

October 28, 2013

Vol. 13, No. 28

## Harvest Continues Through Cold

It was a dry and unseasonably cold week for most of the state. Temperatures were well below normal with overnight frosts reported statewide. Precipitation was minimal except in the far north, where rain and snow showers stalled fieldwork. The soybean, corn silage and corn for grain harvests progressed as farmers worked to clear fields in time to plant winter wheat. Many reporters commented that plant moistures were higher than preferred and that the cold weather was unfavorable for drying. Harvest and fieldwork indications were lagging five to ten points behind the five year average across the board. Fall plantings were reportedly emerging well. There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 6 to 9 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 44 to 49 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 29 to 34 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.01 inches in Milwaukee to 0.13 inches in Eau Claire. 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/>

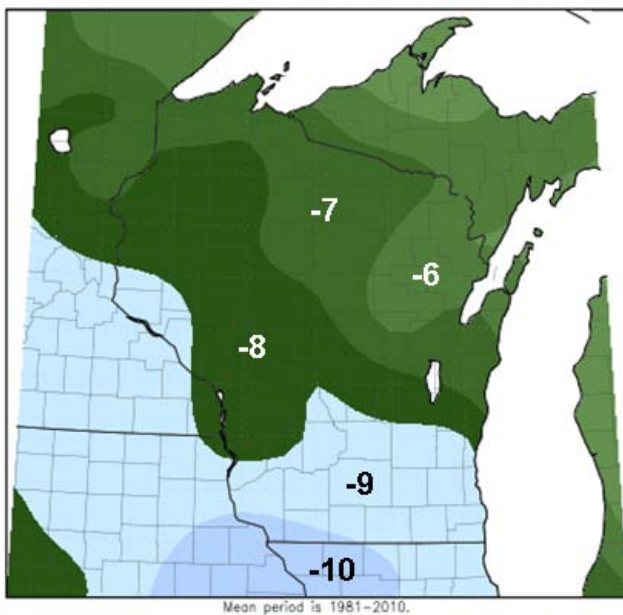
**Corn** for grain was 92 percent mature, and 39 percent harvested. Corn intended for silage was 93 percent harvested. Reporters noted that the late freeze allowed late planted corn to mature. Yields were reportedly variable due to the dry summer.

**Soybeans** had 98 percent dropping leaves and 69 percent harvested. Yields were reportedly below average but better than expected.

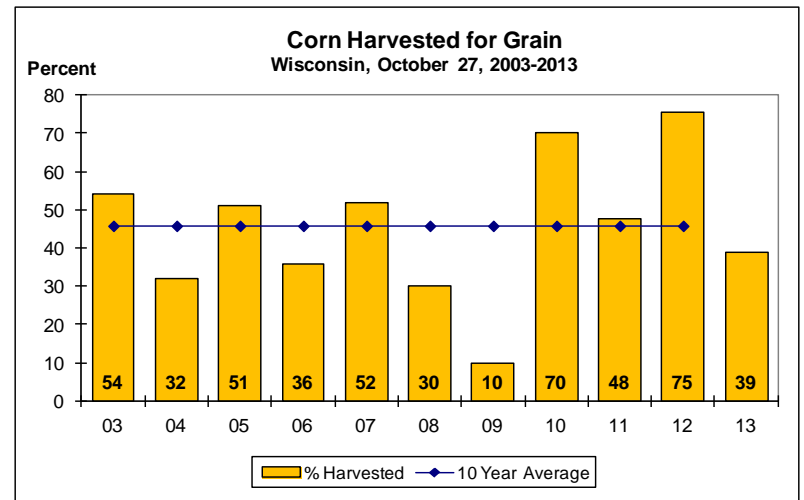
**Fourth cutting alfalfa** was 89 percent harvested.

**Fall tillage** was 30 percent complete.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean  
October 20, 2013 to October 26, 2013



Wisconsin State Climatology Office [www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco](http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco)  
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### Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 27, 2013

|         | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Pasture | 18        | 25   | 34   | 20   | 3         |
| Corn    | 7         | 19   | 27   | 35   | 12        |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

### Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 27, 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 mature                 | 94               | 87 | 88 | 90  | 94 | 80 | 94 | 99 | 95 | 92            | 79        | 100       | 95             |
| Corn harvested for grain    | 30               | 23 | 15 | 29  | 34 | 27 | 49 | 60 | 41 | 39            | 27        | 75        | 47             |
| Corn silage harvested       | 95               | 83 | 93 | 93  | 93 | 93 | 98 | 99 | 92 | 93            | 83        | 100       | 98             |
| Soybeans dropping leaves    | 99               | 93 | 96 | 100 | 97 | 99 | 97 | 99 | 98 | 98            | 92        | 100       | 100            |
| Soybeans harvested          | 68               | 36 | 32 | 74  | 59 | 65 | 79 | 84 | 68 | 69            | 53        | 99        | 79             |
| Fourth cutting hay          | 64               | 62 | 95 | 97  | 87 | 91 | 99 | 99 | 85 | 89            | 84        | 100       | 94             |
| Fall tillage completed      | 25               | 42 | 23 | 21  | 47 | 31 | 23 | 37 | 25 | 30            | 23        | 46        | 35             |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, October 27, 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    | 3.5              | 4.8 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 5.3           | 4.0       | 3.6       |
|                  | Percent          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Percent       |           |           |
| Topsoil Moisture |                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |               |           |           |
| Very Short       | 9                | 0   | 0   | 13  | 0   | 1   | 11  | 10  | 0   | 7             | 7         | 11        |
| Short            | 13               | 0   | 14  | 32  | 14  | 12  | 30  | 25  | 22  | 20            | 20        | 36        |
| Adequate         | 70               | 99  | 79  | 53  | 82  | 83  | 59  | 64  | 72  | 70            | 67        | 49        |
| Surplus          | 8                | 1   | 7   | 2   | 4   | 4   | 0   | 1   | 6   | 3             | 6         | 5         |
| Subsoil Moisture |                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |               |           |           |
| Very Short       | 20               | 0   | 0   | 28  | 19  | 2   | 19  | 14  | 5   | 15            | 15        | n.a.      |
| Short            | 29               | 18  | 19  | 44  | 22  | 20  | 42  | 35  | 29  | 31            | 30        | n.a.      |
| Adequate         | 48               | 82  | 78  | 27  | 59  | 78  | 39  | 51  | 62  | 53            | 53        | n.a.      |
| Surplus          | 3                | 0   | 3   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 4   | 1             | 2         | 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.

