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.apa.wisc.edu/~sco/
http://www.cocorahs.org/
http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/
http://www.noaa.gov/

Corn denting 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 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 soybean 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 5 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 Progress, September 26, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop and percent of acreage</th>
<th>District average</th>
<th>State average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn in dent stage</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn mature</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn silage harvested</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn harvested for grain</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean leaves turned</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean leaves dropped</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth cutting hay</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall tillage</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
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 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.

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