



Wisconsin Crop Progress

October 9, 2012

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Harvest Continues at Record Pace

The harvest continued to make rapid progress as Wisconsin experienced a second week of cold, dry, windy days. The corn for grain, corn silage, soybeans and fourth cutting hay harvests were all well ahead of the previous record high years. Soybeans harvested on October 7th exceeded the previous record high for that date, set in 2010, by 29 percentage points. Fourth cutting hay harvest wrapped up over two weeks earlier than the previous record year. Reporters noted that blowing dust was a problem in some areas, both kicked up by fieldwork and from wind erosion to tilled fields. The extreme dryness of the soil has made tillage and fall seeding difficult, and germination of fall crops reportedly continues to be poor. Soil moistures fell to 90 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 83 percent last week. Yield reports for corn and soybeans varied widely with soil type, planting date and precipitation received. There were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 1 to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 63 to 65 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 39 to 46 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse and Madison, to 0.02 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/>

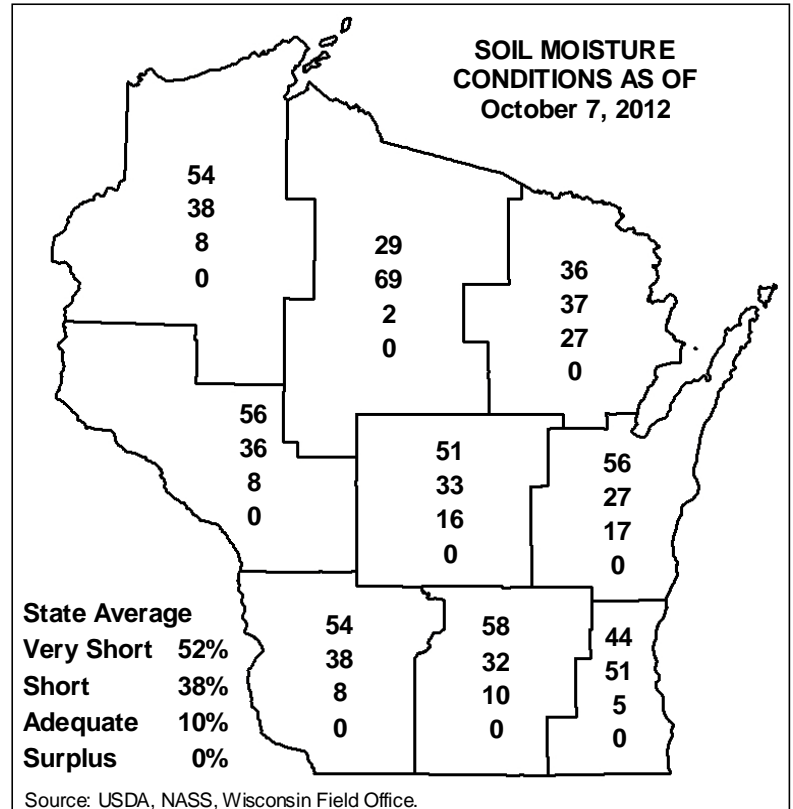
Corn was 92 percent mature and 36 percent harvested for grain statewide. Corn **silage** wrapped up with 99 percent harvested. Some reporters noted corn dropping ears and stalks snapping or falling over due to the dry conditions. High moisture corn was finished in most areas as grain moistures continued to fall. Stalk chopping and bailing were ongoing.

Soybeans were 98 percent dropping leaves and 75 percent harvested. Pod and bean shatter were reported in some areas due to the dryness of the plants.

Fifth cutting hay was 58 percent harvested. Reporters noted that drought conditions will preclude a fifth cutting in some areas.

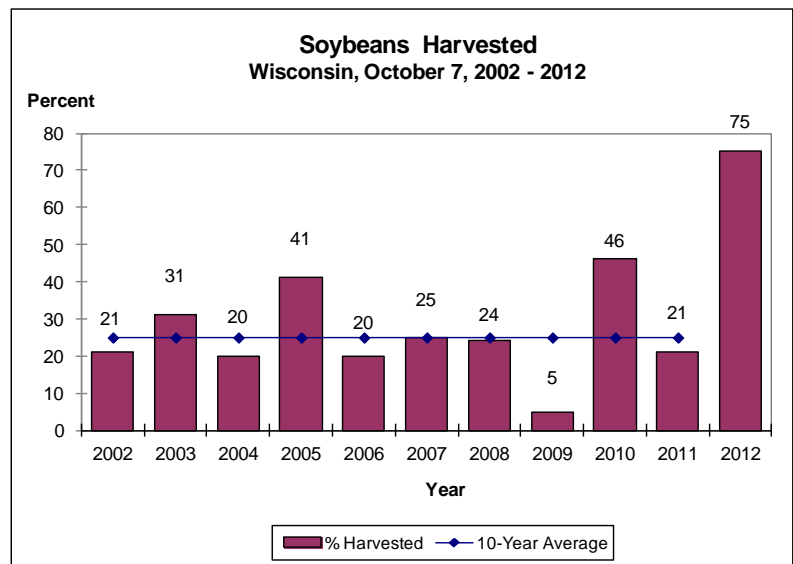
Fall tillage was 21 percent complete. Farmers in some areas were reportedly delaying tillage until more moisture is received.

