



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition

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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending December 14, 2014
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December Thaw Brings Fog, Mud

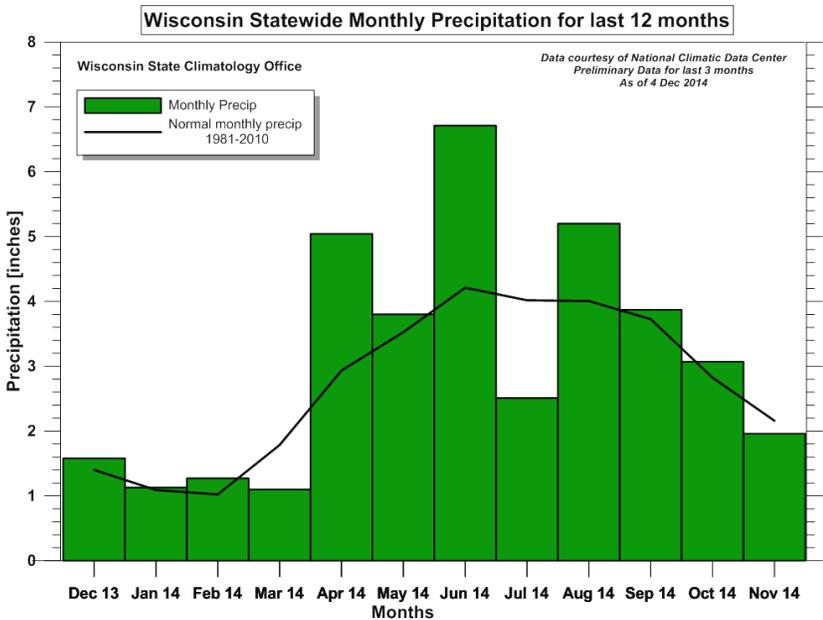
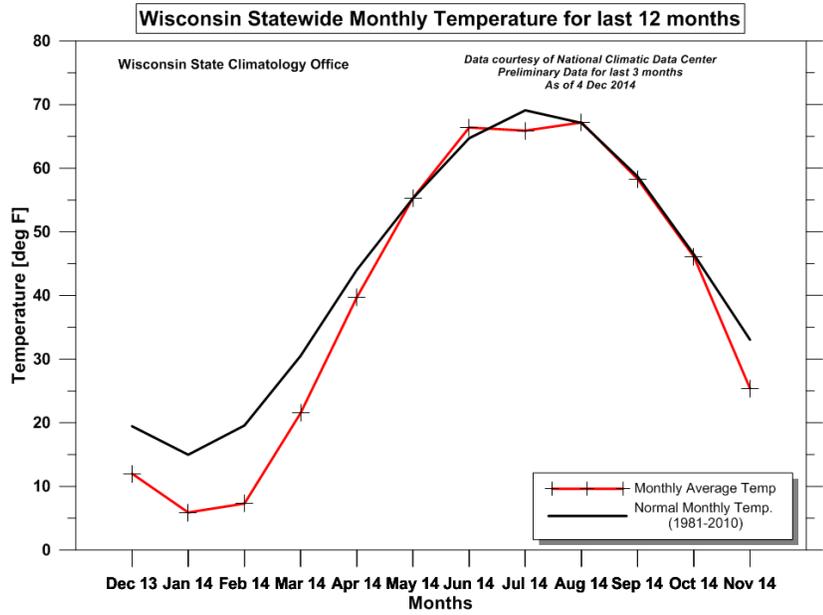
Farmers took advantage of a window of clear weather early this week to harvest corn, spread manure, and finish up fall chores. Temperatures climbed steadily until reaching the mid-40s over the weekend, with nights above freezing across much of the state. Precipitation was light and patchy and the combination of warm temperatures and melting snow cover produced dense fog on several days. Fieldwork stalled as soils thawed into a muddy mess and the humidity drove already high grain moistures even higher. Though a few reporters commented that the thaw might allow for some late tillage, many noted that fields would be inaccessible until the ground refreezes. A few intrepid farmers may keep plugging away at the last of the standing corn and soybeans, but reports indicate that some fields will be left standing through the winter months. Overall, this long and challenging harvest season has produced mixed results; some reporters commented that yields were low, while others thought the crop was better than expected.

