



# Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

October 10, 2006

Vol. 06, No. 27

## Harvest Activity Starting to Increase

Warm, sunny weather, during most of the week, increased corn and soybean harvest progress. Additional jumps in harvest progress were blocked by storms earlier in the week. Temperatures ranged from 2 to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures were in the high 60s to low 70s across the state. Lows averaged in the 40s for the week. Precipitation was reported across the state. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.28 in La Crosse to 1.77 in Eau Claire and Green Bay. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 2 percent very short, 5 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork.

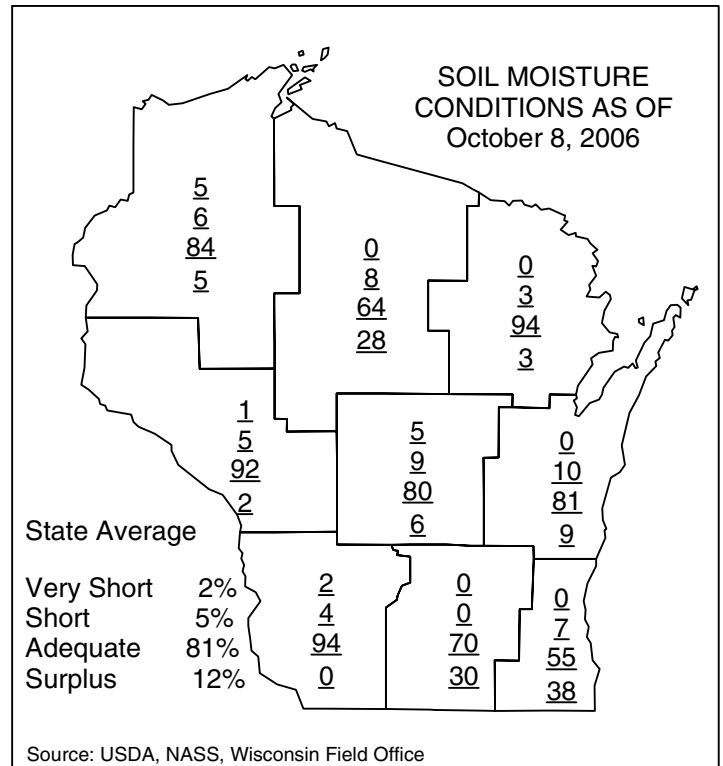
**Corn** mature was at 89 percent, above last year's 88 percent and the 5-year average of 71 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn harvested for grain was at 10 percent, lower than last year's 19 percent and the 5-year average of 11 percent. High moisture corn continued to be harvested during the week. While corn has dried down rapidly in the past weeks, little dry corn has been combined at this point. Corn silage harvested was at 93 percent, compared to last year's 93 percent and the 5-year average of 78 percent. Silage harvest appears to be finishing up for the year. Areas that received adequate moisture are reporting above average yields. Corn conditions were rated as 7 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 22 percent excellent.

**Soybeans** dropping leaves was at 96 percent, just behind last year's 97 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 88 percent. Soybeans harvested was at 22 percent, lower than both last year's 44 percent and the 5-year average of 28 percent. Soybean conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Soybean harvest remains behind historic averages, impeded this week by showers. Farmers did not park their combines for the entire week, as state-wide progress jumped 13 percent. Yield reports have been variable at this point.

Fourth cutting **alfalfa** was at 69 percent complete, ahead of both last year's 59 percent and the 5-year average of 53 percent. Fourth crop hay is still being made in a few locations. These fields need dry weather to get the hay baled.

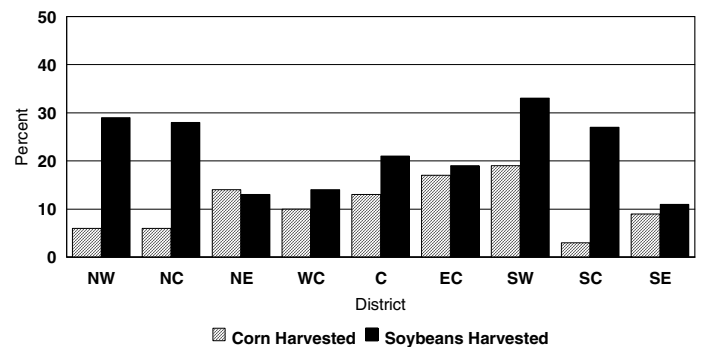
**Pasture** conditions were rated as 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

**Winter wheat** planting was slowing down. Remaining fields will be planted after the soybeans are harvested. **Cranberry** harvest began in central areas of the state. There were reports of a good **apple** crop in northern Wisconsin.



| Item     | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
|          | Percent |      |      |      |           |
| Corn     | 7       | 7    | 24   | 40   | 22        |
| Soybeans | 2       | 6    | 27   | 42   | 23        |
| Pasture  | 3       | 8    | 35   | 45   | 9         |

