



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 25, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 29

## Weekend Rain Improves Field Conditions

After four weeks of dry weather, rain fell on Wisconsin fields. The weekend rain loosened dirt, aided winter crops, and gave elevators a break from the long lines. This in turn allowed elevators to handle grain and make more storage room. A report from Dodge County stated some growers experienced combine fires this fall, however, fire concerns lessened with the recent moisture. Now, some will need to wait for fields to dry out again before finishing fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 1 degree below normal to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 57 to 62 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 34 to 44 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Eau Claire to 0.92 inches in La Crosse. There were 6.2 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/>

Many hurried to harvest **corn** before the weekend rain. Corn for grain was reported at 66 percent harvested, up 16 percentage points from last week and 35 percentage points above the five-year average. Corn for grain yields continued to be reported as good to excellent. Many reported storage of grain was a large problem, with some reports of corn still standing in fields due to there being a storage shortage. A report from Florence County stated that some farms were green feeding since silos were already full.

**Soybean** harvest wrapped up this past week at record pace. Ninety-five percent of the crop was reported harvested. The previously recorded record for this day was set in 1997, with 92 percent of soybeans harvested. Yields continued to be reported as good to excellent. A report from Shawano County stated soybean acres were being baled for bedding.

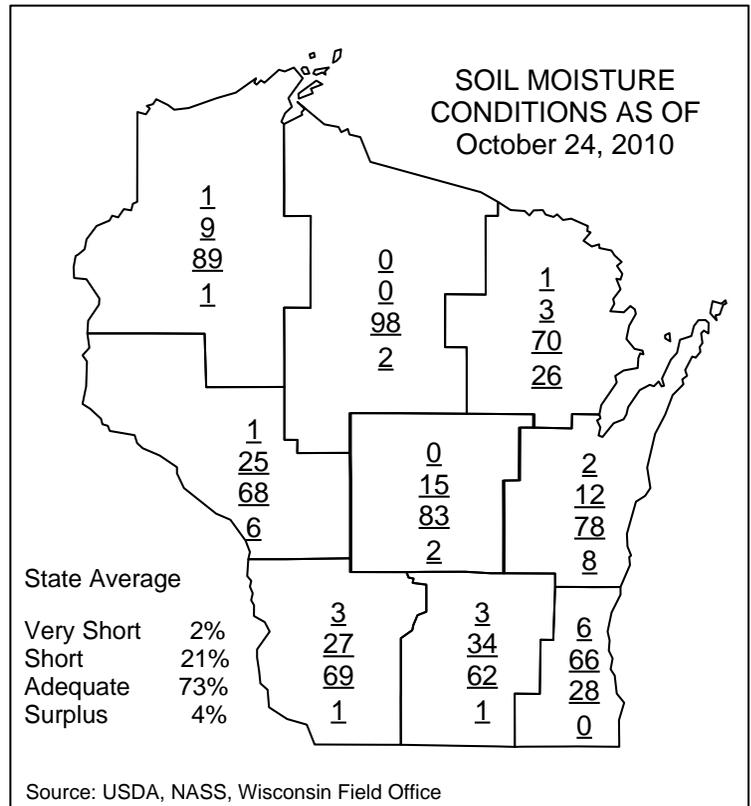
A few more growers were able to take fourth cutting **hay** last week, with 94 percent reported complete. Fifth cutting hay was reported in Sheboygan, Kenosha, and Kewaunee Counties.

Many reported planting of **winter wheat** was mostly complete. Many reported winter wheat as looking good and starting to green up. The recent moisture aided emergence of winter wheat and other winter crops.

**Fall tillage** continued for some growers this past week as it was reported at 39 percent complete, 8 percentage points above the previous week.

**Manure** pits were being emptied the past week as many continued to apply manure to fields.

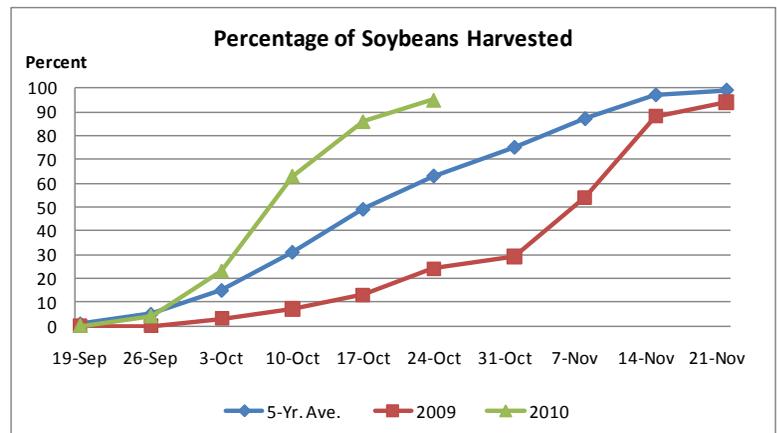
A report from Waupaca County stated that **raspberries** were still being harvested, while a report from Kewaunee County stated **apple** harvest was complete.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 24, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	3	11	43	42
Pasture	3	9	29	45	14

