



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 27, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 25

Heavy Rain Across Parts of the State Halts Harvest

Heavy rain fell last week in the Northwest and West Central parts of the state causing rivers to overflow, levees to break, flooding of fields, soil erosion, and many road closures. Topsoil moisture levels across the state were reported at 99 percent adequate to surplus, and many fields were covered in standing water. Growers in these areas anticipate it will take a week or two of dry, windy days to help dry fields before equipment will be able to enter. At the same time, minimal amounts of rain fell across southern parts of the state allowing fieldwork to continue. A hard frost was reported in Oneida County.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 0 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 69 to 72 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 48 to 57 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.04 inches in Milwaukee to 4.49 inches in La Crosse. There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn dented was reported at 97 percent complete and corn mature was reported at 63 percent complete across the state. Corn for silage was reported at 78 percent harvested and corn for grain was reported at 8 percent harvested statewide. Some growers reported harvesting high moisture corn. Many growers are waiting for fields to dry before entering to harvest. Bear rolls were found in corn fields in Chippewa County.

Soybean leaves turned was reported at 95 percent complete statewide and soybeans dropping leaves was reported at 72 percent complete. A few growers began harvesting soybeans as harvest was reported at 4 percent complete. A report from Buffalo County stated low areas in some soybean fields were damaged from the abundance of rain received last week. A report from Dane County stated that recent rain and wind knocked soybeans down. Other growers reported soybeans to be doing well and are hoping for an excellent crop once fields dry up.

Fourth cutting **hay** was reported at 62 percent complete across the state with yields varying from below average to excellent.

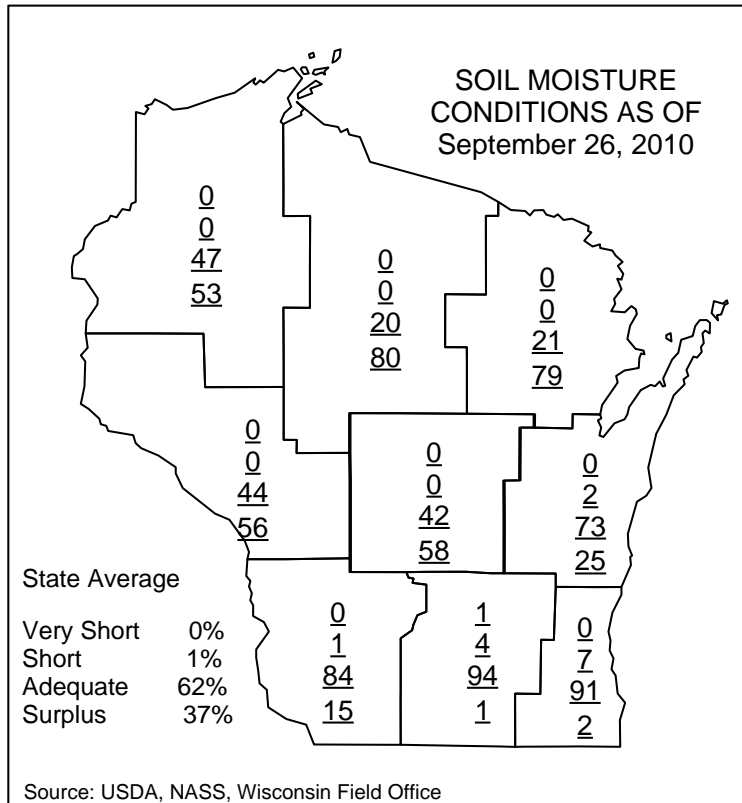
Reports from Shawano and Door Counties stated **winter wheat** planting was in full swing before rain storms rolled in. Across the state many other reports indicated winter cover crops are being planted as vegetables are harvested.

Fall tillage was reported at 11 percent complete, an increase of 6 percentage points from the previous week.

Sorghum was cut and pressed last week in Sheboygan County.

Apple harvest began with reports stating crop is short, but size and quality are good.

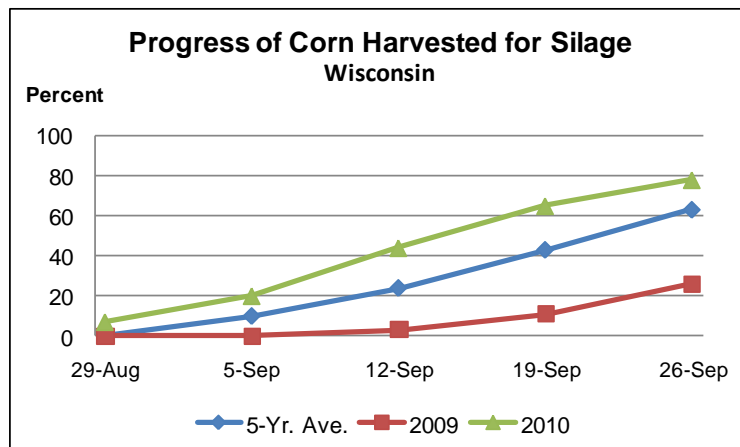
Cranberry harvest was underway in many places across the state last week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 26, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	3	11	45	40
Soybean	1	2	11	47	39
Pasture	1	3	19	55	22

