

## Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

September 14, 2009

**Wisconsin Crop Progress:** September 14 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	29	10
Short	49	47
Adequate	22	43
Surplus	0	0

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 Sept. 13	Normal				
Green Bay	66	4	2006	2130	0	0	na	-4.13
Madison	66	3	2275	2484	0	0	na	0.26

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	Central		State Average		
	Central	East Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Corn in dent	48	37	40	46	63
Soybean leaves turned	30	38	43	60	62
Fourth cut hay	22	26	29	30	26

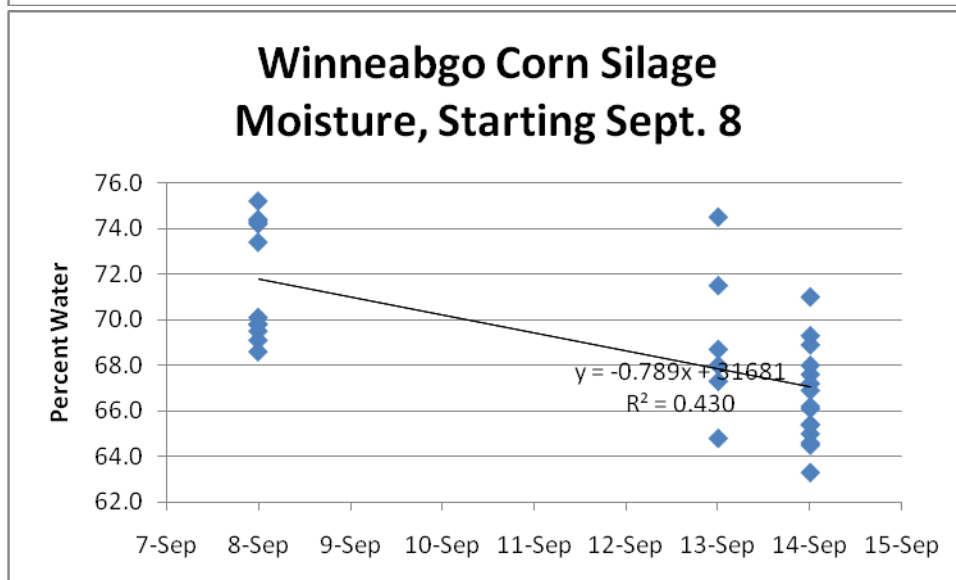
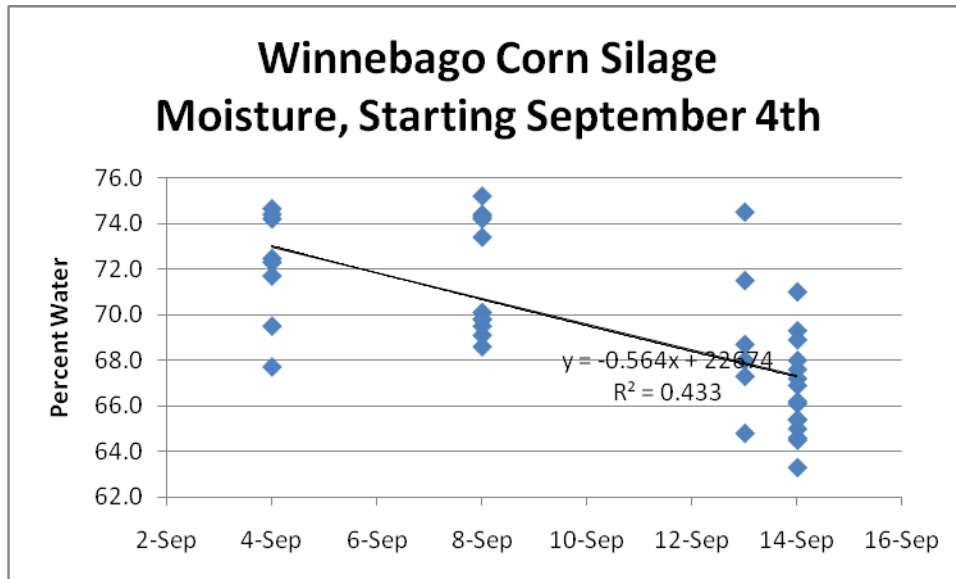
**Crop Conditions: Corn: Very Poor=2%, Poor=8%, Fair=26%, Good=44%, Excellent=20%**

**Soybeans: Very Poor=2%, Poor=5%, Fair=22%, Good=51%, Excellent=20%**

### Observations of the week: Corn Silage Dry-down Summary:

To date over 40 corn silage hybrids have been processed during the past three weeks in Winnebago County. At the first two dry-down dates on August 26 and September 4, many of the hybrids sampled were basically field wet, around 75% moisture. However, with the hot dry weather, corn silage is drying down rapidly. Last issue we discussed a typical whole plant moisture decrease of 0.5% per day, with a range of 0.4 to 0.7% common. Below are two plots of the corn moisture trends in Winnebago County. The first chart starts plotting moisture decline on September 4 and we find moisture has decreased about 0.6% per day. The second chart plots moisture decline in just the last week resulting in an average decline of nearly 0.8% per day. I suspect this accelerating dry down is related to a few factors. Some samples had not begun truly drying down on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, the persisting hot and dry weather

appears to be putting the plant under moisture stress, especially apparent in leaves and stalks. With soil moisture declining, plant moisture may be following. With average moisture of 67% at this time, many fields intended for bunker should have begun already, if not in the next couple days. The moisture appears to be just about right for bags if 67-68% moisture is desired. If targeting between 65 and 60% moisture for stave silos, projections indicate the later part of this week/weekend is an appropriate start date. Corn silage start for oxygen limiting silos is about 10 to 14 days away. Please remember a wide range in planting dates and hybrid maturities are included in this data set. Therefore, the weak  $R^2$  (for the statistical types reading). The next dry down is from 9:00 to 12:30 at Larsen Coop in Larsen on the 16<sup>th</sup>. If we do receive rain, it is very likely plants will rehydrate.



Full report at: <http://pestbulletin.wi.gov/>

No new report this week.

**The Soy Report: Shawn Conley and Paul Esker, UW Specialist**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2009**

### **Yield Loss and White Mold**

We have been receiving multiple questions about the potential yield loss in soybean fields where white mold has been observed in 2009. As soybean moves into the R6 and R7 growth stages, this is an excellent time to assess your fields for plant mortality. Measures to consider include incidence, or the percentage of plants showing symptoms of white mold divided the total number of plants assessed (multiplied by 100 to obtain the percentage). Also, the severity of white mold can be assessed by examining individual plants and rating each plant using a 0-3 scale (Grau et al. 1982), where:

0 = no symptoms

1 = lesions on lateral branches only

2 = lesions on main stem, no wilt, and normal pod development

3 = lesions on main stem resulting in plant death and poor pod fill

As you scout your fields, the more plants that are rated as a 3 would indicate a increased severity of white mold in the field.

What does this all mean in terms of potential yield loss? Previous studies across Wisconsin has indicated that for every 1% plant mortality, yield loss is 0.25-0.50 bushels per acre. So, for example, if there was 10% plant mortality, yield loss may be from 2.5 to 5 bushels per acre.

For further information, a new [video](#) available through UW-Extension YouTube discusses symptoms and risk factors associated with white mold.

References:

Grau, C.R., Radke, V.L., and Gillespie, F.L. 1982. Resistance of soybean cultivars to *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. Plant Dis. 66:506-508.