



Wisconsin Crop Progress

September 24, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 25

Frost Hits as Harvests Ramp Up

The week of the autumn equinox brought below average temperatures, blustery winds and scattered rain showers. Northern Wisconsin experienced some hard frosts, with overnight lows reportedly falling into the 20s in some areas. Frost elsewhere in the state was patchy. Soil moistures were 78 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 76 percent last week. Farmers were reportedly working to complete high moisture corn harvest before the grain becomes too dry. Corn silage was wrapping up for most, corn for grain harvest was beginning and the soybean harvest was progressing rapidly. Wisconsin's **cranberry** harvest also began this week. There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 5 to 6 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 66 to 67 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 40 to 47 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.16 inches in La Crosse to 0.74 inches Milwaukee. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

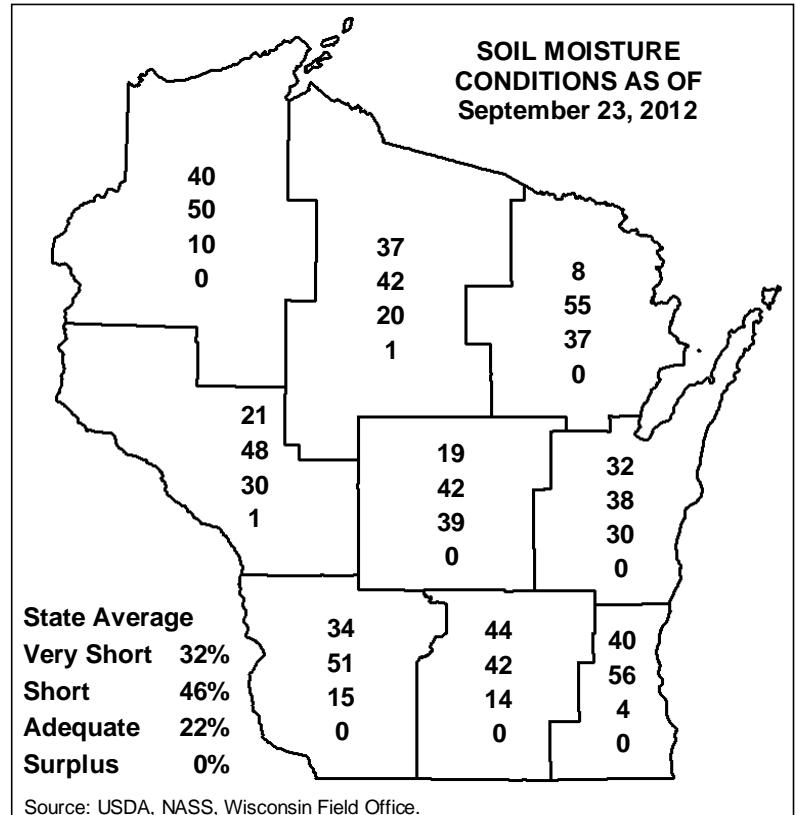
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn was 94 percent denting, 63 percent mature and 12 percent harvested for grain statewide. Corn **silage** was 84 percent harvested. Yield reports varied from average to well below average due to this summer's drought. Corn moisture levels were reportedly extremely low for this early in the season. Several reporters noted corn dropping ears and other stalk integrity problems.

Soybeans were 96 percent turning leaves this week, with 78 percent dropping leaves and 14 percent harvested. Reported yields varied greatly and moisture levels were in the low teens.

Fourth cutting hay was 92 percent harvested, and the fifth cutting was 26 percent harvested. Reporters commented that rain is needed as existing hay stands prepare to overwinter.

Fall tillage was 7 percent complete. The lack of soil moisture reportedly continued to hamper the emergence of fall seedings.

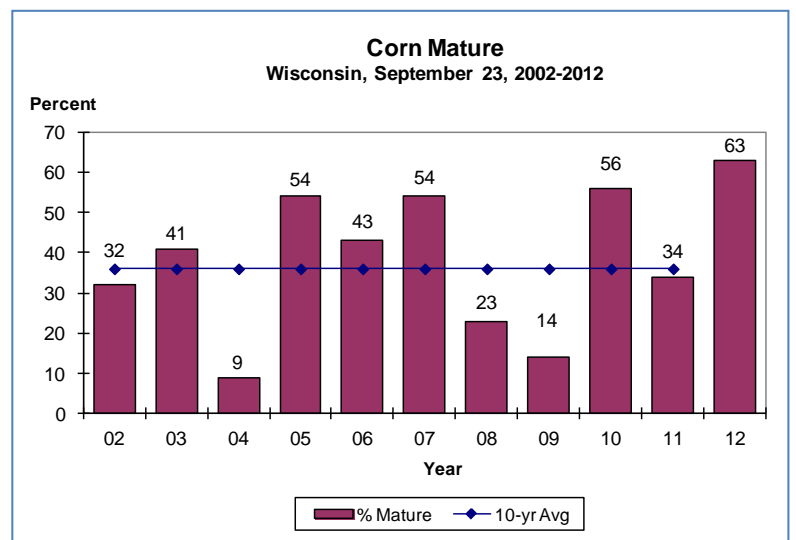


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 23, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	31	35	27	6	1
Corn	18	19	26	29	8
Soybeans	10	16	34	31	9

