



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



Upper Midwest Region - Wisconsin Field Office · 2811 Agriculture Drive · Madison WI 53718-6777 · (608) 224-4848
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

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Media Contact: Greg Bussler

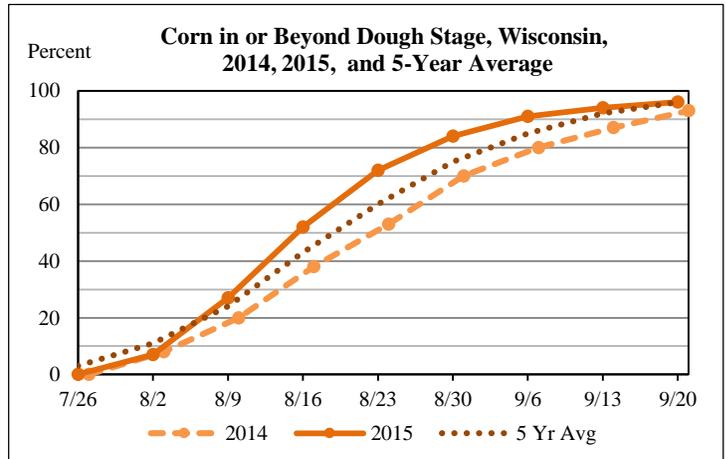
Silage Going Strong Despite Rains

There were 4.7 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending September 20, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Clear skies and daytime temperatures in the 80s saw good progress on corn silage and fourth crop hay harvest toward the beginning of this week. A large rain event on Thursday dropped precipitation statewide, with another storm tracking across the south of the state on Friday. Reporters noted up to 5 inches of rain total for the week. Muddy fields reportedly slowed fieldwork over the weekend but pastures, hay stands, and fall plantings were responding well to the abundant moisture. Soybeans were dropping leaves and reportedly close to harvest in some areas, while corn will need more dry weather before combining.

Topsoil moistures were 6 percent short to very short on average compared to 12 percent the previous week. **Subsoil moistures** were 13 percent short to very short compared to 20 percent last week.

As of September 20, 26 percent of the **corn** crop had reached maturity, 4 days ahead of last year but 3 days behind the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 78 percent good to excellent. Corn harvested for silage was 33 percent complete, 9 days ahead of last year but 5 days behind the five-year average. Thirty-six percent of the **soybean** crop was dropping leaves, 3 days ahead of last year but a day behind the five-year average. Eighty-one percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent, 1 percentage point up from the previous week. Fifty-eight percent of **potatoes** had been harvested statewide, 3 days ahead of last year. Sixteen percent of **winter wheat** planting was complete, 6 days ahead of last year. **Fall tillage** was at 7 percent complete, 5 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the five-year average.

Pasture condition was rated 65 percent good to excellent, up 5 percentage points from last week. The **fourth cutting of alfalfa** was 73 percent harvested, the second fastest pace in more than 35 years, trailing only 2012.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 20, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn.....	1	4	17	53	25
Pasture & Range..	2	10	23	48	17
Soybeans.....	1	5	13	54	27

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of September 20, 2015

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			
Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting.....	73	37	63	81	87	73	77	81	46	73	62	51	62
Corn in or beyond dough stage	92	83	96	96	99	95	99	99	97	96	94	92	96
Corn in or beyond dent stage....	82	60	69	82	89	84	84	94	85	84	75	70	81
Corn mature.....	22	9	8	23	27	31	31	26	49	26	14	17	34
Corn harvested for silage.....	19	14	18	38	36	24	62	63	45	33	16	17	47
Fall Tillage.....	5	3	8	8	10	7	8	4	10	7	2	3	3
Potatoes harvested.....	41	68	80	97	50	n.a.	47	46	n.a.	58	52	51	n.a.
Soybeans coloring.....	89	81	92	83	95	86	88	83	80	85	63	66	77
Soybeans dropping leaves.....	34	40	31	38	49	35	45	30	27	36	13	25	40
Winter wheat planted.....	20	35	15	22	21	13	29	12	10	16	7	7	n.a.

