



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

November 3, 2008

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Harvest Continues at a Slow, Steady Pace

Mostly dry weather allowed farmers to get into the fields last week. Farmers were wrapping up the soybean harvest, but many were waiting to harvest their corn due to high moisture levels. While most areas of Wisconsin had a beautiful week of weather, some areas in the north and west-central parts of the state did receive some snowfall.

Average high temperatures ranged from 52 to 57 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 29 to 38 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.00 inches in La Crosse and Madison to 0.04 inches in Eau Claire and Green Bay. Soil moisture conditions were reported at 5 percent very short, 24 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn harvested for grain was at 43 percent complete with conditions reported at 4 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Some reported corn yields were higher than expected. Harvest was slow going due to moisture levels in corn being too high. Corn was slow to dry down last week, even though the weather was dry. As long as the weather cooperates, stalk bedding harvest will follow corn harvest.

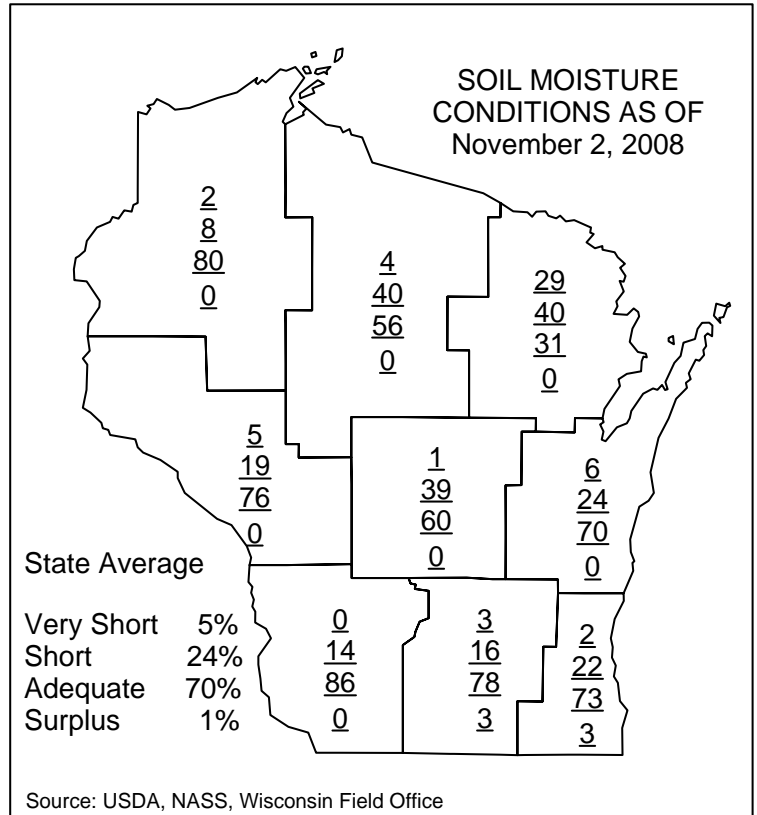
Soybean harvest was winding down in many areas with 93 percent completion reported. Yields across much of the state were reported as lower this year than last due to lack of precipitation later in the summer.

Winter wheat emergence looks very good on the early-planted fields. Some planting is still taking place on harvested soybean fields.

Fall tillage was progressing at 34 percent complete. While the ground was breaking apart nicely in some areas, other areas were reporting dry soil conditions slowing tillage on some soil types. Manure hauling continued.

Pasture conditions were reported at 6 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

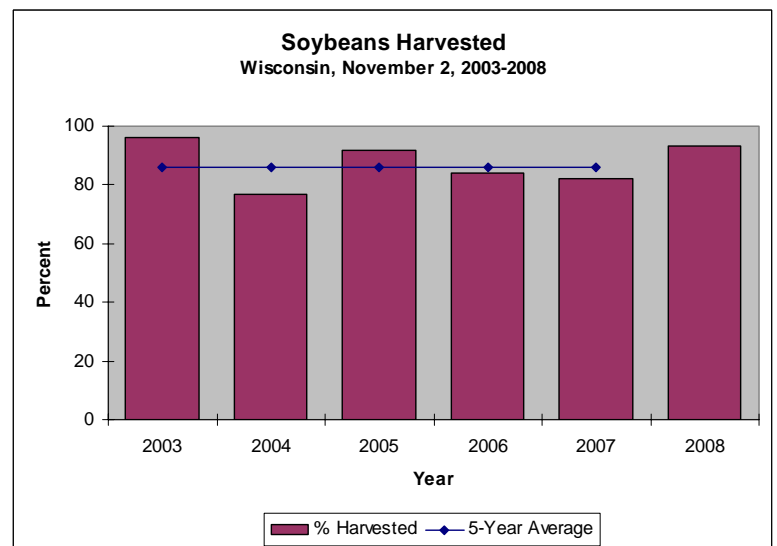
The **apple** crop was reported as average or a little above average this year.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of November 2, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	4	8	27	48	13
Pasture	6	14	43	36	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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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	35	34	46	43	41	62	34	42	34	43	63	58
Soybeans harvested	88	99	96	96	89	91	95	93	91	93	82	86
Fall tillage complete	22	45	37	19	51	62	34	26	33	34	35	38