Percentage of Corn and Soybeans Harvested  
By District, October 8, 2006



| 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 mature                 | 82               | 75 | 84 | 89 | 85 | 70 | 98 | 96 | 90 | 89            | 88        | 71             |
| Corn harvested for silage   | 97               | 89 | 86 | 91 | 93 | 92 | 98 | 97 | 98 | 93            | 93        | 78             |
| Corn harvested for grain    | 6                | 6  | 14 | 10 | 13 | 17 | 19 | 3  | 9  | 10            | 19        | 11             |
| Soybeans dropping leaves    | 98               | 96 | 94 | 97 | 90 | 91 | 98 | 97 | 96 | 96            | 97        | 88             |
| Soybeans harvested          | 29               | 28 | 13 | 14 | 21 | 19 | 33 | 27 | 11 | 22            | 44        | 28             |
| Fourth cutting hay          | 78               | 74 | 75 | 64 | 65 | 58 | 83 | 68 | 44 | 69            | 59        | 53             |

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

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** Winter feed supply looks short. Corn harvested as silage will help. Apple crop is excellent.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Corn silage is winding down. Considering the year, corn silage is better than expected. High moisture corn is starting, with moisture running around 30 percent. Soybean harvest is also beginning, with yields between 35-50 bushels per acre and moisture 13-16 percent. Last of the hay and haylage is coming off; forage supplies should be OK. Some fall tillage is beginning.

**LINCOLN-F.O.:** Corn silage harvest is about done. There is not much corn for grain harvested. Soybeans look good, with normal pod set. Some third and fourth crop hay is being harvested.

**VILAS-L.K.:** Potato harvest will be finished this week. Still not much rain for the month of September, 1.25 inches. We need a good long soaker. No second crop hay. Pastures are drying up.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Corn silage is done with yields below average, but quality is good. Roughage supplies are very good. Soybean harvest will begin soon.

**EAU CLAIRE-M.P.:** A lot of variation across the county in yields depending on planting date, rainfall, and soil type. Corn grain yields will vary from 0 to 200-plus bushels per acre. Soybean yields should be more consistent.

**LA CROSSE-S.H.:** High moisture corn is being taken off, and with the dry weekend conditions, more corn is likely to come off. Soybeans are drying down well and being harvested. Some winter wheat has been planted, with very little fall tillage happening yet.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** Corn silage has good quality, but it took more acres than usual because it was short. Soybeans have all dropped leaves, but most of them are not quite dry to be harvested. Most of the potatoes have been harvested. Rye has been more for a cover crop.

**WOOD-M.K.:** Excellent harvest conditions. Good progress on fall tillage. Soybeans are coming off rapidly.

**FOND DU LAC-R.P.:** Three inches of rain this week has slowed fieldwork. Some fourth crop hay cut on Thursday.

This past month's rain has made for an excellent fourth crop of hay. Grain yields are lower than expected for both corn and soybeans.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Corn silage is very good and lots of it. Stalks are big and lots of corn on the cobs, so tonnage is very big in our area. Corn is starting to dry down nicely, and higher yields are expected. Soybeans are losing their leaves and also getting ready to be harvested in a week or so. Fourth crop hay is very good. Some fall tillage is being done on harvested corn acreage. We need a good rain. Pastures are nice and green. We had our first light frost Friday night. Still no rain this week.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** Heard of yields running 55-68 bushels per acre for soybeans and over 200 bushels per acre for corn.

**DODGE-G.R.:** Corn silage harvest is wrapping up. Yields were excellent. Preparations for high moisture shell corn is underway. Rains at beginning of week slowed down fieldwork. Soil took in most of the moisture with little runoff. Some corn was blown down during the storms. Soybeans are almost ready to be harvested. Some no-tilled winter wheat is emerging.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Good weather this week should help soybean harvest progress. Corn harvest is slow to start, with most waiting for fields to dry down. Some still trying to do fourth crop hay.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** A very wet start to the week, but the last three days were great for harvest. Soybean harvest is in full swing - corn next.

**WAUKESHA-R.F.:** Crops look good.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office  
P.O. Box 8934  
Madison, WI 53708-8934  
(608) 224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
Director

**Jon Hornung**  
Statistician

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 8, 2006**

| 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. 7                          | Mar. 1 to Oct. 7 normal * | Last week     | Since Sept. 1 | Sept. 1 dep. from normal* | Year to date |
| Eau Claire | 73          | 43        | 84        | 33       | 58   | 6                     | 3002                                      | 2470                      | 1.77          | 4.89          | 0.61                      | 24.16        |
| Green Bay  | 68          | 43        | 76        | 33       | 56   | 4                     | 2625                                      | 2334                      | 1.77          | 5.07          | 1.45                      | 25.16        |
| La Crosse  | 74          | 48        | 84        | 37       | 61   | 5                     | 3162                                      | 2791                      | 0.28          | 3.91          | 0.0                       | 25.69        |
| Madison    | 70          | 43        | 83        | 32       | 57   | 3                     | 2822                                      | 2743                      | 1.31          | 5.03          | 1.47                      | 31.96        |
| Milwaukee  | 68          | 49        | 76        | 41       | 58   | 2                     | 2849                                      | n.a.                      | 1.26          | 4.83          | 0.97                      | 30.27        |

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.