage** completed at 55 percent, compared to 69 percent last year and 73 percent complete for the 5-year average. Colder weather will soon put a halt to many tillage activities across the state.

This is the last regular **Wisconsin Crop Weather** for the season. The review of the 2002 growing season will be released in early December. The Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service wishes to thank the many farmers, county agents, and others that make this report possible each week.



2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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The 2002 Census of Agriculture will appear in your mailbox in late December. It provides official facts representing all U.S. producers and commodities.

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Wisconsin Crop Progress, November 24, 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	68	74	74	85	83	93	88	94	92	88	98	95
Fall tillage completed	44	47	52	50	62	77	45	59	76	55	69	73

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Corn harvest is winding down, with a few farmers done. Yields have been above average, but the moisture is still in the mid-twenties for the majority of the corn.

BURNETT-R.B.: The crops that were not too wet, came out quite good. Not a lot of fall tillage done.

ASHLAND-G.M.: Corn is averaging higher than normal, but moisture is very high also. Very cold and wet October made it hard for tillage. Lots of second and third crop hay was left with plenty of hay and haylage.

PRICE-A.B.: Snow is not enough to turn the ground completely white. Fieldwork is done-all round bales are off the field. If it doesn't freeze hard, may get plowing done.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Crop yields were surprisingly good, corn 140 to 170 bushels per acre and soybeans 40 to 55 bushels per acre. Standing corn is not drying much, still in the mid 20's. Fall tillage came to an end. With ten-degree temperature, we cannot work the 4-inch crust.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Yields generally above average for our area. It is difficult to get remaining corn combined due to field conditions, but it is progressing.

OCONTO-D.T.: Soybeans about all done. Fall tillage going very well, but the ground is getting very dry. All combines putting in long days trying to get the harvest finished.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Harvest and tillage done, some manure hauling and stalk harvest to do. Ground was froze, but thawed. Based on corn prices below \$2, we must have over produced.

PEPIN-H.R.: Soybeans are all harvested in this area. Low areas dried out, so very few not able to get combined. Yields are above average. Corn harvest really went heavy this past week. Most all fields in our area are finished. Hard to get corn below the 20 percent moisture. Most all corn bins and bunkers are full. Some corn going over 240 bushels per acre with dry weight in our area.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Soybeans 100 percent harvested. Corn approximately 80 percent harvested. Not much fall tillage completed.

GREEN LAKE-D.S.: Corn is yielding very well in parts of the county, but it is variable in others. Some fields ranged 190 to 225 bushels per acre. Other fields in our county are of lesser quality. Fall tillage is still underway. Soybeans seem average.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Corn yields are above average this year; farmers

trying to finish up. Corn moisture has not changed much.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: All crops were excellent for the year. Last corn was 18 to 20 percent moisture. Some fields are being plowed up after years in the soil bank.

WINNEBAGO-D.U.: Soybean and corn yields are variable, but in general, harvest yields are better than expected, and slightly above average. Winter wheat is emerged, but has not grown much due to cold temperatures.

GRANT-L.F.: Most yields are very high in soybeans and corn: 60 to 65 bushels per acre on soybeans, some in the 72-bushel range. Corn is from 150 to 220 bushel range. Most wheat looks good. Fall tillage is slower than normal. Lots of corn fodder and soybean straw being baled or wrapped up in round bales.

DANE-J.K.: Corn and soybean yields were very good in 2002, but real variable from farm to farm. Yields vary from 50 to 240 bushels per acre on corn, and 25 to 85 bushels on soybeans. All winter wheat looks good and thick, but not too much growth due to cold weather. Fall tillage is still going on. Once again, the 2002 growing season was a pleasant surprise, with soybean and corn yields from average to above average.

DODGE-L.P.: Soybeans and corn yields were above average. Early-planted wheat looks fair, later-planted wheat does not look good, and some was not planted because of late season. Still plowing going on.

RACINE-L.F.: Harvest has been completed almost everywhere you look. Just finishing up some scattered areas and getting the last of that anhydrous on before the snow starts falling.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Soybeans yielding fair; 35 to 40 bushels per acre. Corn is not so good, 35 to 50 bushels per acre. A very dry summer.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 24, 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	41	25	49	16	33	3	2870	2545	0.00	10.98	3.52	38.90
Green Bay	42	24	50	16	33	1	2616	2405	0.15	6.31	-0.70	27.17
La Crosse	44	27	54	21	35	2	3160	2880	0.04	7.58	0.43	30.27
Madison	42	25	51	17	34	1	2903	2837	0.25	5.83	-1.19	25.48
Milwaukee	44	28	54	20	36	0	2982	n.a.	0.47	5.25	-2.58	25.88

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.