



WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

September 16, 2013

Vol. 13, No. 24

Summer Turns to Fall

A last blast of summer heat gave way to damp, chilly conditions this week. Though temperatures reached the 90s across most of the state early in the week, daytime highs were only in the 60s by the weekend. Many reporters in the northern half of the state observed frost as the cold front came through, though it was reportedly patchy and light for most. Wisconsin's state median date for the first 32 degree frost falls between September 21 and October 10. Widespread rainfall also accompanied the front, including some much-needed precipitation for the dry western portions of the state. Reporters there noted that the rain was too late to help drought damaged crops, but that it should bolster fall seedings, pastures and hay stands as they prepare to overwinter. Silage harvest continued with producers chopping corn that will not mature. Some reporters noted that feed shortages were forcing early silage chopping, especially in areas where pastures were dried up. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 4 to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 76 to 82 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 54 to 62 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.01 inches in Milwaukee to 1.39 inches in Green Bay. 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/>

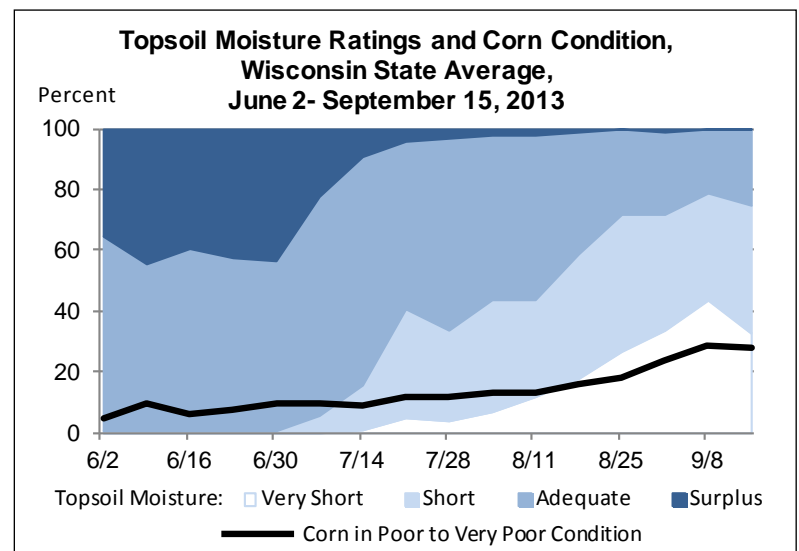
Corn was 86 percent in dough stage, 58 percent in dent stage and 14 percent mature. Corn silage was 22 percent harvested. There were scattered reports of frost damage to corn.

Soybeans were 98 percent setting pods, 48 percent had leaves turning color and 11 percent were dropping leaves. Dry conditions have reportedly caused poor pod fill in some areas.

Oats were 98 percent harvested for grain.

Third cutting alfalfa was 93 percent harvested and the **fourth cutting** was 35 percent harvested. Third crop hay yields have reportedly been low in many areas due to dry conditions.

Sweet corn and snap bean harvests were reportedly wrapping up in Portage County, and sweet corn was still being sold in Dane County. A Chippewa county reporter noted that the **apple** crop had very good quality.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 15, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	31	30	27	11	1
Corn	8	20	31	31	10
Soybeans	9	19	31	31	10

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 15, 2013

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
	Percent									Percent			
Corn in dough	81	80	68	84	83	82	93	94	85	86	76	98	92
Corn in dent	46	40	31	52	68	54	65	71	65	58	38	85	69
Corn mature	7	0	0	11	15	13	10	32	11	14	5	38	21
Corn silage harvested	24	6	7	27	16	16	41	31	27	22	9	59	33
Soybeans setting pods	98	95	100	98	99	100	97	100	95	98	94	100	100
Soybeans leaves turned	66	27	12	38	45	32	56	64	55	48	22	85	67
Soybeans dropping leaves	14	3	1	8	12	6	12	19	8	11	n.a.	48	28
Oats harvested	97	90	98	99	100	100	100	100	97	98	96	100	100
Third cutting hay	86	77	97	94	89	99	98	100	90	93	88	100	96
Fourth cutting hay	14	10	56	22	40	46	39	61	28	35	22	86	51

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, September 15, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	6.6	6.4	5.4	6.5	6.2	5.7	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.6	6.1
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	30	57	0	54	38	19	23	30	25	33	44	32
Short	49	21	27	36	39	46	49	52	38	42	35	44
Adequate	21	22	67	10	22	35	28	18	37	25	21	25
Surplus	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	25	38	13	52	47	13	27	29	32	32	32	n.a.
Short	57	38	38	42	48	41	52	53	51	47	46	n.a.
Adequate	18	24	46	6	5	46	21	18	17	21	22	n.a.
Surplus	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BURNETT-J.D.: Got 1.0 inch of rain Saturday evening.

