



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of  
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

October 31, 2005

Vol. 05, No. 31

## Frost Hits the State

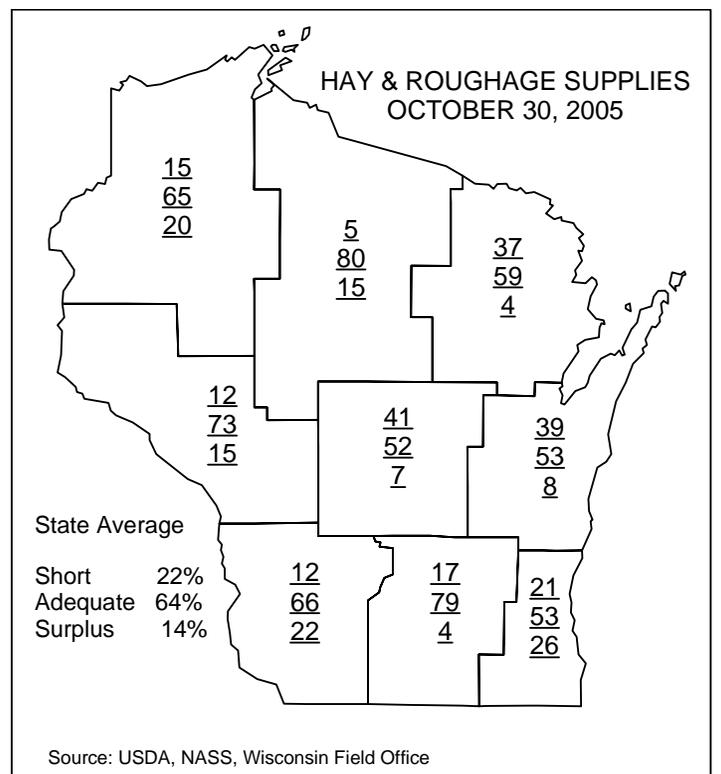
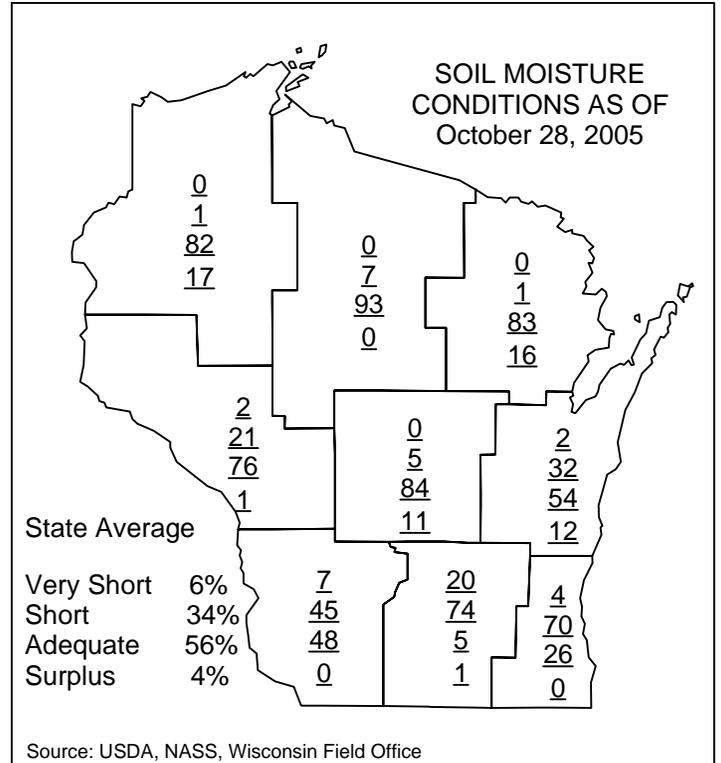
Frost hit much of the state during the week, ending the growing season. Low temperatures reached the 20s in Eau Claire, Green Bay, and Madison. Portions of the eastern and western edges of the state may have escaped a hard frost. Average temperatures were 3 degrees below to 1 degree above normal. While low temperatures were in the 20s, highs were in the 60s in most locations. Rainfall totals last week ranged from 0.06 in Eau Claire to 0.60 inches in Milwaukee. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 6 percent very short, 34 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** harvested for grain was at 57 percent, above last year's 38 percent and the 5-year average of 50 percent. Harvest is in full swing across most of the state. Yields in the western half of the state have been reported as above average and above expectations. Farmers are letting the crop dry as much as possible in the field to save on drying costs.

**Soybean** harvest was reported at 90 percent, higher than last year's 76 percent and the 5-year average of 83 percent. Soybean harvest is wrapping up in many areas. Yields have been reported as average in most locations.

