



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 17, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 24

Corn and Soybean Harvests Begin

Wisconsin experienced yet another week of scattered light rains, with a mix of summery days and cooler, fall-like temperatures. The high moisture corn and soybean harvests began this week, about 10 days ahead of average. Haying, corn silage and potato harvests were ongoing. Soil moistures fell to 76 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 71 percent last week. Short soil moistures made for dusty field conditions and in some areas delayed fall tillage. Reporters commented that fall seedings need more moisture to germinate normally. Pastures were 64 percent in poor to very poor condition, compared to 60 percent last week. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were normal to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 75 to 78 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 47 to 55 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.02 inches in Madison to 0.50 inches in La Crosse. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

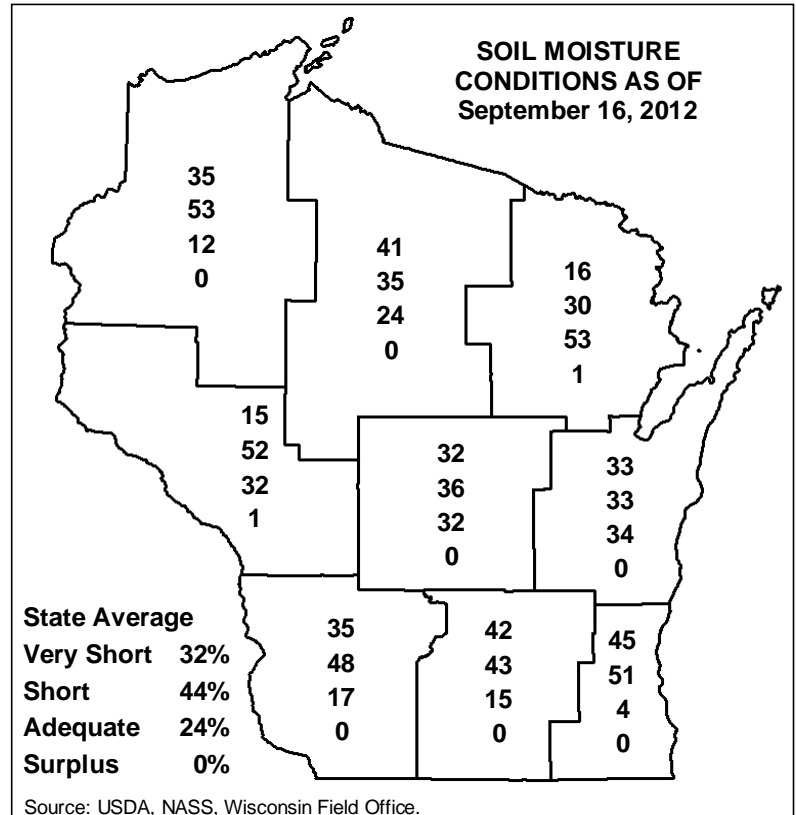
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn was 86 percent denting and 40 percent mature statewide. Corn was 4 percent harvested for grain, compared to 0 percent last year and a 0 percent 5-year average. Corn **silage** was 63 percent harvested and progressing rapidly. Moisture levels were reportedly in the teens to twenties, and in some areas the plants were reportedly too dry to chop for silage. Some reporters commented that the drought has affected stalk strength, and a Clark County reporter noted lodging in corn due to high winds.

Soybeans were 87 percent turning leaves this week, with 52 percent dropping leaves. Soybeans were 2 percent harvested statewide compared to 0 percent last year and a 0 percent 5-year average. Harvest was most advanced in the northern areas of the state, where more moisture was available during plant development. Yields were reported ranging from 5-50 bushels per acre.

Fourth cutting hay was 87 percent harvested, and the fifth cutting was 17 percent harvested. Reporters commented that the fifth crop was being taken wherever possible due to feed shortages, though hay fields in the southern parts of the state were highly stressed by the drought. An Oneida county reporter noted potato cover crops being harvested for hay.

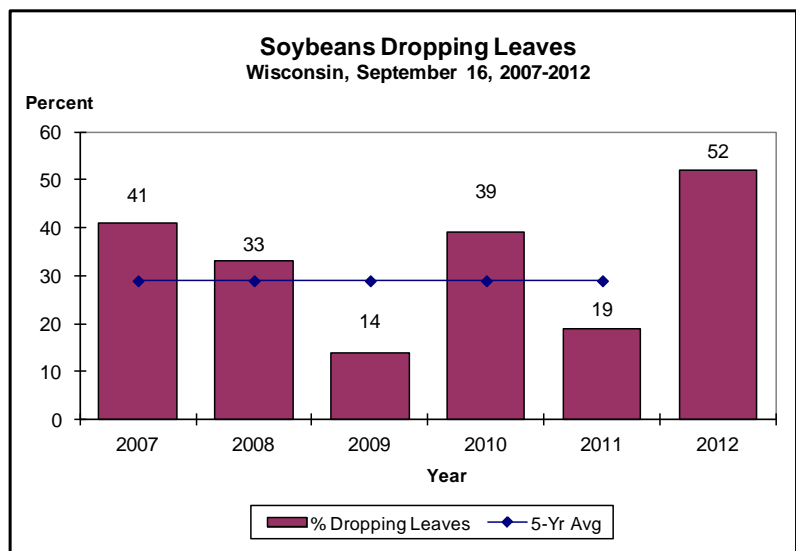
Winter wheat planting began as corn silage was removed and fields prepped. A Waupaca county reporter noted that the **squash, pumpkin** and fall **raspberry** harvests were in full swing. **Beets** were reportedly being harvested in Portage County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 16, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	29	35	30	5	1
Corn	16	20	27	30	7
Soybeans	10	17	34	30	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