RUSK-G.P.: Frost has come to the north woods, with frost several mornings here at the end of the week. Very little corn is mature, so there will be lots of corn silage and some high moisture corn. Soybeans were starting to turn and there will be some good beans, but they could have used more time too. Had a little rain over the weekend, should help the hay recover and set up better for winter.

MARATHON-G.M.: Hay is short due to lack of rain. Frost this morning. We got 0.5 inch rain Sunday morning.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Crops have a ways to go yet if it holds off frost and freeze.

LACROSSE-I.H.: Another week without rain. As I was walking through the soybean fields I noticed a lot of Asian Beetles. Hope they stay there and do not come into the house. When thinking of hay yields, they are potent, but short as far as quantity is concerned. Harvested two short chopper boxes of hay off 12 acres. Looking at others making hay, where I usually see twelve to fifteen hay rows for baling, farmers have raked together the rows on the field and get maybe two or three where you can actually see something in the row. Rumors of silos being nearly empty are going around, feed is short. Some farmers are chopping corn because they need the feed. Pastures are getting very dry, the ground is hard. Walking in the pasture you hear a cracking sound under foot and much of it is brown. Definitely a time to be careful with fire or sparks. Tractors on the sides of hills have to be careful because they can slide easily when pulling a load. Dangerous time. Hope everyone slows down and stays safe.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Got 0.6 inch rain Saturday evening. First rain since July 9th.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Received about an inch of rain Saturday night to Sunday morning. It was a perfect rain except it was about 4-6 weeks too late. Corn silage is being taken and everyone is hoping that we get a late frost so the soybeans can fill out.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Received 0.5 inches rain September 14 and 0.5 inches on September 15. Will help pastures and hay

crops start to recover but too late for corn and soybeans. Many blank stalks in unirrigated field corn. Many fields in central Wisconsin will have significantly lower yields and lower test weight due to this summer's drought.

DOOR-R.S.: Got 0.2 inches rain this last week. Doesn't do any good, "like a heavy dew". Usually no fourth crop hay in this area. It's been 3 weeks since a "good rain".

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Got 2.0 inches rain for the period revived beans and alfalfa/pastures. Some weeds had gotten above the soybean canopy during the dry spell; but, overall weed pressure is low. Early planted Winter Wheat has emerged with good germination.

GRANT-D.W.: We have received about an inch of rain over the last week. Probably no help for crops but it might perk up the pastures.

VERNON-K.L.: The county finally received some rain--- anywhere from 0.5 to 1.5 inches. Temperatures cooled toward the end of the week. Corn silage harvest progressing throughout the county. No frost to report to date.

DANE-J.D.: Beans drying down. Corn silage coming off fast. Fourth crop hay still being harvested. Received some much needed rain Sunday.

GREEN-J.T.: Many are commenting it is drier than last year. However corn did pollinate this year due to earlier moisture. I have not heard a corn yield report of less than 100 bushels from insurance reports. Soybeans are going to yield lower than last year because we have not had any late season rains at all. It is too late for this weekend's rain to help. There is noticeably better crops going north into Dane County, they got more rain again this week.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Corn silage harvest was the main activity in the fields this week. Reports from appraisals done were between 110 to 185 bushels per acre on corn that was taken for silage. Not as good as it looked earlier this year.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Starting to harvest corn silage today. Pasture land that was brown last week is now green this week. About 1.5 inch of rain this last week.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 15, 2013

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. 14	Mar. 1 To Sep. 14 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	80	54	90	37	67	+5	2429	2289	0.51	0.52	-1.56	28.16	+3.02
Green Bay	76	54	90	41	65	+4	2304	2152	1.39	1.88	+0.24	25.86	+3.95
La Crosse	82	59	93	45	71	+6	2713	2574	0.28	0.28	-1.58	27.42	+2.04
Madison	80	58	94	40	69	+6	2568	2511	0.26	0.26	-1.47	36.74	+11.23
Milwaukee	77	62	95	46	70	+5	2429	n.a.	0.01	0.51	-1.24	30.64	+4.90

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.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934

(608)224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>
Greg Bussler, State Statistician

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.