Percent

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	83	95	98	94	97	88	97	97	95	94	86	86	84
Corn in mature stage	66	81	67	68	46	43	50	79	70	63	40	34	36
Corn harvested for grain	16	36	10	10	8	9	16	9	2	12	4	1	3
Corn harvested for silage	87	91	86	94	82	74	86	89	78	84	63	52	52
Soybeans leaves turned	99	98	100	97	95	92	94	99	97	96	87	84	87
Soybeans leaves dropped	85	91	86	78	62	73	79	76	87	78	52	42	54
Soybeans harvested	21	43	9	11	8	6	9	18	7	14	2	0	1
Fourth cutting hay	83	85	94	90	93	92	98	95	87	92	87	74	54
Fifth cutting hay	18	0	58	28	17	24	36	43	19	26	17	n.a.	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	11	16	4	4	5	7	7	6	3	7	n.a.	0	2

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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-G.L.: Received first frost this past weekend.

WASHBURN-T.F.: Very dry in area; minimal soil moisture; last Tuesday temperatures in area were 28-32 degrees; spotty frost in several areas

MARATHON-S.N.: Corn silage harvest nearly complete. Combining of corn and soybeans is moving along at serious rate. Farmers report low moisture in corn and soybeans. In some cases, as the plant is touched by harvesting equipment the grain falls to the ground before it moves through the combine.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Frost this past weekend did not affect crops much, but it did help to even out parts of fields that were still green. Corn is maturing quickly and drying down very well. Soybeans are being harvested and yields are average. Some fall tillage has been done. Manure pits are also being emptied.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Well below normal temperatures, but it was a wet week. We had two hard frosts with temps as low as mid 20s and three more mornings with light frosts (low to mid 30s). Fall small grains finally took off with the rains we had all week long.

DUNN-S.S.: Moisture levels for corn ranging from 19-25 percent. Some soybeans already harvested.

PIERCE-G.E.A.: Just starting harvest. No rain in Sept.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Received a couple of good freezes over the weekend so things should start drying down now. Soybean harvest is picking up and most guys have made their last cutting of hay. Now we'll start finding out how bad the crop really is as harvest begins

WAUSHARA-K.W.: In the sand country we get at most 3 cuttings of alfalfa. Received 0.2 inches rain on 9/20 and 0.7 inches on 9/22. Digging 4 inch post hole yesterday. Rain soaked in about 8-9 inches. Sand was so dry under that I had to use a hose to be able to get the sand out of the post hole.

DOOR-T.S.: About 25 percent of the winter wheat is planted.

KEWAUNEE-A.B.: Corn silage is wrapping up with producers reporting a decent harvest. Fields averaged 17-21 tons per acre with some a little more and some less. Some corn meant for silage dried down so fast it got away from farmers, so there will probably be a little more high moisture corn harvested this fall than anticipated. Fifth crop got put on the back burner while corn silage was being harvested and there probably won't be much taken off since growth was

very poor due to lack of moisture. There is still a lot of sorghum sudan grass in the ground and should start to be taken off in the next couple of weeks. Most dairy producers should be in good shape for forage supplies in the coming year.

GRANT-J.R.: Corn is in full swing on harvest for grain and soybeans are getting ready quickly with some fields harvested already at 11 percent moisture. The fifth cutting of alfalfa is coming in with better than expected yields due to the cooler and slightly wetter weather. More moisture is needed to replenish the soil in preparation for next year. Producers are planting winter wheat and oats for a cover crop and forage crops next spring. Recent winds are worsening the situation with corn as the stalk strength is weak due to the dry hot weather this summer.

DANE-D.R.: Still need a good rain. Have only received enough to water the weeds. Lawns rebounding very slowly. Trees are dropping leaves.

ROCK-C.O.: By end of the week soybean harvest should be complete. Corn harvest will start right away as there is no stalk strength and what ears we have are dropping on the ground. Forage supplies are still tight and every corn acre that can be, will be baled!

KENOSHA-J.H.: Soybeans are another disappointment.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Dry. No fifth crop hay. Corn and beans drying down fast with moistures running 28-32 percent. Silage chopping just about complete. Had frost 9/21. Growing season is just about over with for fruits and gardens. Apple crop about 15 percent of normal.



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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.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 23, 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. 22	Mar. 1 To Sep. 22 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	66	41	82	34	53	-5	3057	2374	0.23	1.02	-1.98	20.17	-6.02
Green Bay	66	40	79	32	53	-5	2939	2240	0.41	1.09	-1.33	23.02	+0.46
La Crosse	67	44	78	39	56	-6	3347	2674	0.16	1.14	-1.15	20.13	-6.01
Madison	67	43	76	34	55	-5	3274	2624	0.43	1.33	-1.13	18.30	-7.84
Milwaukee	67	47	77	39	57	-5	3152	n.a.	0.74	2.31	-0.25	22.16	-4.53

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.