First Frost of Fall

There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending October 29, 2017, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Most of the state experienced the first hard freeze of the season this week. Rainy, overcast conditions and scattered snow flurries slowed fieldwork, particularly in northern Wisconsin. The soybean harvest was moving quickly toward completion, and corn silage chopping was close to wrapping up. Corn was being combined for grain, though grain moisture remained unfavorably high some areas. Fall plantings were moving right along with good emergence reported.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 6 percent short, 86 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 9 percent short, 85 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus.

Ninety percent of Wisconsin’s corn was reported mature, 8 days behind the average. Corn harvested for grain was 25 percent complete, 15 days behind the average. The moisture content of corn harvested for grain averaged 23 percent. Corn acres harvested for silage was reported at 93 percent complete, 7 days behind the average. Corn condition was 72 percent good to excellent, 2 percentage points above last week.

Soybean harvest was reported at 80 percent complete, 2 days behind the average.

Ninety-two percent of Wisconsin’s winter wheat acres were planted, 2 days ahead of last year. Winter wheat emerged was reported at 77 percent complete, 4 days ahead of last year. Winter wheat condition was reported 85 percent good to excellent, 2 percentage points above last week.

Potato harvest was reported at 97 percent complete.

Pasture condition was 57 percent good to excellent, 1 percentage point below last week.

Fall tillage was reported at 35 percent complete, 4 days behind last year, and 5 days behind the average.
**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.

**BURNETT/WASHBURN-P.H.:** Corn and soybean yields have been better than expected. Not as high as last year but still good considering the lack of heat this summer and lateness of the crops.

**RUSK-S.V.:** Not a lot of harvesting getting done due to wet conditions.

**LINCOLN/MARATHON-D.E.:** Harvesting, tillage and manure pit emptying all going on at the same time. Yields are surprisingly good thanks to a warm fall.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** We finally got a killing frost on Saturday evening. That helped a lot of corn come to maturity and start to dry down quickly. That helped a lot of corn come to maturity and start to dry down quickly. Still have a fair amount of soybeans left to harvest even if it means having to dry them down.

**PORTAGE/WOOD:** Operations the end of the week. Soybean harvest is nearly complete on most farms and switching to corn. Light snow and drizzle stopped operations the end of the week.

**ST CROIX:** Winter wheat emergence is excellent this year. Dry corn harvest will be in full swing this week as moisture percentage is coming down to the low 20s now. Corn silage and high moisture corn harvest progressing.

**WAUPACA/WINNEBAGO-R.V.:** Corn moisture varying at harvest from approximately 18 percent up to 25 percent and higher.

**DOOR/KEWAUNEE-A.B.:** Heavy rainfall most of the week, so not much work was accomplished in the fields. Fields are holding up well despite the rain, so equipment can get in and out without much trouble. The county saw its first widespread frost this week, except along the lakeshore.

**VERNON-K.L.:** First killing frost of the season in Vernon County. Cool & damp weather hampering harvest. Farmers harvesting soybeans even if it means having to dry them down. Corn silage and high moisture corn harvest progressing.

**DANE-F.P.:** There was a hard freeze on Sunday Oct. 29th. A lot of corn has been harvested during the past week. There are a lot of trees that have lost their leaves.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Two inches of rain halted the bean harvest, but corn harvest progressing slowly. Corn just not drying down, so supplemental drying is necessary. Winter wheat off to a good start as is rye. Some manure being applied to fields where silage was harvested.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Wet and cold, too soft to do any tillage work. OK to do corn harvest.

**OZAUKEE/SEBOYGAN-M.B.:** Winter wheat is off to an excellent start this fall.

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 29, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>Mar. 1 to Oct. 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>30 43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>67 46</td>
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<tr>
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<td>52</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>62 46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>65 48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.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.