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 24, 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 harvested for grain	52	69	69	52	65	59	74	78	66	66	50	8	31
Soybeans harvested	94	97	79	97	94	93	96	95	97	95	86	24	63
Fourth cutting hay	85	94	100	96	96	88	98	98	90	94	91	82	84
Fall tillage	31	28	45	27	54	52	43	37	43	39	31	20	23

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.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Corn and soybeans continue to come off quickly as excellent harvest conditions continue. Yields are well above normal for both crops. Fall tillage and manure application are in full swing too.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Soybeans almost done, about 45 bushels per acre on average. Good for us. Corn harvest picking up, high moisture nearly done and dry corn rolling into elevators. Moistures running from the mid-teens to the mid-twenties. Yields are very good, 175 bushels per acre or higher and excellent quality. Not your normal northern Wisconsin corn crop. Hay is done for the year.

**MARATHON-S.N.:** Soybean and corn harvest is continuing on schedule. Corn combining continues. Yields are very good. Storage areas are bursting at the seams. Very little drying for soybeans or corn is needed. Light rain on Wednesday did not hamper harvesting efforts.

**ONEIDA-P.L.:** Quality and quantity of corn and soybean harvests are really good. Past three weeks of dry weather helped a lot. Pretty much done up here now except for fall fieldwork.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Corn silage harvest is close to being finished. Some heavy soil areas in the county are having trouble getting in the fields yet. Some farms are green feeding because they have filled their silos and still have excess corn standing because of the excellent crop we have had. Some fall tillage has started and some winter rye has been planted.

**OCONTO-B.T.:** No rain for 20 days.

**TREMPEALEAU-D.D.:** Many producers tell me they are done, earliest in recent memory. Quite a bit of bedding made last week, hayfields are being sprayed out for rotating into corn and winter grains are in need of the rain we got Saturday to even up and get going. I rarely see a soybean field standing now.

**MARQUETTE-D.B.:** Harvest is moving along, if the elevators can find room for it. Got some needed rain halting harvest for a while.

**WAUPACA-L.B.:** Still harvesting raspberries, we should go to November 1.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** Most of the past week saw dry weather, and this enabled a lot of manure hauling to take place. The soil was finally dry enough that additional ruts were not created and mud was not made on area roadways. By week's end, this situation changed as at least half an inch of rain fell. This was the first measurable precipitation in about 3 weeks. Since soybean harvest was all but done now, the remaining corn was tackled this past week. A lot of corn has been taken off, with some impressive yields of over 200 bushels being reported.

Fall tillage has also been going on, with a lot of plowing being done. There was some fourth and fifth crop hay made this past week, with quantities a little better than average due to the moisture in the ground. Not all of these crops will be made, though, since some producers only made three crops of hay this year. The excessive moisture created a larger crop than usual so stocks of alfalfa going into the winter are excellent. Winter wheat planting is wrapping up now, with just about all previously planted wheat coming up. The rain that fell this past weekend will definitely help the germination of any seed that did not emerge yet. And even though October is not over yet, the apple season in parts of the area is done. This is about 2 to 3 weeks ahead of normal. The warm and wet summer weather made for an earlier apple harvest. Quality was reported as being good, but the quantity of the apples was less than expected.

**IOWA-K.M.:** Farms have been busy across the county. Some much needed rain fell this past weekend with totals around the 1.5 inch mark. Corn and soybean harvest is in full swing and reaching the end for many farmers. Fall tillage continues for many farms.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Fall tillage would have been in full swing, but you could not get the chisel plow in the ground. Weekend rain will help a lot to restore our field moisture. Harvest progressing, but no where to go with the corn as elevators are filling up. This area received over 2.0 inches of rain Saturday and Sunday.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Some are cutting fifth crop hay. It is short in height. Winter wheat looks good. Some are bailing corn stalks.

**WASHINGTON-J.N.:** It is very dry. Soybean harvest is complete; 60 to 70 bushels per acre. Corn harvest is 80 percent complete. Three corn plots were 214 to 219 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is 2 to 3 feet tall. Late-planted wheat is not growing due to dry soil. A lot of manure is being spread. All in all, a very good year.



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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 October 24, 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 Oct. 23	Mar. 1 to Oct. 23 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	58	34	66	24	46	-1	3120	2564	0.00	7.69	2.28	32.07	3.44
Green Bay	57	36	60	28	46	-1	2946	2424	0.72	5.48	0.80	33.78	8.95
La Crosse	62	39	71	31	50	0	3508	2905	0.92	7.95	2.95	37.39	8.85
Madison	62	36	70	27	49	0	3337	2863	0.58	3.25	-1.39	33.58	5.13
Milwaukee	62	44	70	32	53	2	3306	n.a.	0.72	3.34	-1.72	31.72	2.62

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.