

Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 18, 2004

Cooler Temperatures

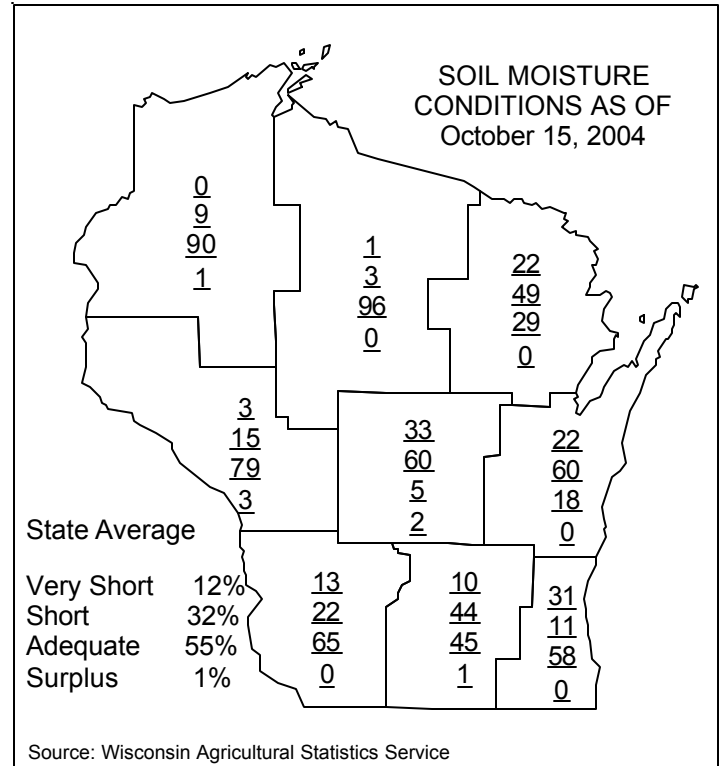
Vol. 04, No. 28

Fall weather continues as cooler temperatures prevailed this week. The average temperature across the state was 1 to 5 degrees below normal. Average low temperatures were reported in the upper 30's and low 40's, with average highs in the upper 50's. Many areas are still in need of rain, but little was received this past week. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 12% very short, 32% short, 55% adequate, and 1% surplus. The western half of the state continues to experience adequate soil moisture conditions. The eastern half of the state is experiencing short to very short soil moisture conditions. There was an average of 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn harvest gained some momentum during the week, with the majority of the corn crop past the mature stage. The pace of harvest is still behind the 5-year average. Reporters in the northern third of the state continue to say that some high moisture corn is being harvested. The remainder of the crop may be over a week away from harvest. Harvest in the central parts of the state has continued, with mixed reports on yields. The southwest and south central parts of the state reported that harvest is in full swing, with good yields. Corn silage harvest is almost complete in the central and southern areas of the state. Reports on the quantity and quality of silage ranged from average to excellent in these areas. Silage harvest in the northern part of the state is slowing down, with producers trying to finish before the corn is too dry. **Soybean** harvest continues, as combines roll across the state. Yields have varied in the northern areas of the state. Harvest in the southern part of the state has progressed nicely, with yields depending upon the timing of rains during the season. The southwestern part of the state is close to completion, with many reports of good yields. Fourth crop **hay** harvest is ahead of the normal pace. However, the cool temperatures and frost have limited any additional harvest. **Fall tillage** continued this week. Some areas of the state still need moisture before tillage will get into full swing.

Corn in dent stage was reported at 94%, behind both last year and the 5-year average of 100%. Corn in the mature stage was reported at 72%, well below last year's 98%, and the 5-year average of 94%. Corn harvested for silage was reported at 85% complete, well behind last year's 99%, and the 5-year average of 96%. Corn harvested for grain was reported at 13% complete, behind last year's 31%, and the 5-year average of 28%. **Soybeans** dropping leaves were reported at 95%, behind both last year's and the 5-year average of 100%. Soybeans harvested was reported at 57% complete, behind last year's 70%, and the 5-year average of 61%. Fourth cutting **hay** harvest is 71% complete, ahead of last year's 63%, and the 5-year average of 66%. **Fall tillage** was reported at 16% complete, behind last year's 23%, and the 5-year average of 20%

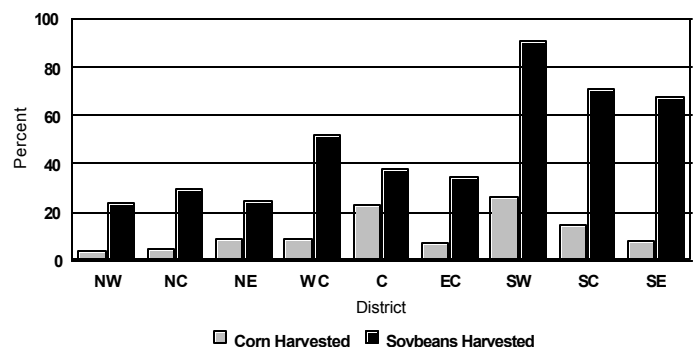
Cranberry harvest is going strong, with continued reports of good yields and varying color. **Beets** and a few **carrots** are being harvested, with most other vegetables done for the year. Much of the **winter wheat** has been planted, with more moisture needed to ensure good germination and growth before winter.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 15, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	6	16	41	34	3
Soybeans	4	12	27	40	17
Corn	4	12	27	36	21

