Harvest Ramps Up as Frosty Weather Sets In

There were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending October 4, 2015, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. The summer-like conditions Wisconsin has enjoyed throughout September came to an end this Monday, as a cold front brought temperatures down to more seasonable levels. Fieldwork stalled due to widespread rain associated with this front, but resumed quickly. The remainder of the week was dry, chilly, and windy, with the first frosts of the season reported in many areas. Farmers were working overtime to harvest fourth and fifth crop hay, corn silage, high moisture corn, and soybeans. Reporters noted that soybean yields were above average and that plant moisture was falling quickly as the colder weather pushed crops toward maturity. Fall tillage, manure hauling, and winter wheat planting continued as fields were prepared.

Topsoil moisture was 10 percent short to very short, the same as the previous week. Subsoil moisture held steady at 12 percent short to very short.

As of October 4, sixty-five percent of the corn crop had reached maturity, 8 days ahead of last year but 1 day behind the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 78 percent good to excellent, 1 percentage point down from the previous week. Corn harvested for silage was 83 percent complete, nearly 3 weeks ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the five-year average. Eighty-nine percent of the soybean crop was dropping leaves, 8 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the five-year average. Eighty-one percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent.

Eighty-eight percent of potatoes had been harvested statewide, 3 days ahead of last year. Fifty-one percent of the winter wheat crop was harvested, 5 days ahead of last year. Fall tillage was at 19 percent complete, the fastest pace in 15 years.

Pasture condition was rated 63 percent good to excellent. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 89 percent harvested, the second fastest pace in more than 35 years, trailing only 2012. A reporter in Juneau County commented that cranberry producers needed to irrigate to prevent frost damage on a couple of nights.
Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**RUSK-G.P.**: A nice week this week. Soybean harvest and corn silage continue and high moisture corn is starting. Dry corn will want a bit yet with continued nice weather as long as stalk quality holds up. Last hay of the year going up and planting of winter grains continues. If things hold, looks to be a nice harvest.

**SAWYER-K.S.**: Several nights of cold temps and frost occurred this week. Corn and soybeans that were still green are now turning brown, dropping leaves or drooping ears. Silage harvest is in full swing as is other fall harvest and field work.

**CLARK-A.K.**: Farmers are hauling manure, doing fall tillage, planting wheat, cutting hay, chopping hay, combining beans, chopping corn, and combining corn, all at the same time. Let’s hope everyone does it safely.

**FLORENCE-T.B.**: Two nights of hard frost this week helped dry down corn. Many are putting corn silage in at this time. Moisture running at average around the mid-60s. Heard that corn for grain was running at around 34 percent moisture early in the week. Pastures for those rotational grazing still have enough forage. Some third crop hay being cut.

**LANGLADE-A.K.**: Crops were finished out on their own. Frost will help drydown. Soybean yields very good - some white mold though.

**LA CROSSE-L.H.**: Fairly dry week. High moisture corn starting to come off. Beans starting to be harvested. Ground hard, need some rain.

**JUNEAU-J.W.**: We received a nice rain last week that did not cause damage and was a nice recharge of soil moisture. We’ve had cool temps at night with only a couple of locations receiving a killing frost last week. Cranberry producers needed to irrigate to prevent frost damage on a couple of nights. Harvest is just getting started and will get in full swing in about a week. There have been some producers reporting tremendous corn yields and overall yields will be pretty good for both corn and soybeans. Final cutting of hay should be all done.

**WOOD-MLL**: Excellent fall field conditions, soybeans coming off fast.

**FOND DU LAC-B.B.**: Not the best week for corn and bean dry down. Most of the silage is complete except for the most late of planted acreage. Close call but no frost this week. Trees are on the turn.

**VERNON-K.L.**: County received 1.0 to 1.5 inches of rain this past week. Parts of the county had light frost for the first time this week. No killing frost to date. Farmers harvesting corn silage in full force and others have started to harvest soybeans. Yields are running good. A couple of farmers have started harvesting early planted corn for grain.

**DODGE-RJ**: Fall harvesting and fieldwork is off to a good start.

**GREEN-M.M.**: A lot of beans harvested last week with most fields running above average in yield. Corn is drying down rapidly and many farmers are struggling to get high moisture corn harvested before it is too dry. Most early yield reports on corn are also above average, but will be lower than 2014.

**WALWORTH-N.W.**: Soybeans were starting to come off towards the end of the week but rain on Saturday night put a halt to progress. High moisture corn harvest has also started.

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### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 4, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
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<td>Milwaukee</td>
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1/ Formula used: \( \text{GDD} = (\text{daily max} - 86\,^\circ\text{F}) + (\text{daily min} - 50\,^\circ\text{F}) \). *Normal based on 1971-2000 data. n.a. = not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)


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