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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	73	94	86	91	81	73	81	94	80	86	76	76	72
Corn in mature stage	37	59	33	48	25	23	27	61	38	40	23	21	22
Corn harvested for silage	69	77	40	84	64	52	72	64	52	63	38	32	34
Soybeans leaves turned	94	98	76	90	79	81	83	87	88	87	70	61	70
Soybeans leaves dropped	65	78	17	51	32	50	49	53	35	52	24	19	29
Fourth cutting hay	79	84	93	85	87	89	93	91	79	87	80	60	42
Fifth cutting hay	12	0	24	16	9	23	25	26	15	17	8	n.a.	n.a.

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.

BARRON-C.B.: Corn silage harvest is well under way, yields are about average. High moisture corn harvest. Soybeans have started to come off the fields.

RUSK-G.P.: Rain of about 0.5 inch has held soil moisture stable but it is still dry. Fall seedings are in danger unless we get a decent rain soon. Corn silage continues with whole plant moistures now getting on the dry side. High moisture corn has started but most still too wet. Soybean harvest has started as well with yields of 35 to 50 bushels per acre. Some beans showing lots of green seed.

CLARK-A.K.: We could still use some rain. We need it now not for crops but, because it is just so dry. Fall is coming and leaves are starting to turn. Guys that are harvesting be careful.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Corn and soybeans matured rapidly in the past week. Silage corn is coming off fast with some too dry to chop. Some corn has been shelled and moisture levels are very low but test weights are surprisingly higher than expected. Soybeans are being harvested in many areas with yields reported as average. Some hay is being harvested yet. Leaves are turning and fall is in the air.

OCONTO-N.S.: Conditions are very dry now in most areas. Producers harvesting corn for silage are progressing rapidly. Soybeans have nearly all turned color. Some fields are dropping leaves already.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Corn and soybeans are really drying down nice. Corn silage is about done, high moisture corn will be soon. A lot of fourth crop hay harvested this week. A third of an inch of rain for the week. Pastures have not recovered from the drought.

LACROSSE-I.H.: Soybean fields are very yellow now and leaves are beginning to drop. Corn fields are also drying down. The last few days of sunny and windy conditions has assisted this dry down.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Most corn silage has been chopped now. Very little to no corn in a lot of it. High moisture harvest is starting where there is a little corn. Counties around us are starting soybean harvest but not here so far. Should start this week but now it's supposed to rain so will be another week. Russet potato harvest has been in full tilt with many wrapping that up in the next week. We are still very dry and need a lot of fall moisture to come.

CALUMET-B.L.: This week a lot of soybean leaves dropped as the crop is maturing. Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Most of the fifth cutting is harvested. Producers are hoping for some moisture so that their winter wheat will germinate. Corn silage yields vary considerably. It is difficult to determine averages

unless the silage is weighed and scaled. Many producers in our area have surplus forages and we are exploring avenues to market wet forages after harvest and storage. The corn crop is turning rapidly with the ears opening and dropping as well. We could really use some moisture. Many producers are now talking about replenishing the ground water for next year's crop.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Frost wouldn't hurt much now. If it's not going to rain we might as well get on with the harvesting.

VERNON-K.Y.: Lots of corn silage off, with large quality ranges. Combines getting ready to start on high moisture corn and soybeans. The area had some small rain showers last week, but lots of nice weather for the local county fair over the weekend.

DODGE-R.H.: Soybeans are dropping leaves earlier than expected. Quality of the corn silage seems to be really good. Reports of the corn moisture 28 to 30 percent.

GREEN-M.M.: Corn silage harvest is pretty much complete with yields running much below normal. Corn is drying down rapidly and high moisture corn harvest started this week. Soybean harvest also started this week with early reported yields ranging from 5-35 bushels per acre. A lot of fifth cutting hay will be taken, but most will now wait until mid October to cut to allow the stressed plants to recover and increase root reserves for winter survival.

WALWORTH-N.W.: The bulk of the corn silage harvest is over. Insurance appraisals are said to be between 50-100 bushels per acre. Leaves are dropping on the soybeans with some fields close to harvest. Quality is good on what little hay there is to cut. There will be a shortage of hay by spring.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 16, 2012

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. 15	Mar. 1 To Sep. 15 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	78	48	90	40	63	+2	2998	2308	0.10	0.79	-1.34	19.94	-5.30
Green Bay	76	47	84	43	61	+1	2879	2171	0.04	0.63	-1.06	22.61	+0.66
La Crosse	78	52	90	47	65	+1	3282	2596	0.50	0.98	-0.94	19.97	-5.30
Madison	77	49	86	41	63	+1	3210	2536	0.02	0.90	-0.90	17.87	-7.65
Milwaukee	75	55	86	50	65	0	3088	n.a.	0.19	1.57	-0.27	21.42	-4.38

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.