October 11, 2011

Indian Summer Advances Fieldwork

Wisconsin basked under clear, sunny skies last week, with temperatures reaching the low 80s across the state. Warm, breezy days and cool nights helped dry down corn and soybeans. Farmers took advantage of the weather to get out in the fields, advancing harvest and haying; after a late start, the soybean harvest in particular surged ahead this week. Producers not busy combining were out tilling, spreading manure or doing their fall seeding. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 4 to 11 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 73 to 80 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 44 to 50 degrees. Precipitation totals were 0.00 inches for all reporting stations. 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 78 percent mature and 11 percent harvested for grain. Corn moistures were reported in the 20-35 percent range across the state, with high moisture corn ready to harvest or being harvested in most areas. Corn silage harvest reached 98 percent complete.

Statewide, 94 percent of soybeans were dropping leaves, with 28 percent harvested. Reporters noted preliminary yields in the 40-50 bushel per acre range for northern Wisconsin and the 50-65 bushel per acre range for southern Wisconsin. Moistures were reported in the 10-20 percent range across much of the state.

Fourth crop hay was 90 percent harvested. The weather was ideal for drying and bailing. Sauk and Dane County reporters noted fifth crop hay coming off where fields are to be plowed down.

Fall tillage advanced to 16 percent complete.

Wisconsin’s potato harvest was finishing up this week, with average yields and very good quality reported. A Buffalo County reporter commented that grape yields were double last year’s and the grapes were sweet. Cranberry, apple, carrot and pumpkin harvest continued as well.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 9, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>V.-poor</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Conditions, as of October 9, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil moisture</th>
<th>Surplus</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Short</th>
<th>Very Short</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State average</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
BARRON-C.B.: Corn silage harvest is well underway. Soybean harvest began this past week.
RUSK-M.K.: Most of the corn silage is off. Very little harvesting taking place yet. Some high moisture corn harvesting is starting.
WASHBURN-E.M./T.F.: Extremely dry in area; fire conditions are “very high”; concerns about all down timber from July 1 storm.
CLARK-R.H.: Killing freeze ended the season last Saturday morning. The weather this past week was great and farmers are wrapping up corn silage and the last cut of hay. Soybean and high moisture corn harvest is beginning. Manure is being applied and incorporated, just a very busy week in the county.
MARATHON-S.N.: Soybeans and corn silage harvest is in progress as the plant continues to dry out. Rain needed to dampen the dust.
FLORENCE-T.B.: Not much change from last week except it was HOT and dry for this time of year. Some tillage work and winter rye being planted, other then that not much in field work being done. Pastures are slowly recovering and some summer seedings are showing signs of emergence. Colors are beyond peak and trees have lost 80-90 percent of their leaves with the high winds we had late in the week. Hoping for some rain with these warm temps.
SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybean combining started late in the week and are yielding in the 50-60 bushel range. Corn silage chopping is winding down and high moisture corn harvest should start this next week. Many farmers are finding that the corn is tangled and lodging badly in some of the fields from the winds we had earlier in the summer. It will need to be watched closely for a head start on combining or large yield losses may occur. Fourth crop hay is nearly done. Much of the winter wheat still has to be planted yet as they wait for the soybeans to come off first.
EAU CLAIRE-D.S.: Soybean harvest started – 55 bushels per acre, 12 percent moisture. Some high moisture corn harvested. Totally awesome weather.
LA CROSSE-I.H.: Some soybeans have been harvested, with a moisture content around 11 percent. I am sure more will be coming off this week. The weather this week has been warm and dry, conducive to good harvesting. Farmers in this area are just beginning to combine beans. Other than silage or high moisture corn, I have not seen other combines going.
TREMPALEAU-K.L.: The soybean harvest has started in earnest. Manure is being spread on hay fields and corn stubble. The last of the hay is being cut. Hay quality is reported to be good this year.
WAUSHARA-K.W.: Past week was great for any late season hay. Corn moisture around 25 percent.
WOOD-M.L.: The past week has been great for hay harvest, considering the time of year. Hay was baled instead of haylage being made. Soybeans have been coming off with nearly perfect harvest conditions.
DOOR-T.S.: Soybeans are coming off now and high moisture corn. Some wheat still getting planted after soybeans.
FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Crops are looking good.
GRANT-D.W.: Harvest is in full swing. Where there was plenty of rain, corn and bean yields are very good. Where rainfall was limited, yields are still good, but not great.
IOWA-K.M.: Warm dry conditions helped producers finish up fourth crop hay and allowed them to begin taking corn and soybeans from Iowa County fields.
DANE-J.M.: Most of vegetables froze last week. Starting to put in winter wheat where soybeans were taken off. A large amount of high moisture corn combining going on in our area. Soybeans are being combined this week. Moisture was down to 10.5 to 11.1 percent. My beans averaged 72 bushels per acre on 10 acres.
DODGE-R.H.: Soybean harvest is very good.
WALWORTH-N.W.: Combines are rolling in the soybean fields with yields reported in the 55-65 bushel range. High moisture corn was also being harvested this last week.
WAUKESHA-C.W.: Soybean harvest started earlier than years past. Beautiful week for harvesting and fieldwork.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 9, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</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>80</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>82</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.

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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.