

Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

October 20, 2009

Wisconsin Crop Progress: October 18 2009. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Full report at: <http://www.nass.usda/gov/wi/>

Soil Moisture		
	East Central Wisconsin	State Average
Very Short	0	1
Short	3	6
Adequate	94	78
Surplus	3	16

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Since Sept 1	Precipitation Sept 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to Oct 8	Normal				
Green Bay	38	-11	2242	2396	0.20	3.17	-1.11	-3.67
Madison	39	-11	2537	2825	0.22	5.85	1.62	3.35

Wisconsin Crop Progress						
Crop and percent of acreage	Central		East Central		State Average	
			This Year	Last Year	5-Year	
Corn mature	84	70	70	89	92	
Corn silage harvested	88	86	83	95	96	
Soybean harvest	16	17	14	60	60	
Fall tillage	26	29	17	18	17	

Crop Conditions: Corn: Very Poor=2%, Poor=9%, Fair=25%, Good=50%, Excellent=14%

Soybeans: Very Poor=1%, Poor=6%, Fair=30%, Good=49%, Excellent=14%

Observations of the week: More on Yields and Moisture

The Ag Chemicals Clean Sweep on Monday was a great opportunity to visit with farmers about the yields they have been seeing. Soybean yields have been satisfactory considering the year with many farmers indicating yields in the 40 to 50 bushel range. A few have stated the yield were better than they thought. Moisture in soybeans continues to be higher than liked but many harvesters are conceding we just can't wait any longer. Corn has an even greater problem with dry down. While ear size and yield looks good at the small plot level, moisture seems like it is barely dropping. A field with high yields but wet corn could cost \$100 per acre to dry. Take a yield of 160 bu per acre X \$0.65 per bu to dry equals \$104 dollars. It will be very important to ask your grain buyer or grain drier what they are charging for handling fees, drying, low test weight discounts, and what shrink value they are using before delivering

the grain. At the very least, the seller hopefully won't have any big, gut wrenching surprises when the final price is settled. For those of you using your own drier and storage please be reminded that wet, low test weight grains can have more storage problems. Purdue University has a good fact sheet on this: <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/GQ/GQ-27.html>

From Shawn Conley, Soybean and Small Grain Specialist Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Drop Dead Date for Seeding Winter Wheat

Given our 7- day weather outlook and the fact that the winter wheat we planted on October 1st is barely spiking it is obvious that the drop dead date for trying to get the rest of our winter wheat planted in 2009 is quickly approaching. Unfortunately assigning a strict calendar date to end planting is difficult given the fact that we don't know what the weather will be like from now until Christmas or the ground freezes (whichever comes first). What we do know is:

From our data at our Arlington and Lancaster winter wheat sites we see significant yield loss as planting date is delayed from mid-September to mid-to-late October (Table 1)

Table 1. Planting date effect on grain yield and winter survival at Lancaster and Arlington WI, 2009.

Planting date	Grain Yield	% Yield Loss
Lancaster, WI		
17-Sept	74.9	-
30-Sept	68.3	8.8
13-Oct	54.2	27.6
Arlington, WI		
18-Sept	101.9	-
1-Oct	93.3	8.4
17-Oct	73.9	27.5

At this point of the season crop insurance coverage is reduced to 60% of the original guarantee (see [Recommendations for Winter Wheat Establishment in 2009](#) for more details).

A warm November or December can do wonders. Our winter wheat variety trial was planted at our Janesville location on November 8th 2006 and averaged 76 bu per acre whereas our Arlington site was planted on September 28th 2006 and yielded 78 bu per acre. However

given our record cool season I would not mortgage the farm on a warm November/December.

If a grower is still planning on planting winter wheat it is likely for reasons other than just yield (i.e. manure ground, straw, setting up a rotation, etc.). To ensure the best possible success given our planting and growing environment:

1. Plant "new seed
2. Plant fungicide treated seed
3. Plant a minimum of 1.75 million seeds per acre (more would be better, up to 2.2 million)

For additional information regarding wheat establishment please see [Recommendations for Winter Wheat Establishment in 2009](#)

Posted by Shawn Conley (spconley@wisc.edu) at [10:14 AM](#)

Thursday, October 15, 2009

[The Fall is a Good Time to Pull Soil Samples for SCN](#)

The UW Agronomy Department, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, is again offering free SCN testing for Wisconsin growers. This program is intended for growers to sample up to three of their fields in order to identify if SCN is present and at what levels. Growers will be responsible for collecting soil from fields suspected to have SCN and then sending the sample to the SCN testing laboratory. They will receive a lab report back with the SCN egg count and a brochure to help plan future rotations and other cultural practices to lower the level of infestation.

We have a limited number of these free kits available and will furnish them on a first come - first served basis. Each kit has a bag and a prepaid mailer for one soil sample which should represent about 10-15 acres. Both the postage and lab fees are prepaid. Before or right after harvest are great times to collect soil samples for routine soil fertility analysis and for SCN monitoring.

Soil sample test kits are available now and can be requested from Colleen Smith at clsmith8@wisc.edu or at 608-262-7702.