Warm, Dry Days Advance Soybean Harvest

There were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending October 22, 2017, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farmers across the state took advantage of sunny, dry and warm weather to harvest soybeans. Temperatures rose into the upper 70s in many areas, drying out muddy fields. Corn was being chopped for silage and combined for high moisture grain. Late haying, manure spreading and fall planting rounded out a busy week in the fields. Reporters commented that emerging winter wheat was in good condition.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 85 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 83 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus.

Eighty-two percent of Wisconsin’s corn was reported mature, 9 days behind the average. Corn harvested for grain was 15 percent complete, 15 days behind the average. The moisture content of corn harvested for grain averaged 25 percent. Corn acres harvested for silage was reported at 87 percent complete, 8 days behind the average. Corn condition was 70 percent good to excellent, 2 percentage points below last week.

Soybean dropping leaves was reported at 96 percent, 4 days behind the average. Soybean harvest was reported at 64 percent complete, 3 days behind the average.

Eighty-six percent of Wisconsin’s winter wheat acres were planted, 4 days ahead of last year. Winter wheat was being harvested for silage. Winter wheat condition was reported 70 percent good to excellent, 5 days ahead of the average.

Potato harvest was reported at 93 percent complete.

Pasture condition was 58 percent good to excellent, 2 percentage points below last week.

Fall tillage was reported at 27 percent complete, 2 days behind last year, and 5 days behind the average.
Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-T.B.: Great week for field activities. Lots of soybeans harvested with grain moistures reported 10 to 14 percent. Corn silage harvesting close to completion, yields better than expected. Some high moisture corn harvesting going on. Final cutting of hay fields for those who just can't "leave it out there". Fall tillage, cover crop seeding, and manure hauling operations accounted for a very busy week.

BAYFIELD/DOUGLAS-C.B.: Nice weather most of the week. A few soybean fields harvested. Good progress made on corn silage harvest.

CLARK-R.H.: Soybean harvest has hummed along all week. By end of the week a major portion of the soybean acres will be harvested. Corn silage harvest continues on late planted corn as the Monday frost helped dry-down. A little high moisture corn has been harvested. Manure hauling has begun as crops come off the fields and some fall grains are still being planted.


LA CROSSE-I.H.: Pretty wet most of the week... leaves it hard to get much done.

TREMPEALEAU-L.N.: Combines rolling at the end of the week. Rain has slowed progress on harvesting.

MARQUETTE/WAUSARA-D.B.: Combines were running in beans all week with the weather good. A lot of beans out. Rain on Saturday halted harvest.

WAUPACA/OUTAGAMIE-D.L.H.: Fall work progress picked up mid-week after soils dried enough to allow equipment on wet fields. Soybeans are coming off with average yields. Some corn is being combined on drier soils. Manure hauling has taken place on corn fields where silage has been harvested. Winter wheat looks great.

SHEBOYGAN/OZAUKEE/WASHINGTON-G.S.: A little wet in the fields from last week's rain but harvest continued. Wheat is emerging well in most places. Temperatures were above normal again, but will see cooler temps this coming week.

DODGE-M.P.: Temperatures this week reached back into the 70s with plenty of sunshine. Soybean harvest is back in full swing following the rains from earlier in the week. A lot of wheat has been planted and now some high moisture corn is being harvested.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Soybean harvest is wrapping up with yields ranging from 30 - 55. Producers found a lot of holes that were drowned out in July which brought down yields.

Wisconsin Crop Progress


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.