**BARRON-T.B.:** Frost, snow and rain has slowed harvest, but weather hasn't shut it down just slowed it. There are some taking a late fourth crop of hay but no drying weather this week.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Wet, cold weather slowed all harvest. Corn harvest is in full swing with some corn silage being harvested. Corn moisture is in the 20-25 percent range.

**WASHBURN-R.H.:** Not a good week. Showers and cold, not much field work done. Out in the woods checking on deer.

**ASHLAND-C.B.:** Very little field activity in the area, especially on the heavier soils. Continued wet weather has slowed harvest considerably.

**CLARK-R.H.:** The late killing frost helped late planted corn improve in quality. After the frost last week corn harvest and late cutting of hay has begun in the county. Late planted corn yields increased as a result of the late freeze and while maybe still below the county average it is better than thought a month ago. Need some dry weather to harvest soybeans as there have been showers or snow showers this past week.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Very cold and wet week. Highs in the 30s with snow and rain mix every day. Some corn silage harvested but little field work done because of wet soils. Corn silage yields were very good and cobs were large and full.

**MONROE-M.Y.:** We had a killing frost.

**PIERCE-G.A.:** Corn harvest is advancing. Soybean harvest slowed due to the increase in moisture.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Still waiting for some late planted corn to make silage. Irrigated corn looks great while the dry-land corn is varied due to the dry summer. Soybeans are a little below average for the area.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** We are thankful for the 6 weeks of sunny days, warm temps from Labor Day to Oct. 15. This helped crops mature after being behind most of the summer.

**DOOR-T.S.:** Moisture is still high in corn but some high moisture is coming off. We need to dry down for dry shell

corn harvest. Yields look good this year but test weights are down. Most of the corn silage is off now. Soybeans have dried down again with a lot of beans coming off in the past couple of days. Most everyone who takes fourth crop hay has finished up. The apple crop was excellent this year.

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** Below normal temperatures with west winds and overcast skies and some snow Wednesday afternoon. Some soybeans are beginning to be harvested. Plowing conditions are good.

**GRANT-J.R.:** Cool and dry weather has accelerated the corn harvest. Fall tillage should pick up in the next week.

**VERNON-K.L.:** First killing frost of the year countywide for Vernon. Farmers concentrating on harvesting soybeans with the drier weather. Some corn for grain being delivered to the grain bins for drying. Early maturing corn reported in the 19-21 percent range for moisture.

**DODGE-S.B.:** The late spring has translated into a late fall for harvesting. We are weeks behind in some parts in the county. Producers are waiting for the corn and beans to field dry more before harvesting. The windy weather we've had will help.

**GREEN-J.T.:** There was a hard frost this past week. It was a good thing the frost held off this long. Yields are better than expected considering the drought this year again.

**OZAUKEE-K.A.:** Corn chopping moving ahead at full speed after the frost last week. Very little corn harvested for high moisture. Fall planted wheat emerging very evenly while some fourth crop hay is being harvested still.

**WALWORTH-N.W.:** A lot was done in the fields this last weekend. Soybean harvest was in full swing with lots of sun and wind. Yields range from 40 to 60 bushel per acre. A few producers are finishing up on corn while others are waiting for the moisture to go down before harvesting.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 27, 2013

| City       | Temperature |           |           |          |      |                         | Growing degree days<br>(modified base 50) 1/ |                           | Precipitation |              |                           |              |                         |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
|            | Avg. max.   | Avg. min. | High max. | Low min. | Avg. | Avg. dep. from normal * | Mar. 1 to Oct. 26                            | Mar. 1 To Oct. 26 normal* | Last Week     | Since Sep. 1 | Sep. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 44          | 29        | 54        | 24       | 37   | -8                      | 2770   | 2576                      | 0.13          | 5.03         | -0.62                     | 32.67        | +3.76                   |
| Green Bay  | 48          | 30        | 51        | 26       | 39   | -6                      | 2638   | 2434                      | 0.04          | 4.65         | -0.24                     | 28.63        | +3.52                   |
| La Crosse  | 48          | 30        | 54        | 24       | 39   | -9                      | 3123   | 2918                      | 0.08          | 5.33         | +0.16                     | 32.47        | +3.74                   |
| Madison    | 48          | 30        | 52        | 27       | 39   | -8                      | 2942   | 2878                      | 0.09          | 4.50         | -0.33                     | 40.98        | +12.33                  |
| Milwaukee  | 49          | 34        | 54        | 31       | 42   | -7                      | 2785   | n.a.                      | 0.01          | 4.16         | -1.17                     | 34.29        | +4.99                   |

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.



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