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 26, 2010

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dent stage	95	88	99	98	100	93	97	99	99	97	93	82	90
Corn mature	42	25	49	77	59	46	52	87	89	63	47	19	45
Corn silage harvested	64	51	84	87	87	69	82	92	96	78	65	26	63
Corn harvested for grain	3	3	7	13	9	8	11	12	8	8	2	n.a.	4
Soybean leaves turned	95	87	98	93	96	94	90	97	99	95	86	85	93
Soybean leaves dropped	59	58	63	63	67	65	77	81	90	72	50	48	71
Fourth cutting hay	43	33	79	63	65	70	67	70	72	62	55	56	50
Fall tillage	6	7	11	16	17	14	8	7	12	11	5	5	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Planted winter rye last week. Corn moisture is in the 20's. Most soybean leaves have dropped.

ONEIDA-P.L.: We have had close to 7.0 inches of rain in the past two weeks. Most field activity has been at a standstill. We need a week without rain to get back in the fields without causing too much damage to the soil. Some crops in low areas are flooded and will start to rot. Potato harvest is only happening on the sandy soils until we can dry out. We had a hard frost in places Saturday night. This will affect the corn and beans and start the dry down process, but we still need some sun and dry conditions for it to be effective. Apples are ready for picking and seem to be a good crop. Hay could be made if we get some weather to support that effort. Cranberry harvest has begun. Winter cover crops are doing well where they were able to get the early potatoes out and seeded.

SHAWANO-B.R.: So far the alfalfa that was cut in September has brought comments of yields being less than expected. Good thing silage harvest is almost done as the 5.0 inches of rain that fell late in the week will surely cause problems for any harvesting for a while. Corn that was drier than normal a few weeks ago has not changed that much lately. A few have taken high moisture corn off. The wet fields will probably alter some wheat planting plans.

PEPIN-R.C.: Added rains have continued to delay all fieldwork. We will have good yields of corn and soybeans when the combines finally get in the fields. All tillage work is at a standstill.

WOOD-M.L.: Over 6.0 inches of rain across the county caused many road closings and washouts. All field operations are stopped. Farmers are repairing fence. Many manure pits are full with rain water.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: While there was some fieldwork done this week, the big news was again the rain that fell. Most of the area received anywhere from 2.0 to 3.0 inches of rain, making wet ground even more wet. It seems as if this year, when it has rained, it has not been little amounts that have fallen. Rather, it's always in excess of 1.0 or 2.0 inches. Those producers who have tiled fields are glad they had the work done in years past. Without those improvements, the crops would be in much worse condition this year. Corn silage harvest is starting to wrap up now. Yields for this have been very good this year, ranging from around 18 to 22 tons per acre. No harvest of high moisture corn has begun yet, but this should start happening soon. It is still not known how and if the excessive rains and heat this summer

negatively impacted the corn crop. However, with the help of some crop insurance adjusters, farmers are beginning to get a better hold on the crop condition. Some of these adjusters are finding cobs to be shorter in spots, with ends that have no kernels. However, in the same area, fully grown cobs are found. It will be interesting in the next few weeks to see how the corn comes out. Soybean harvest is just starting now and early yield reports are impressive. One local producer harvested a field and found it yielded around 60 bushels. Once the ground has dried sufficiently the soybean harvest will be continuing. A few fields of alfalfa were taken off this week, but by and large, most of the hay that was meant to be cut has already been. There are a few sporadic fields here and there where the fifth crop has been chopped. This is not something that is seen very often. Some manure hauling was going on this week, but the wet soil is causing problems. A week or two of dry weather is needed to dry out the soil enough so that big equipment can travel on it without worrying about getting stuck or causing compaction issues. And the apple season is in full swing now. Apple orchards are seeing a lot of customers. For the most part, the apple harvest is pretty good. Earlier in the year, some of the apple blossoms were damaged by the frosty weather, but this damage appears to be minimal.

RICHLAND-C.L.: Not much fieldwork being done, other than high moisture corn. Hay is almost done. Corn silage is nearly complete. Corn and soybeans are drying down slowly. Hopefully farmers will be starting their dryers in a week.

DODGE-R.H.: Soybeans look very good, 60 bushels per acre.

RACINE-K.I.: Fall tillage underway and wheat being planted.



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

Colette Childs
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 September 26, 2010

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 Sep. 25	Mar. 1 to Sep. 25 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	69	48	76	40	58	0	2877	2392	3.76	7.57	4.24	31.95	5.33
Green Bay	69	48	78	40	59	2	2746	2257	2.63	4.49	1.77	32.79	9.86
La Crosse	72	53	78	46	62	1	3226	2694	4.49	5.61	2.61	35.05	8.50
Madison	71	55	86	43	63	4	3074	2645	0.13	2.74	-0.02	33.07	6.62
Milwaukee	72	57	89	49	65	3	3059	n.a.	0.04	2.08	-0.80	30.47	3.51

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.