



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 20, 2003

Vol. 03, No. 29

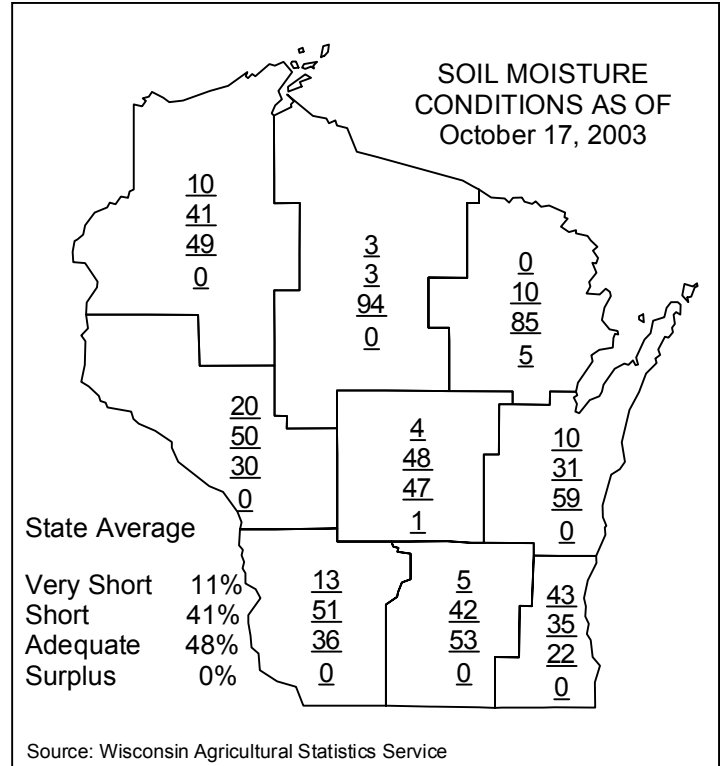
Favorable Harvest Weather Continues

Dry, sunny days allowed for fall harvest to progress rapidly across the Badger State. Temperatures were normal, to slightly above normal for the week. Combines and harvest equipment were running hard in the ideal harvest conditions. The weather also allowed the moisture content of late-planted corn and soybean fields to dry down. Producers took advantage of this natural drying to save on harvest costs. There were a few scattered rains, with most reports under .5 inches. Those areas that received rain were happy to see added moisture for fall-planted crops and subsoil moisture levels. There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated as 11% very short, 41% short, 48% adequate, and 0% surplus. Pasture feed conditions were rated as 22% very poor, 30% poor, 28% fair, 20% good, and 0% excellent.

Soybean harvest was in the forefront of activity for the week. The harvest pushed to 77% complete, well ahead of both the 50% last year and the 5-year average of 64%. Soybeans appeared to have suffered the most due to the dry summer, and yields have been disappointing. Yields of 5-40 bushels per acre were reported, but many areas will average in the low 20's. Small size of the beans and low bean numbers per pod are cited as reasons for the low yields. The Indian Summer weather allowed for **corn** to continue to dry down naturally in the field. High moisture harvest and harvest for grain both advanced. Corn harvested for grain was at 35% complete, higher than last year's 21% and the 5-year average of 34%. Yields are reported to vary greatly depending on type of soil and levels of precipitation through the growing season. The corn crop appears to have handled the dry summer better than many expected, but there were areas of low yields reported.

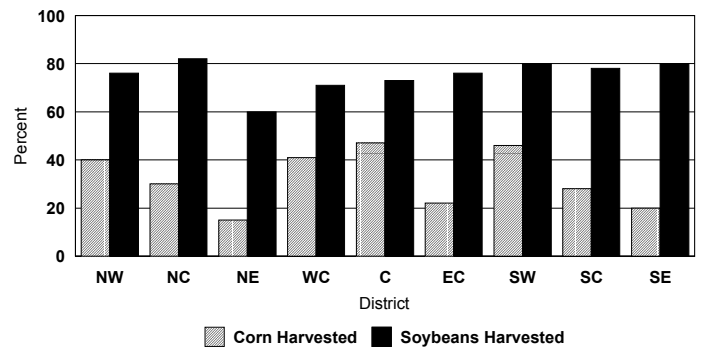
Forage supplies are reported below normal around the state, and the last of **alfalfa** harvesting is winding down. The rains of the last month have helped newly-seeded fields and boosted reserves in older stands. **Winter wheat** planting continued and many stands have emerged and look very green. Fall rains would be very welcome. Soil moisture conditions are good for **fall tillage** operations and **manure hauling**. Fall tillage was 25% complete, ahead of both the 12% last year and the 22% 5-year average.