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: A beautiful week of weather for harvest activities. Soybean harvest is wrapping up with disappointing yields. Corn harvest is slow due to corn being too wet.

RUSK-G.P.: Lots of progress on corn and soybeans. Corn is running between 100 to 150 bushels per acre. Soybean yields are between 20 to 40 bushels per acre. The large difference is associated with high ground and the dry weather this year. Manure hauling and fall tillage is progressing.

CLARK-R.H.: Soybeans are wrapping up. High moisture snaplage is going strong. I have heard of corn moisture close to 20 percent, but there is still some at 30 percent. Crops are coming off. Fall tillage continues with dry weather. Manure pits are getting emptied. Wheat and rye are looking good.

VILAS-L.K.: We received 4.0 inches of snow which stopped all fieldwork. We also had heavy rain the day before the snow.

OCONTO-K.H.: Soybean harvest is virtually finished. Yields generally reported to be low compared to recent years. Corn harvest is progressing at a slow pace. Weather has been good for harvest. Recent rains have perked up pastures and wheat but we are definitely in a moisture deficit situation.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Winter wheat looks great. Corn harvest moved along well this week, but surprisingly moisture has not changed even though we had very warm and dry weather. Most corn is in the 20 to 30 percent range yet. Fall tillage appears to be going quite well with the ground breaking apart nicely.

DUNN-S.S.: Most all of the soybeans are harvested with yields running 30 to 45 bushels per acres in most areas. Corn harvest is in full swing. Fall fieldwork and manure hauling is also progressing.

PEPIN-H.R.: Soybean harvest is almost completed. Yields are lower this year than last if you did not spray as needed. Corn is slow to harvest due to too much moisture. Large farms are starting corn so they can get some acres out of the way.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Corn harvest continues with variable yields. Manure hauling and tillage also continues. Winter wheat is looking good.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Spot checked corn fields last week. Did a kernel count by row and length and found yields

ranging from 70 up to around 165 for heavy soil.

CALUMET-B.L.: Corn is starting to come off fast now. Yields of corn are good with lots of variability. Soybeans continue to run lower than expected. There is a lot of liquid manure being hauled now as the fields are dry and firm. Most producers are using stalk choppers now or the shredders on the newer combines as a form of managing residue.

GRANT-E.B.: Wheat is emerging slowly, not sure why. Corn harvest is starting but moisture is still high, as are drying costs.

DANE-D.F.: Growers continue to struggle with short harvest windows to finish soybeans and high moisture content on corn. While harvest continues, it has been at a slow, but steady pace. Yields are highly variable but down across the board. Land that would have yielded well during the dry conditions, flooded out, magnifying our drought losses.

GREEN-J.T.: Last Sunday's high winds caused lodging in corn. A few varieties are much worse than others, and fields exposed to the west wind look the worst. Moisture is still highly variable, but harvest is progressing.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Harvest is progressing nicely. Both soybeans and corn are variable and significantly less than last year.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Harvesting of hay is progressing this week. Soybeans are done with a below average crop. A lot of corn harvested was very wet at 25 percent.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on November 2, 2008

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 Nov. 1	Mar. 1 to Nov. 1 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	54	29	69	22	42	0	2642	2576	0.04	3.52	-2.54	27.57	-1.75
Green Bay	52	33	64	28	42	-1	2661	2436	0.04	3.64	-1.71	26.34	0.77
La Crosse	57	33	70	23	45	0	3001	2925	0.00	3.24	-2.34	32.43	3.22
Madison	55	33	70	25	44	0	2853	2886	0.00	4.50	-0.85	40.78	11.66
Milwaukee	54	38	71	32	46	-1	2804	n.a.	0.02	6.81	0.94	39.02	9.01

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.