



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 22, 2003

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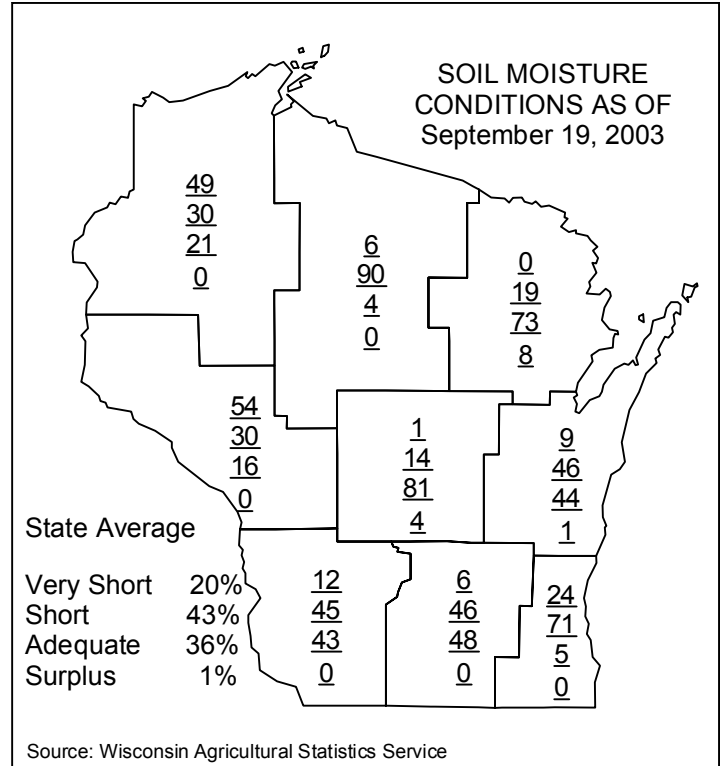
More Welcome Precipitation

Summer is winding down, and harvest preparations are stepping to the forefront. The last week of summer produced some additional rains to add to last week's welcome relief. Most areas are still behind normal year-to-date levels, but farmers are glad for any help for beleaguered pastures and soil moisture levels. There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Temperatures remained at normal to slightly above normal for the week. Topsoil moisture conditions improved to 20% very short, 43% short, 36% adequate, and 1% surplus. The late summer rains were welcomed, despite being too late to help most of the corn and soybean crops. Pasture feed conditions were rated as 35% very poor, 30% poor, 28% fair, 7% good, and 0% excellent. Pastures did show some greening up from the recent rains, although farmers continue to supplement feed to livestock still on pasture.

Corn crop condition improved slightly with the rains. Late-planted fields will receive the most benefit. Soil type will be a large determining factor in yields this season. The dry season has pushed corn silage harvest to 66% complete, above both the 40% last year and the 48% 5-year average. Despite the moisture stress for the season, crop maturity is at near normal levels. High moisture corn harvest has started in the southern two-thirds of the state. **Soybeans** are dropping leaves quickly, and were at near normal maturity levels for this time of year. Harvest has begun in some early fields. Anticipated yields are lower than a month ago. Many plants are reported having small beans and few beans per pod. Farmers report that the dry summer has affected beans more than the corn crop.

The rains have helped **alfalfa** field's soil moisture levels; and gave new seedings a better chance to establish a stand. As hay harvest nears completion, supplies are reported to be short for the season. Many areas will not get a fourth crop, and third crop may be past maturity for good quality forage. The rains will help **fall tillage** operations, which are just beginning. Fall planting of **winter wheat** and other cover crops are also advancing with the improved moisture. Forage supplies will be at a premium this winter.

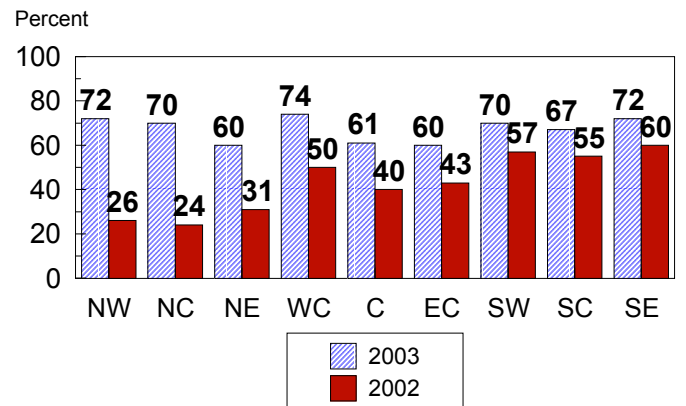
Apple harvest continues across the Badger State. The **potato** harvest continued, with good crop condition and yields reported. Summer vegetables are mostly ended for the season, with fall crops anticipated. The **pumpkin** harvest has begun early due to heat and moisture stress. **Grape** harvesting continued with a good crop reported this season.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 19, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	35	30	28	7	0
Corn	16	25	33	23	3
Soybeans	17	28	33	19	3

