Wisconsin had 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending September 29, 2019, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Another week of above normal temperatures, frequent, scattered rains, and overcast skies helped corn and soybeans mature but slowed fieldwork. Some reporters indicated wet field conditions had improved by midweek, however, much of the state ended the week with an overall increase in surplus soil moisture. Soil moistures were highest on the eastern side of the state, keeping farmers there out of fields. Corn silage chopping was taking off wherever field conditions allowed, with a few reports of farmers chopping in the rain. Haying and fall plantings slowed while the focus shifted to other crops. Sustained dry weather was needed in all parts of the state to dry up mud and dry down grain for harvest.

**Topsoil moisture** condition was rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 63 percent adequate and 36 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** condition was rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 64 percent adequate and 35 percent surplus.

**Corn** silking was reported at 97 percent complete. Eighty-five percent of corn reached the dough stage or beyond, 3 weeks behind the 5-year average. Seventy-six percent of corn was dented or beyond, 22 days behind last year and 17 days behind the average. Sixteen percent of corn was reported mature, 23 days behind last year and 18 days behind the average. Corn condition was 69 percent good to excellent, up 6 percentage points from last week. Corn for silage harvest was 25 percent complete, almost 2 weeks behind the average. **Soybeans** blooming was nearly complete, with setting pods close behind at 94 percent. Leaves were close behind at 94 percent harvested. Soybeans condition was 71 percent good to excellent, 3 percentage points above last week.

Winter wheat was 24 percent planted. 12 days behind last year and 1 week behind the average. Thirty percent of winter wheat had emerged, 9 days behind last year, and 2 days behind the average.

Oats were 89 percent harvested, over 3 weeks behind both last year and the average.

Potatoes were reported 57 percent harvested, 2 days behind last year and 1 week behind the average.

The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 95 percent complete, over 2 weeks behind the average. The fourth cutting was 38 percent complete, also over 2 weeks behind the average.

Fall tillage was reported as 7 percent complete, 2 days behind last year and 4 days behind the average.

Pasture condition was rated 60 percent in good to excellent condition, down 2 percentage points from last week.
Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

NW—RUSK-G.P.: A decent week with a fair amount of progress on corn silage. Beans are turning and have one report of a grower trying to combine, but made a couple rounds and quit, still too tough. Some final harvest on hay and still some seeding going on, but pushing into October now.

NW—SAWYER-K.S.: Warmer temperatures and more rain have been helpful in allowing corn and soybean crops to continue to mature. While there was one night in the 30s no reports of a killing frost. We are now past our average killing frost date. The coming weeks will determine grain quality. More rain fell over the weekend and the coming week’s rain forecast will keep farmers out of fields. Corn silage harvest will be delayed and wet fields will be a challenge. Wet weather will also impact forage harvest.

NW/VC—CHIPPEWA/EAU CLAIRE-J.C.: More rain and extreme wind caused lodging in some corn and soybean fields. Soybean harvest started in a few early planted fields. Corn silage harvest is also starting. Corn silage harvest is also starting. Corn silage is progressing. Corn tonnage per acre is around 18 ton.

NE—SHAWANO-B.R.: Rain every other day again this week. Still we feel lucky because we received much less than some of the counties around us. Very little fieldwork done this week with every field being extremely wet now. Corn silage should be starting now but it would be very difficult to maneuver in the fields. There is standing water in even the better tiled fields. Soybeans are beginning to lose leaves in a few fields.

WC—ST CROIX-D.K.: Beautiful weather really helped crops ripen. Corn silage is in full swing. No immediate signs of frost.

C/EC—OUTAGAMIE/WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Weather improved during the past week. Warmer temperatures pushed crop maturity. Minimal field work was completed due to extremely wet soil conditions. There is concern about the fall harvest due to continued wet weather. Hay harvest is abandoned due to equipment rutting wet fields. Cabbage is beginning to rot in low spots that are flooded. More heavy rain is forecast for the upcoming week.

EC—DOOR/KEWAUNEE-A.B.: More rain this week and fields are saturated. Corn dry down results this week averaged 73 percent moisture. Some have started chopping silage on lighter soils, but even those fields are saturated and dump carts are necessary to get the crop off. Fourth crop alfalfa looks really good, but the fields are too wet to harvest. Most will try to get corn off first at this point, but there will be plenty of fourth crop taken in October.

EC/SE—FOND DU LAC/WASHINGTON-B.B.: Most fields were dry enough by midweek for all types of fall field work. Corn maturation still lags but the beans are moving along, finally. The rain in the forecast for the coming week is most unwelcome.

SW—VERNON-K.L.: We had another week of rain which is putting the producers farther behind with fieldwork. There were a few producers able to make some corn silage. The soybeans are turning.

SC—COLUMBIA-K.W.: Some soybean harvest has started. Corn silage harvest is also starting.

SC—DODGE-R.J.: It was another very wet week, slowing forage and silage harvesting.

SE—WALWORTH-N.W.: A few producers have started corn silage but field conditions are not good with all of the rain.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 29, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)  (^{1})</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>La Crosse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{1}\) Formula used: \( \text{GDD} = (\text{daily maximum (86°)} - \text{daily minimum (50°)})/2-50° \), 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. NA—not available. T—trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

For more weather data, please reference the following sites:

- https://www.noaa.gov/
- [http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/](http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/)
- [https://www.cocorahs.org/](https://www.cocorahs.org/)
- [https://www.weather.gov/](https://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.