Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

November 1, 2004

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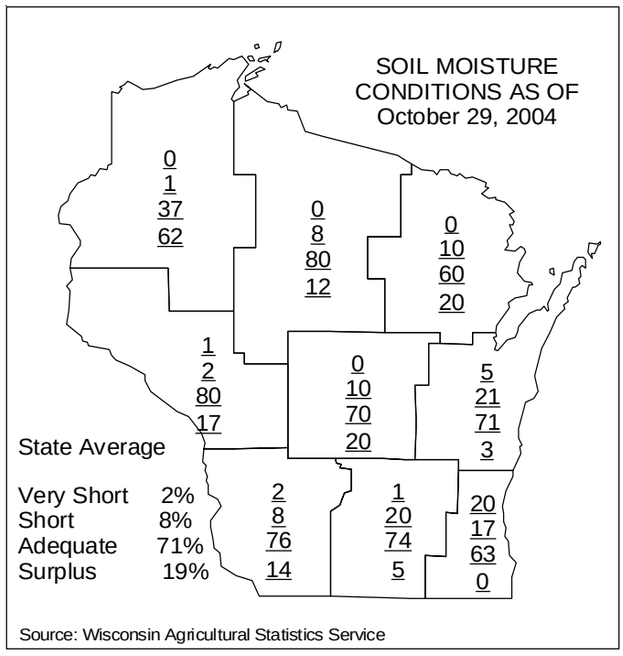
Damp Conditions Slow Harvest

Harvest progress was delayed during the past week. Moisture received across the state stopped combines from rolling throughout the week. The average temperature was 9 to 11 degrees above normal. Low temperatures were reported in the upper 30's. High temperatures reached the mid 70's during the week. Northern areas of the state received over an inch of rain, while the south central and southeast received less than an inch. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 2% very short, 8% short, 71% adequate, and 19% surplus. With the damp weather, soil moisture conditions have improved from the previous week. There was an average of 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn harvest progress slowed with the weather. Reports from northern parts of the state indicated that high moisture corn is still being harvested with better than expected yields. However, more time is needed for the fields to dry before the pace of harvest can accelerate. Harvest in the central areas of the state was also slowed by the weather. High moisture corn is still being harvested there, when the weather allows. There were reports of corn on heavy soils still too wet to harvest. Reporters have commented that yields in the southwest and south central areas are better than expected. There have been mixed reports on yields in the southeast part of the state. **Soybean** harvest was slowed by the rains. Soybean yields in the northern parts of the state were reported to be average. In central areas, most of the soybeans that were killed by frost have been harvested. Producers are waiting for the late-planted soybeans to dry down. Muddy fields across much of the state slowed any **fall tillage** progress.

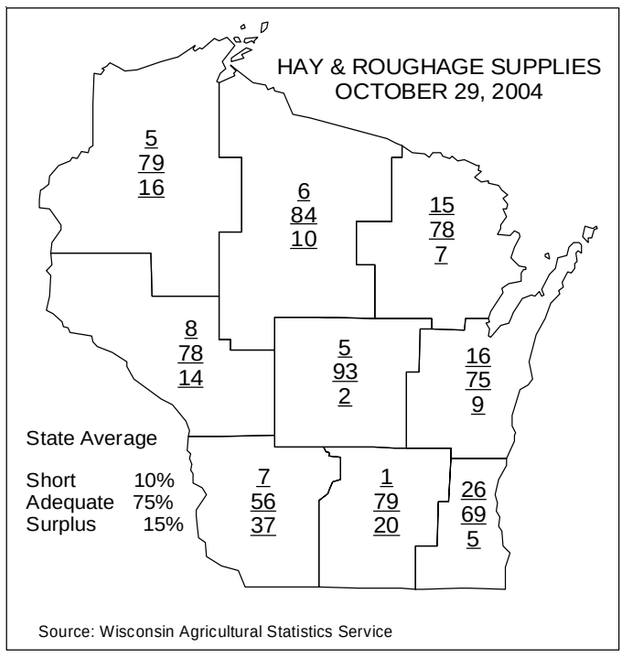
Corn in the mature stage was reported at 90%, below last year's 100%, and the 5-year average of 99%. Corn harvested for grain was reported at 41% complete, behind last year's 64%, and the 5-year average of 61%. **Soybeans** harvested was reported at 77% complete, behind last year's 95%, and the 5-year average of 88%. **Fall tillage** was reported at 35% complete, behind last year's 44%, but above the 5-year average of 34%**.**

