Harvest and Dry-Down Slowed by Cool, Wet Weather

Rainfall throughout last week kept many farmers out of the fields, but helped recently planted winter wheat and rye get a good start. Growers continued to wait for grain and beans to dry, as cool temperatures and cloudy skies slowed dry down. Frost was reported across much of the state, particularly in the three Northern Districts and the Central District, where some reported an end to the growing season.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.77 inches in Green Bay to 1.72 inches in Milwaukee. Average temperatures were 5 to 7 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 57 to 60 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 41 to 46 degrees. On average, there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- [http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/](http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/)
- [http://www.noaa.gov/](http://www.noaa.gov/)

Corn in the dent stage was reported at 90 percent complete statewide, while corn mature was reported as 33 percent complete. Growers continued to harvest silage in between showers, and corn silage harvest was reported as 53 percent complete. It was still too soon for most growers to harvest their high moisture corn.

Soybean leaves were mostly done turning color, with 96 percent reported turned, while soybeans dropping leaves was 73 percent complete. A few growers began harvesting soybeans, as harvest was reported at 4 percent complete, but rainfall held many back from beginning harvest. Other growers were still waiting for beans to dry down to be ready for harvest.

There were still some growers taking fourth cutting hay which was reported at 64 percent complete. The rain helped prepare hay fields for winter by accelerating regrowth. Fall tillage increased slightly to 10 percent complete, up from 6 percent a week ago. Most growers were concentrating on harvesting and were waiting on tillage.

The rainfall benefitted recently planted winter wheat. Some growers were looking to plant winter wheat once beans are harvested. Potato harvest continued across the state, with some areas wrapping up harvest.

Manure was being hauled where silage and small grains were harvested.
Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: The hard frost on Wednesday morning has put an end to our growing season. Temperatures ranged in the low to mid 20’s. Most corn did not make a black layer. Soybeans were mature before the freeze. The 1.5 inches of rain we received locally has brought soil moisture back. Some fall fieldwork is going on behind corn silage.

CLARK-R.H.: Frost on Wednesday ended the growing season. Corn and soybeans are ok. Some fields may not be mature at this time so adjustments may have to be made for harvesting the crop depending on maturity. We are extremely dry at the surface and within the soil structure. We have received welcomed moisture. As some corn silage and small grains have come off the fields manure has been hauled and incorporated, but that is about all the fall fieldwork done at this time.

MARINETTE-S.R.: We had a killing frost in most of our area on Thursday morning.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybean harvest had just started when rain came so will have to wait to dry out again to get rolling. Many would like to plant winter wheat as soon as the soybeans are off. Corn silage is about 3/4 done with yields that varied all over the place. Even with recent showers, the field condition are still quite dry.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Valley land crop froze with the 28 degree temperature. Crops on ridge land had no frost. Corn is still too wet for vertical silos. We have received 1.5 inches of rain so far this week. A lot of hay was chopped earlier in the week. Bunker corn silage is mostly done.

PEPIN-H.R.: Corn has really progressed this past week showing lots of dry ears. Soybeans should be harvested soon. Soil is still on the dry side. Most corn silage is done now. Kidney beans are also being combined which was a very good crop. Early potatoes are also being dug with good yields.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: We have had two mornings in a row with a killing frost of 29 degrees. Soybean harvest is not going very fast; too much damp humid weather. Corn frost on Wednesday and Thursday ended the growing season pretty much across the county, some very severe. Corn silage is yielding well.

GRANT-G.C.: Despite cold and wet conditions, corn and soybeans continue to progress toward maturity.

COLUMBIA-J.B.: Soybean harvest started last week but was slowed by the rains. We could use a dry stretch to help with harvest and winter wheat planting.

GREEN-M.M.: No killing frost as of yet. The majority of corn looks like it will reach maturity as long as frost is delayed another week. Corn silage harvest is in full swing, but delayed somewhat due to wet fields. There is a wide range in maturity of soybeans with some field’s just changing color and others having already dropped their leaves and are not far from harvest.

WALWORTH-E.M.: Maturity is slow in the corn and soybeans. We had a light frost on Thursday morning. We received 1.0 inch of rain Thursday evening and 1.0 inch of rain Sunday and Monday with blustery winds. No black layer in corn as of yet. There is one half milk line in kernels.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Rain has slowed fieldwork. I tried to combine soybeans but it was too wet. Had a light frost on Wednesday and it killed the top 2.0 inches of corn and some of the soybeans.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 4, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Avg. Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>.

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.