



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 13, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 23

Crops Race Oncoming Frost

A dry, sunny week progressed haying, fall seeding and preparations for harvest across the state, with 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Several reporters noted light frost on cars and buildings, though in most areas it was not enough to impact crops. Harder frosts are predicted for the coming week in northern Wisconsin. In the southern and eastern regions, short topsoil moisture was starting to impact pasture quality.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 70 to 77 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 46 to 55 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Madison to 0.13 inches in Eau Claire. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal for all reporting stations. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

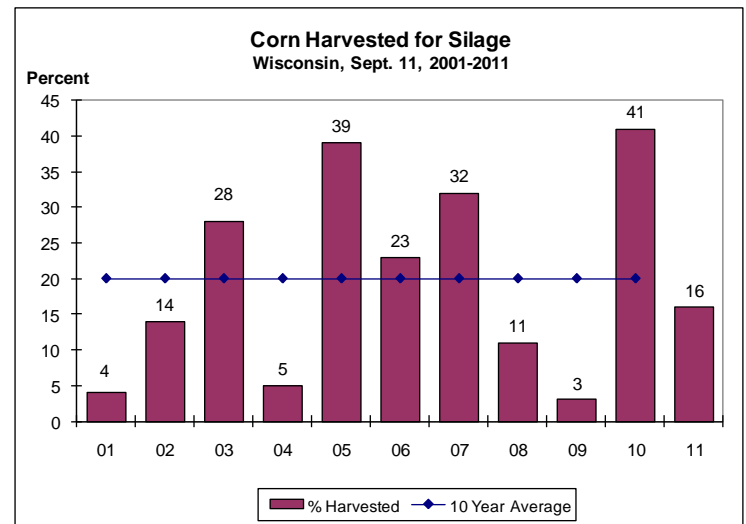
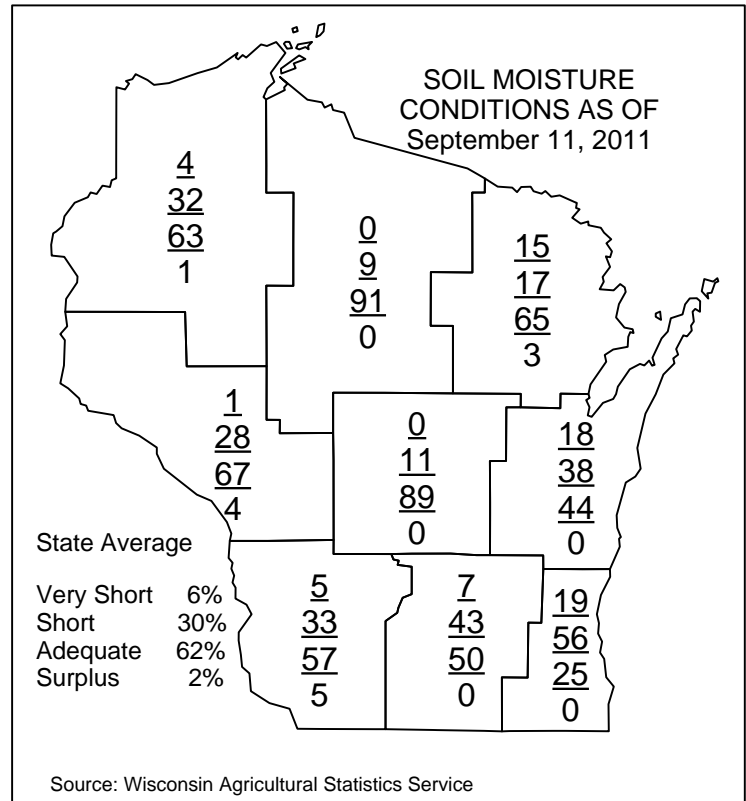
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn was 94 percent in dough stage, 66 percent dented and 10 percent mature across the state. After a late start this spring, corn needs more time and heat to mature in much of the north. In the south, **corn silage** harvest was in full swing, with 16 percent harvested across the state.

Statewide, 38 percent of **soybeans** had leaves turning color with 6 percent dropping leaves. Reports of pod fullness varied widely by rainfall, drainage and planting date.

It was another great week to make **hay** across the state. Third crop harvest was 96 percent complete, and fourth crop harvest was 46 percent complete. Hay yields were adversely affected by dry conditions in parts of southern Wisconsin, though quality and quantity were reportedly excellent in areas where moisture was adequate.