Wheat and **rye** planting is nearing completion. Most has emerged and is in good condition. **Apple** harvest is mostly completed in the western half of the state. Some apples in the eastern half are being harvested. The **cranberry** harvest is nearing completion. **Carrot** and **beet** harvest is slowing down, with most other vegetables harvested for the year.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 29, 2004

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	4	10	39	41	6



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 31, 2004

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 mature stage	92	85	84	90	95	74	98	98	90	90	100	99
Corn hrvst. for grain	18	25	24	37	70	58	41	42	51	41	64	61
Soybeans harvested	59	70	44	81	85	67	95	84	75	77	95	88
Fall tillage completed	30	35	29	31	75	72	25	20	14	35	44	34

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

RUSK-G.P.: Corn silage is mostly done. High moisture corn is just getting started with moisture running in the 30's. There will not be much dry or ear corn in this area this year. Soybeans worth harvesting are mostly in, some is still left to chop or just roll over. Yields are running between 20 and upper 30's. With wet weather all fieldwork has stopped.
OCONTO-K.H.: Some corn left to harvest, but still it is very high in moisture. Elevator says much is at 30 plus moisture. Not many local soybeans being combined yet.
SHAWANO-B.R.: Not able to take any soybeans off this week due to cloudy damp weather. Corn moisture is running 25-38 percent with most going for high moisture that is being combined at this time. Three to four inches of rain this week is starting to make us a little nervous about field conditions and dry down of crops for this late in the year.
MONROE-W.H.: Wet weather has slowed harvest. High moisture corn harvest is progressing when the weather allows. Dry grain farmers are hoping to let things field dry as much as possible before combining to reduce drying costs, but the weather has not cooperated. Most all soybeans that were not killed by frost have been harvested. Those killed by frost are still drying down in the field.
PEPIN-H.R.: Soybean harvest has come to a halt due to damp conditions. Lots of soybeans left in our area yet. Corn has started on lighter soils, but on heavy soils it is too wet to dry down yet. There is hardly any high moisture corn done. Good growing conditions for rye and winter wheat. We need a hard killing frost.
PORTAGE-J.W.: Corn and soybean harvest is near completion. Fall tillage is nearly complete. Manure spreading going on.
WAUSHARA-L.K.: Corn for grain was being harvested, but now rain and fog everyday has stopped all harvesting. Good quality grain this year. Very few corn borers this year. Soybeans have all been harvested.
FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Rains have slowed harvesting. Late soybeans and corn are very high in moisture. Hay supplies are good, but quality is very poor.
SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Soybeans are better than corn. Very few soybeans came off this week because of the weather. Have not seen any local corn combined yet. Soil moisture conditions have improved lately after a shortage all summer.
CRAWFORD-V.H.: Great yields being reported in corn and soybeans.
LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Corn moisture is holding a little higher than most would like to harvest at, what with drying fuel prices.
COLUMBIA-J.J.: Harvesting is at a stand still for six days now. Corn was not drying down very well even before this wet spell. Took a lot of acres to fill silo due to small stalks and short plants.
DANE-J.K.: Quality and quantity of corn seems to be very good except for late-planted where it drops off rapidly. Yields were down to 25 bushels per acre. Soybeans are some what similar to corn. Yields down to 30 bushels per acre for soybeans. There has been no more frost or freeze since Oct 4th. Winter wheat looks excellent with most of it all done; some six inches tall already.
ROCK-S.H.: Corn and soybean yields are better than expected. A lot of root worm feeding on first year corn has caused many fields to lodge. Winter wheat has greened up.
WALWORTH-P.R.: Soybean yields range from 35-60 bushels per acre with quality variable based on planting date and incidence of disease. Corn yields are generally very good; some light corn. Very little winter wheat planted this fall due to dry soils at planting time and this year's scab problems.
WAUKESHA-R.F.: Corn and soybeans are poor. We had a very hard frost. Not much to harvest anymore.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 31, 2004

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. 9	Mar. 1 to Oct. 9 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	58	45	75	37	52	10	2534	2488	2.06	8.05	2.22	29.74
Green Bay	60	45	72	40	52	9	2385	2352	1.61	5.73	0.57	30.78
La Crosse	61	46	76	40	54	9	2890	2814	1.08	5.81	0.39	38.89
Madison	62	47	74	40	55	11	2681	2766	0.35	4.22	-0.92	36.45
Milwaukee	64	48	75	39	56	9	2571	n.a.	0.50	2.02	-3.59	29.40

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