Percentage of Corn and Soybeans Harvested

By District, October 17, 2004



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 17, 2004

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 in dent stage	93	89	83	91	90	85	100	99	99	94	100	100
Corn in mature stage	59	35	63	58	69	48	93	87	84	72	98	94
Corn hrvt. for silage	70	91	79	87	77	73	98	95	96	85	99	96
Corn hrvt. for grain	4	5	9	9	23	7	26	15	8	13	31	28
Soybean dropping leaves	99	100	94	95	78	85	100	98	96	95	100	100
Soybeans harvested	24	30	25	52	38	35	91	71	68	57	70	61
Fourth cutting hay	37	30	90	85	75	58	70	88	93	71	63	66
Fall tillage completed	15	10	25	8	39	32	10	11	8	16	23	20

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Corn silage yields are about average. Soybeans have been yielding from 10-46 bushels per acre, with the majority yielding approximately 35 bushels per acre. Corn is still too wet to harvest, except for high moisture corn.

RUSK-G.P.: Corn silage harvest continues with yields and quality all over the board. There is no high moisture harvest to speak of as yet. Soybean harvest is rolling along; yields running in the 30 bushels per acre. Lots of fields are not even worth harvesting. Hay and haylage now only on fields to be rolled over before next spring. We have had several hard frosts.

LINCOLN-F.O.: The last few weeks of warm weather has really helped the corn and soybean crops. Hay crop is about average, with good quality in the last two crops. Corn yields are good for early-planted fields. Short hay crop on late-planted fields. Soybean yields are down due to dry weather and less than average pod set.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Corn silage quality was good and quantity below average. Some soybeans are coming off, need to dry down more. Corn moisture is in the 30 percent range. Some frozen corn left for grain will be very light.

BUFFALO-R.S.: The half-inch rain stopped silage harvest. Soybeans were down to 15 percent moisture. Very little corn has been harvested for high moisture yet. Winter wheat has greened up nice.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Late cuttings of hay are being taken off the fields. Some corn is coming off, but slow in starting. Soybean combines rolled most of the week, with yields ranging from 30-60 bushels per acre.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Soybean harvest is going full steam. Yields from 10-50 bushels per acre depending on what happened earlier in the season. Corn has dried about 3 percent since last week, but still 10-14 days away from harvest.

WAUSHARA-A.S.: Irrigated corn and soybeans are good. Dry land corn is better than it should be if planted on time.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Some corn is getting dry for silage. Some late-planted corn close to the lake is fairly green on the stalk and none is combined for grain yet. Most of the corn is

drying down. Hay is at a standstill. Winter wheat is looking nice after last week's rain.

SHEBOYGAN-E.A.: Frost has killed everything. Soybean harvest is just starting. Corn for grain has not started; moisture is still too high.

GRANT-D.W.: Soybean harvest is almost complete. Corn harvest is in full swing. Soybean yields have generally been excellent. Lots of hay was made this last week.

DANE-D.F.: Soybean yields have been better than expected. Most producers expecting outstanding corn grain yields. Crop quality has been good to excellent for those fields planted in a timely fashion, late-planted fields are experiencing some areas with poor quality and highly variable yields. While we have had wide spread frost, some areas have yet to experience a hard freeze.

DODGE-G.H.: Corn silage harvest virtually at an end. Due to hard frost, most fields are very yellow. There is enough moisture in stalks so that plants may make decent silage. Soybean fields are being harvested in our area, moisture generally low around 9-11 percent. Corn for grain, or even high moisture corn has not been harvested as of yet. Very little if any fourth crop hay harvested due to extreme lateness of initial cutting.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Most wheat is planted in our area. Corn slow to dry down. Early-planted soybeans are dry enough to harvest

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Almost no fourth crop hay cutting has been done here. Some wheat is being planted in very dry soil. Soybean harvest is getting off to a good start; yields 35-45 bushes per acre. Corn for grain will be in full swing next week.

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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 October 17, 2004

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. 9	Mar. 1 to Oct. 9 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	56	36	69	32	46	-2	2534	2488	0.34	5.67	0.79	27.36
Green Bay	57	38	65	33	47	-1	2385	2352	0.17	2.45	-1.70	27.50
La Crosse	56	39	69	35	47	-5	2890	2814	0.03	4.59	0.09	37.67
Madison	57	39	67	35	48	-2	2681	2766	0.03	2.63	-1.54	34.86
Milwaukee	55	43	61	39	49	-3	2571	n.a.	0.34	1.10	-3.48	28.48

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.