Winter wheat and **fall cover crop** seedings across the state reportedly need rain to germinate. The **potato** harvest was reportedly beginning to wrap up in Oneida County and complete in Vilas County. Wisconsin's **cranberry** harvest continued.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	42	35	20	3	0
Corn	18	21	24	28	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 7, 2012

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 mature stage	90	97	97	95	85	80	96	98	95	92	81	72	70
Corn harvested for grain	43	59	23	40	24	24	51	30	24	36	23	9	13
Corn harvested for silage	98	99	98	100	98	98	98	100	98	99	94	84	83
Soybeans leaves dropped	98	98	99	98	92	96	99	100	100	98	91	88	90
Soybeans harvested	80	82	61	82	67	64	63	86	74	75	42	21	24
Fifth cutting hay	28	0	89	62	31	52	84	76	52	58	35	n.a.	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	22	50	13	14	21	21	21	13	24	21	13	15	12

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.

POLK-A.M.: Harvest well underway. Yields are average to slightly above average. The yield depends on when the crop was planted, variety, and soil type. Moisture levels are about 15 percent on corn and 10 percent or less on beans.

SAWYER-K.S.: Another very seasonable week of weather, although still very dry. Harvest is coming along very nicely, with most of the soybeans harvested and a majority of the corn coming off. A late season harvest of hay/alfalfa is not very likely due to the dry conditions. A very hard freeze over the weekend ended the growing season for produce growers using high tunnels, unless they provided supplemental heat or had very good heat loss management. Cranberry harvest is progressing nicely.

ASHLAND-C.B.: Still dry. Harvest reports coming in on corn. Yields are mostly average or better. A few fields did not fully recover from flood damage in June.

CLARK-J.B.: Fields are very dry, could use some moisture. A lot of manure being spread and worked in. Harvesting is just about complete. Winter wheat is at a stand still, not germinating, needs some rain.

OCONTO-N.S.: Harvesting is progressing well. Field conditions are becoming more dry, with little rain forecasted.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Soybeans are mostly off with yields mostly between 60-70 bushels per acre. Some corn is being taken off for drying now and is in the 16-20 percent range. Most of the winter wheat has been planted this past week as the soybeans came off. It is plenty dry now for fall tillage.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Soybean harvest moisture 8-13 percent with yields from 5 to 70 bushels per acre. High moisture corn is mostly harvested and dry corn running 12-20 percent moisture. Soil moisture is very low, little fall tillage yet. Stalk chopping and bedding being baled.

EAU CLAIRE-A.B.: Drought conditions continue, pastures have zero yield, the livestock on pastures are being fed winter feed stuffs. Fencing is being built to graze corn fields after harvest. The corn and bean harvesting is three weeks ahead of normal due to the dry conditions. Fall seeded crops are very slow to germinate and grow due to lack of moisture. A huge concern is fire danger in crop fields and the forests.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Soybean harvest nearly complete with lower than average yields. Some hay made, corn harvested and fall tillage. Cranberry harvest going slowly, due to limited water. Winter grain looks good.

FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Still very dry. Many good soybean yields (60-70 bushels per acre) and many poor (25-30 bushels per acre). Corn harvest in full swing, though some are waiting for dry down. Still have not had a killing frost.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Very dry, making harvest progress fast. Winter wheat planting is being done but significant rain is needed to help wheat and to make tillage easier.

GRANT-D.W.: Dry weather has allowed harvest to proceed at a rapid pace. Corn and bean yields are highly variable, but probably a little better than we feared.

DANE-L.J.: We have had no significant rainfall for weeks. Fall planted winter wheat and oats planted for cover crop have not received sufficient rainfall for germination. The soybean crop is harvested with roughly average yields. Corn silage harvest has been completed for weeks and corn grain harvest has begun. Black clouds of dust due to smut in the corn fields have been billowing from the combines. There will be no good news from crops producers until significant precipitation occurs.

GREEN-J.T.: It is very dry and harvest is progressing. Farms with mostly upland soils have higher soybean yield averages than corn.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Soybean harvest is wrapping up with reported yields at 30-35 bushels per acre. Corn harvest is starting with a lot of fields reported at 50-60 bushels per acre. Some dairy producers are concerned with their hay inventory going into winter.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Done chopping corn and done with the beans. Top soil is hard and dry.



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Director

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 7, 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 Oct. 6	Mar. 1 To Oct. 6 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	64	39	76	34	51	-2	3180	2469	0.00	1.02	-3.23	20.18	-7.09
Green Bay	64	40	71	35	52	-1	3045	2333	0.00	1.09	-2.42	23.02	-0.71
La Crosse	65	43	77	39	54	-3	3479	2791	0.00	1.15	-2.68	20.13	-7.07
Madison	64	39	73	37	51	-4	3401	2742	0.00	1.34	-2.18	18.31	-9.01
Milwaukee	63	46	79	38	54	-3	3262	n.a.	0.02	2.33	-1.42	22.19	-5.54

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.