**Pasture** conditions were rated at 7 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. **Hay and roughage supplies** were rated at 22 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. **Fall tillage** was reported at 33 percent complete, equal to last year's 33 percent and above the 5-year average of 31 percent. The dry weather has provided good conditions for tillage. However, many farmers have been harvesting instead of completing fall tillage.

**Winter wheat** has been planted and is in good shape with the recent rains. **Cranberry** harvest continued during the week and is getting closer to completion. Farmers were busy applying manure and baling corn stalks for bedding.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 28, 2005					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	7	21	38	30	4

Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 30, 2005												
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	36	59	58	41	51	74	72	65	38	57	38	50
Soybeans harvested	70	92	67	92	78	88	94	96	96	90	76	83
Fall tillage	34	43	28	20	53	58	24	24	24	33	33	31

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BARRON-A.B.:** Soybeans are average. Corn is above average and winter wheat planting is done.

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** Needs to dry up for corn harvest and fall tillage to continue. Still a lot of corn standing. Everyone is pretty much filled up with winter supply feed.

**CLARK-N.S.:** Soybean harvest is nearly complete. A considerable amount of corn remains standing in order to dry. Storage is also tight. Liquid manure storage is being emptied.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Corn wrapped up, but soybean combining has been difficult. Looks like dry and sunny weather is coming. Tillage slowed due to wet conditions.

**MARINETTE-S.R.:** Slightly above average corn yields. Soybean yields are average.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** Soybeans are almost all harvested now. On the heavy soils, soybeans were excellent this year. Light soils were hurt by lack of moisture. Corn is getting harvested very fast with good yields and high test weights. Lots of elevators are getting short on storage space. Hard frost has hit this area, which should kill most plants now. Fall tillage is slow yet. Some winter wheat is planted, but not much in our area.

**ST. CROIX-R.K.:** Corn moisture is low for this time of the season. Harvest is progressing well. Many farmers are not waiting for moisture levels to come down naturally. This has not been a bad year, considering the dry periods during summer.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Cranberry harvest is nearly complete, yields and quality variable. Corn and soybean harvest continues, wet areas in fields hamper completion. Yields have been good. Fall tillage and manure hauling are also on-going.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Corn yields are all over the board, with some good and some poor, depending on the soil and weather. Soybean yields were average. We had a hard frost this morning.

**OUTAGAMIE-E.W.:** Corn and bean yields are generally very good. Killing frost on corn held off longer than usual-past mid-October. Pastures still looking good. Most land suitable for fall tillage.

**WINNEBAGO-R.H.:** Corn yielded very good; 150-180 bushels per acre in many fields. Soybeans are not doing as well; 40-50 bushels per acre. Winter wheat seeding is done. Looks real good at this time, as it had adequate moisture to get it growing. No hard frost yet.

**GRANT-G.C.:** Lots of corn and soybeans combined this last week. Moisture from the field for corn was as low as 15 percent. Corn is starting to go down and slowing down harvesting equipment. No killing frost yet. Alfalfa is still green.

**SAUK-D.H.:** Corn crop was very good. Did not have frost yet.

**COLUMBIA-J.J.:** First hard frost on Thursday. Soybean harvest is pretty well done. Corn harvest is getting into full gear. Yields on both better than expected. Sub-soil moisture still very short.

**DODGE-G.R.:** A weekend of drizzly and dreary weather brought harvest to a halt for a few days. Corn yields are ranging from 130-190 bushels per acre with high test weight. Most moisture testing in mid to high teens. First killing frost of season was Thursday morning. Some winter wheat has already emerged. A few fields have been tilled. Final cutting of alfalfa fields has begun. Crop will be variable in quantity and quality. Storage space for corn will be a significant issue.

**WALWORTH-E.P.:** Soybeans have fields that are untouched. Corn harvest is going slow. We need to build up the soil moisture. Winter wheat that is up looks good.

	USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
	P.O. Box 8934
	Madison, WI 53708-8934
	(608) 224-4848
	<a href="http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm">http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm</a>
<b>Robert J. Battaglia</b>	<b>Jon Hornung</b>
Director	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 October 30, 2005**

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. 29	Mar. 1 to Oct. 29 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	55	33	68	25	44	1	3134	2584	0.06	4.92	-0.86	23.35
Green Bay	52	34	61	27	43	0	2920	2441	0.12	4.60	-0.45	21.99
La Crosse	55	35	68	31	45	-1	3476	2928	0.14	7.23	1.88	27.44
Madison	53	30	64	24	42	-3	3272	2889	0.10	2.60	-2.49	20.22
Milwaukee	52	37	61	33	45	-2	3198	n.a.	0.60	5.12	-0.44	21.09

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.