Apple harvest is winding down with the good weather, yields and quality are reported to be moderate to good. **Cranberry** harvest continued in the bogs, though some areas voiced concerns over water levels. The **potato** harvest is nearly complete and yields are reported to be very good.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	22	30	28	20	0

Percentage of Corn and Soybeans Harvested By District, October 19, 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 for grain harvested	40	30	15	41	47	22	46	28	20	35	21	34
Soybeans harvested	76	82	60	71	73	76	80	78	80	77	50	64
Fourth cutting hay	30	30	55	80	70	56	76	79	50	65	67	71
Fall tillage completed	25	35	25	22	42	37	13	19	30	25	12	22

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Soybean yields are ranging from 10 to 35 bushels per acre with a few farmers on either side of that. The county average will be in the mid to lower 20's. Soybean size reported to be small by nearly everyone. Corn is coming off. Several farmers are harvesting 14 to 16 percent moisture corn, test weights good, yields 10 to 20 percent off from last year. Still too early to tell, but from what I have tested, 115 to 120 bushels per acre will catch most of the county's corn.

RUSK-G.P.: High moisture corn harvest is slow to start, moistures still running in the high 20's and low 30's. Soybean harvest is nearing completion, yields as high as 45 bushels per acre, but more commonly in the 30's, and some less than 20 bushels per acre. Fall tillage has started.

VILAS-L.K.: Fieldwork is almost complete. Ground moisture is perfect for planting rye for cover crop. There is no second or third alfalfa crop.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Very few farmers have started on high moisture corn as of yet. A little over half of the soybeans are off, with yields averaging 40 to 45 bushels per acre. Fall-seeded alfalfa off to a poor start, with emergence just visible. Most wheat planting looks very good.

DUNN-S.S.: In both corn and soybeans, the quality and quantity are running better than most expected. Yields have varied greatly, but lots better than most expected. The big loss in this area has been hay and pastures, both have taken great hits. Some winter wheat was planted and is up. Not much fall tillage as of yet.

ST CROIX-L.M.: Corn yields are better than expected. Soybean yields are in the upper teens and lower 20's. Ground is dry; need rain to replenish subsoil before freeze up.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Soybean harvest is nearing completion, yields variable, but good. Corn harvest moving along slowly, as soybeans take priority. Fall tillage progressing rapidly. Fall grain planting nearly done. Great week for fieldwork

WOOD-F.M.: Soybean harvest has progressed good with a great week for combining. Yields reported from 15 to 45 bushels per acre. Some high moisture corn is being done with varied yields. There was not any fourth crop alfalfa due to dry conditions.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Some farmers are waiting on the dry shell corn and later-planted soybeans for harvest. Pastures are making a slow come back.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Quality is good, but quantity is down for both corn and soybean grain. Winter wheat planting is almost done in our area with less than 10 percent of acreage left to plant. Fall tillage is progressing very well. Soil moisture, for the most part, is excellent for fall tillage to progress in a timely fashion.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn that is being harvested for grain has small ears and kernels. Soybeans mostly all harvested and small yields and beans. Some winter wheat is being planted. Have not seen much up as of yet. Some fall tillage being done.

RICHLAND-S.K.: Soybean harvest is moving right along; yields are very disappointing, ranging from 25 to 35 bushels per acre. Corn harvest is also going very strong, yields are a little surprising being between 130 to 140 bushels per acre. The final crop of hay is coming off, very high quality, but very little of it is out there.

DANE-J.K.: High moisture corn crop is much better than I ever thought it would be. Looks like we were headed for a record crop, as it is, there are some record yields on sod plowed down with a lot of manure on and latter planting, 200 bushels-plus moisture at about 27 percent, average. Have not started soybeans yet, but they look ready to go. Wheat is coming very good; it is about 2 to 6 inches tall and very green and thick. Not too much corn combined for grain.

DODGE-J.F.: Soybean harvest moved quickly with the dry weather. Yields are lower than normal, especially if not sprayed for Soybean Aphids. Still very dry, but that helps harvest progress.

WASHINGTON-G.R.: Wheat is growing well, some planting still going on. Corn is being picked, very little combining going on. Soybeans are going fast. Yields on soybeans not sprayed are 15 to 35 bushels per acre, if sprayed for Aphids, 30 to 50 bushels per acre.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Corn has short ears and half-filled ears. Soybeans have few pods and two beans in a pod.



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

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 19, 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 Oct. 18	Mar. 1 to Oct. 18 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	61	39	73	28	50	2	2862	2540	0.00	3.14	-1.92	20.97
Green Bay	60	39	70	31	49	1	2454	2400	0.18	4.17	-0.12	25.31
La Crosse	63	40	76	30	52	1	3145	2874	0.02	2.97	-1.67	19.83
Madison	62	38	70	28	50	0	2779	2831	0.60	5.19	0.91	21.66
Milwaukee	62	43	72	38	53	1	2623	n.a.	0.55	2.44	-2.25	15.66

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.