Fruit crops seem to have enjoyed the heat this summer, with bumper crops of **apples, pears, grapes, plums** and **raspberries** coming in. **Tomatoes, snap beans** and **sweet corn** were being harvested for canning and freezing across the state. **Potato** harvest was beginning in Vilas and Oneida Counties and a Portage County reporter noted good yields. **Winter squash** and **pumpkins** were also looking good, though blight was reported in Waupaca County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 11, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	6	17	49	27
Soybean	1	4	16	52	27
Pasture	3	16	29	47	5

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 11, 2011

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 silage harvested	2	8	13	15	23	8	26	27	37	16	n.a.	41	22
Corn in dough stage	94	96	84	96	97	85	97	98	96	94	87	96	89
Corn in dent stage	56	54	56	67	70	47	73	78	77	66	47	85	61
Corn mature	7	4	15	11	11	4	3	16	14	10	n.a.	25	13
Soybean leaves turning	36	33	26	35	45	27	30	43	65	38	12	62	53
Soybean leaves dropping	5	7	7	2	6	5	4	6	16	6	n.a.	23	17
Third cutting hay	90	95	99	97	98	96	99	94	99	96	93	91	90
Fourth cutting hay	39	35	66	39	40	46	41	67	57	46	27	42	29

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BARRON-D.B.: Corn and soybeans look excellent. Good week for making hay. Small grain harvest wrapped up.

ASHLAND-C.B.: No rain again this week. Pasture poor in areas of lighter soil. We could use a good rain throughout the area.

FOREST-L.O.: September 6, a.m. temperatures were in the lower 30s.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Looks to be a very good year for apples and pumpkins. Pear trees are also quite heavy with fruit. Corn silage chopping has begun but even though some have done silage burn down testing, it is still greener than most thought once they get in the field. Soybeans turning color fast and some have lost leaves in just the last two days.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Soybeans are starting to turn color, but are not dropping leaves as yet. Third crop hay had a good yield, with fourth crop looking healthy. Farmers in this area generally do not cut hay in September, but this year seems to be an exception. Crops are maturing quickly because of the warm weather.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Near perfect harvest weather continues, so much is getting done. Seed corn harvest is in full swing, much of late hay cutting is done and corn silage and snaplage is in full harvest. Apples are coming in and fresh tomatoes are abundant.

JUNEAU-J.W.: The rain Labor Day weekend and the hot weather have helped the corn and soybeans. The corn is real close to being finished and looks good. The soybeans need time to fill the pods. There are not as many pods and because of the lack of moisture in August, they have not filled very well. It's been great weather to get things ready to go for harvest, finish up haying, and start harvesting silage.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Corn is being harvested for silage. Soybean leaves are turning. No rain this past week so field conditions are dry.

WOOD-M.L.: Cranberry harvest has begun with the white cranberry harvest in the area.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: This past week really saw the soybeans begin to turn and to drop leaves. A few fields are almost 50% turned. In this area, some pods are showing only about one bean in them while others have three. Some corn silage chopping has begun here. In some fields, the corn will need to be chopped soon if adequate moisture is desired for the fermentation process. The relatively warm temperatures in the last week have really hastened the drying down of both the corn and soybeans. The harvest of third crop hay in this area is coming to an end, with yields for this crop being lower than what would be expected. Some fall fieldwork is going on, with a few

fields already lying fallow until next year. A few apple trees are dropping apples, and so the apple harvest has begun.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Crops are looking pretty good for as dry as it has been over the last month. Soybeans are starting to turn yellow across the county. In talking with a handful of farms and consultants, it sounds like corn silage harvest will start this coming week with the majority going next week.

IOWA-K.M.: Crops on the ridges are further along. Beans on the ridges are turning and a few may even be losing leaves. Corn crop looks good for the most part. A few areas did receive damage from high winds over Labor Day weekend.

SAUK-J.P.: Still not much corn silage being made here. A few soybeans were turning color. Pods could have used more rain in August. Third crop hay was short, fourth crop will be too. Garden crops seem to be slow to ripen, lots of green tomatoes on vines.

COLUMBIA-B.K.: Corn moisture still high (26%) even on early maturity (95 day) planted in third week of April. Fourth crop hay being done. Soybeans maturing, additional rain would have provided for a little larger bean, better filled pods.

ROCK-C.H.: Need a good rain.

KENOSHA-J.H.: The dry weather is having a very negative effect on the soybeans. Many pods are falling off the plants.

RACINE-K.I.: Soybeans are turning and dropping leaves quickly.

WASHINGTON-G.S.: Everything is drying down. Corn and soybeans are maturing. Fourth crop hay was average quality and quantity.



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

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 11, 2011

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. 10	Mar. 1 to Sep. 10 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	77	46	86	41	62	-1	2404	2243	0.13	0.32	-1.20	27.88	3.21
Green Bay	72	46	81	39	59	-3	2273	2105	0.08	1.35	0.16	28.23	6.85
La Crosse	76	50	83	44	63	-3	2684	2519	0.01	0.99	-0.34	29.12	4.24
Madison	73	46	83	39	60	-4	2584	2454	0.00	1.06	-0.21	21.55	-3.50
Milwaukee	70	55	76	50	62	-4	2429	n.a.	0.01	0.51	-0.76	23.80	-1.51

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.