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of September 20, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	4.0	5.2	4.5	4.2	5.7	4.8	5.2	4.7	4.0	4.7	4.6	4.7
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Short.....	1	3	4	7	12	3	6	10	10	6	11	5
Adequate.....	78	97	73	81	76	75	65	79	69	78	75	79
Surplus.....	21	0	23	11	12	22	28	10	21	16	13	16
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	0
Short.....	2	8	10	7	12	8	19	24	14	12	18	9
Adequate.....	85	92	81	82	82	77	79	71	78	80	74	79
Surplus.....	13	0	9	10	6	15	0	4	8	7	6	12

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.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Corn silage harvest has been delayed in some areas with more than 2 inches of rain. Yields are excellent.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Corn and soybeans turning color and are drying down fast. Fourth crop alfalfa flowering. Planting of winter rye and cover crops after small grain and corn silage harvest.

ASHLAND-C.B.: Nice week weather wise. Pasture still holding out. Most oats have been harvested. No reports of corn silage harvest yet.

PRICE-D.E.: Corn silage harvest well under way. Hay still looking very good. Soybeans are maturing quickly. Fall is in the air.

SHAWANO-B.R.: The fields were just getting dried out and then we got another 1.5 inches of rain again. A lot of alfalfa was cut this past week and we had a few beautiful days to get it off the field. Soybeans leaves are beginning to fall. The earliest fields will probably be combined later this next week. Corn silage chopping will now be full speed ahead.

ST CROIX-D.K.: 3 inches of rain stopped corn silage. They should start again Monday. Haying is complete and some early soybeans have been harvested.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Weather has been very cooperative and crops are maturing very nicely. Corn silage has really dried down and is coming off the fields quickly. Final cutting of hay is coming off as well and looks good also. Winter wheat has been planted and things look pretty good.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Hopefully it quits raining this coming week. Very muddy out there chopping corn and getting the last of the hay off. Looks like there will be a few storage issues with potatoes from all the September rains.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: It was a Summer-like week with 2.60 inches rain on the Thursday and Friday overnights. Soil profiles are now connected with moisture and, despite the heavy rains, fields should be traffic-ready for silage harvest come Monday, Sept. 21. Things are looking real good entering the first week of fall.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Corn silage harvest kicked off this week. Over an inch of rain on Friday night slowed harvest over the weekend.

VERNON-K.L.: County received 0.2 to 1.0 inches of rain this week. Farmers busy harvesting corn silage and chopping fourth crop hay. Nice fall week.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: Two days of rain this past week. Picked up about 2 inches of nice rain. Will not help corn and soybeans much, but is very helpful to the hay, pastures, new alfalfa seeding.

DODGE-R.H.: Fourth crop harvest is winding down, some people waiting till after a frost. Lots of corn silage being made with 25-28 tons per acre being reported. Thursday night rains were welcome, I received 2.4 inches with others reporting up to 3 inches in southern Dodge County.

KENOSHA-K.I.: Received quite a bit of rain last week. Surprisingly, not much standing water!

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 20, 2015

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. 19	Mar. 1 to Sep. 19 normal*	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	76	56	83	41	66	+6	2575	2342	1.37	4.50	+1.84	32.06	+6.21
Green Bay	78	55	85	41	67	+8	2544	2205	1.54	5.66	+3.50	21.87	-0.44
La Crosse	78	60	86	48	69	+6	3072	2634	0.92	2.56	+0.17	25.28	-0.51
Madison	77	57	83	44	67	+6	2799	2578	2.68	3.96	+1.74	26.95	+1.04
Milwaukee	78	58	85	51	68	+4	2501	n.a.	2.33	3.81	+1.52	21.57	-4.73

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.