Corn Silage Harvested in Wisconsin By District, September 21, 2003 vs. September 22, 2002



Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 21, 2003

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dent stage	84	90	72	84	83	75	92	96	88	87	86	85
Corn mature	45	46	30	35	39	33	32	39	37	35	27	41
Corn hrvtstd. for silage	72	70	60	74	61	60	70	67	72	66	40	48
Soybeans turning color	89	90	80	85	87	85	93	94	89	90	91	87
Soybean dropping leaves	50	53	39	48	45	50	62	59	63	56	50	53
Third cutting hay	92	85	84	98	97	94	99	97	99	95	92	93
Fourth cutting hay	12	3	9	44	20	23	41	27	20	26	34	35

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Extremely dry conditions allows easy harvest of remaining crops. Growth has stopped, and everything beginning to dry up.

BURNETT-R.B.: Third cutting alfalfa is almost made, just too dry. Corn on heavy ground is quite good, but on light soil it is real spotty. Fall seeding did not come up until rain arrived and was turning brown if planted early.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Third crop alfalfa was short, but good quality. Corn and soybean yields will be lower than normal due to lack of rain. Had 2.0 inches of rain, but too late to be of much help to crops. Much more rain needed, as soil is still dry. Late-planted corn fields are short and have few cobs with very little grain.

Silage yields are also less than average. Some farmers buying hay from out of state, as third crop alfalfa yields were below normal.

VILAS-L.K.: There is no second crop hay. Potato harvest in full swing, and it is an excellent crop. Pastures and hay crops are too far gone for the rain we had.

FOREST-A.K.: Corn is doing good. Some second crop hay was made, even though it was short.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Hay is scarce, fields greening up in spots after the rain. Corn and soybeans will be marginal at best. Lots of corn for silage, nothing left above 60 percent whole plant moisture.

MONROE-W.D.: Third and fourth crop alfalfa being harvested. Some dried up corn being chopped for silage.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: High moisture combines are beginning to roll, and corn silage is wrapping up. It is rare to see green corn and most soybean fields are losing leaves. Soybeans were aided by recent rains and most will show some improvement. Pastures are greening up, but still not productive to speak of.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Third crop alfalfa is all harvested - with what there was of it; quality was good, but had very poor yields. Hay will probably be in short supply. Most of the irrigated sweet corn has been harvested.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Third crop alfalfa has mostly been harvested, with some fields very short due to dry conditions. Fourth crop hay has really greened up since the rain over the weekend. Corn and soybeans are pretty well dried up and will be less than half of what was expected for yields.

RICHLAND-S.K.: Much-needed moisture came over the weekend. Though, it may be to late for corn and soybeans, it may help the pastures and alfalfa conditions. We are seeing a lot of corn harvested for corn silage. Also saw some farmers starting to combine high moisture corn; the moistures were really variable from one end of the field to the other. Those harvesting high moisture corn indicated yields in the 90 to 100 bushels range; this represents about a 20 to 30 percent reduction, which is to be expected with the stress our crops are under. I saw the first soybean field in the county being combined on the sands. The soybeans are starting to dry down very rapidly. Our pastures and alfalfa are starting to green up, but have a long way to go.

DANE-D.F.: Producers are finishing corn silage with yields better than expected; however quality is only good, at best. Much of the silage lacks grain or was harvested too dry to ferment properly. Early reports are many of the soybeans will be small, some the size of BB's.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Received 2.7 inches of rain last Friday night through Sunday. Rain too late for corn and soybeans. Hopefully, enough to be able to plant winter wheat. Most corn silage is up. A few starting to combine high moisture corn. Yields look to be low with light kernels.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: Sweet corn surprised us, as it yielded very well. Corn is drying, but not all completely dented yet. There will be some good yields, but a lot is dependent on the soil makeup. Fourth crop alfalfa is coming after the few rains we had, but we may not take it to protect the stand. Some soybeans are completely brown, and as soon as the greener spots drop the remaining leaves, we will start harvest to no-till some wheat. Soybean harvest will be difficult.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Bob Hunter
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 21, 2003

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. 20	Mar. 1 to Sep. 20 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	74	47	83	36	61	2	2681	2352	1.27	1.70	-0.99	19.53
Green Bay	73	50	81	39	62	4	2281	2199	0.99	2.72	0.63	23.86
La Crosse	76	51	85	43	64	2	2926	2646	1.02	2.43	0.00	19.29
Madison	73	49	81	37	61	1	2588	2591	1.05	4.07	1.84	20.54
Milwaukee	73	54	82	43	63	0	2424	n.a.	0.30	0.31	-2.07	13.53

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.