There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures were 3 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 33 to 37 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 22 to 28 degrees. Precipitation ranged from 0.00 inches in Eau Claire to 0.25 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/>

As of December 14, **corn** for grain was 91 percent harvested with grain moisture at harvest averaging 20 percent.



Wisconsin Crop Progress as of December 14, 2014

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 harvested for grain	87	79	80	93	83	84	97	99	94	91	86	93	96

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of December 14, 2014

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
Days Suitable	3.3	3.1	4.6	3.3	5.3	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.2	4.6	n.a.

This is the last weekly *Wisconsin Crop Progress* for the season. The National Agriculture Statistics Service wishes to thank the many farmers, county agents, and others that provided the information which has allowed you to have an accurate picture of Wisconsin agriculture each week.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

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.: Not much done last week, pretty much 'soggy' most of the week. Foggy now.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn harvest continued through the warmer temperatures. Thawed soils have now stopped harvest as most cannot get in the fields.

CLARK-R.H.: Field conditions with frozen ground has allowed harvesting of corn this week. The glitch is that moistures are higher than most would like, yields are below average and test weights are low. Some farmers with soybeans in the field are hoping with warmer temperatures that snow depth will decrease and allow them to harvest the soybeans. Manure hauling is continuing, the challenge is selecting fields to prevent potential runoff if we have a snow melt.

MARATHON-S.N.: Foggy conditions this week with melting snow. Soybeans and corn gaining moisture. Fields soggy in some places.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Lost a lot of snow this week, got up into the 40s.

MARINETTE-N.S.: Producers made some progress on corn for grain harvest this week. There are still a lot of acres to be harvested and some soybean fields unharvested. Producers have reported poor test weights and high moisture levels in many fields.

EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: Harvest is pretty well wrapped up, still some corn to be harvested. Foggy, not good weather for crops.

PIERCE-G.A.: Some corn remains unharvested. Frost came out of the ground on Dec. 14, making any field operations impossible until soil re-freezes.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Farmers continue to take off what corn they can. Damp conditions have kept the moisture content around 20%. Rain this week won't help much. All the snow cover is gone so if we get a significant amount of rain and it freezes there could be concern of winter kill in alfalfa and winter wheat.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Corn steadily came off last week. Still 22% moisture. Soybeans that were under snow are still there. This warm up has raised havoc on the loggers in the area. The surface water and melting of the swamps will put them behind again. They can't get caught up on their lowland bids!

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Continued corn harvest, limited fall tillage completed this year.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: All things considered, not a bad crop year.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Not much activity was seen in this area in the past week. Most of the corn has been harvested, and no tillage took place since the frost is still deep in the ground. This may change in the coming week with temperatures forecast to be in the 40s. Rain will also help to pull the frost out of the ground. Some manure hauling was going on as well.

GRANT-E.B.: Frost coming out of ground where there's sod or heavy mulch. Might mean we can get more fall tillage done.

VERNON-K.L.: Farmers spreading manure. Temperatures warmer than normal and a good portion of the snow has melted. Fields muddy so little combining going on due to high humidity.

DANE-F.P.: Manure hauling is primary field work now. Corn in Madison & Waunakee area is harvested. Had about 3 to 4 inches of snow on ground, gone now. Growing season in Madison, Waunakee area was pretty good for corn and beans. Rain delayed planting. Went to Eastern Fond Du Lac county on Friday and saw several fields of corn that were not harvested. This was along county roads.

DODGE-S.B.: It has been foggy most of the week; wet conditions exist everywhere. The corn has no chance of drying down in these conditions.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Just a few fields of corn left to harvest.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Wet and foggy here. All field work has come to an end.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on December 14, 2014

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 Nov. 29	Mar. 1 to Nov. 29 normal*	Last Week	Since Dec. 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	33	24	44	13	28	+7	2688	2599	0.00	0.00	n.a.	42.30	+10.74
Green Bay	33	22	41	11	28	+4	2457	2456	0.25	0.27	-0.44	30.71	+2.28
La Crosse	36	27	45	22	32	+7	3170	2953	0.14	0.14	-0.49	36.73	+5.07
Madison	35	25	44	16	30	+4	2940	2926	0.23	0.23	-0.59	34.51	+2.26
Milwaukee	37	28	47	21	32	+3	2607	n.a.	0.17	0.20	-0.85	31.28	-2.35

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