

## Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

September 8, 2009

**Wisconsin Crop Progress:** September 8 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    | 3                      | 16            |
| Short         | 19                     | 34            |
| Adequate      | 73                     | 50            |
| Surplus       | 2                      | 0             |

| Wisconsin Weekly Weather |             |                       |                    |        |           |               |                         |              |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| City                     | Temperature |                       | GDD (50 base)      |        | Last Week | Precipitation |                         | Year to date |
|                          | Avg.        | Avg. dep. from normal | March 1 to Sept. 5 | Normal |           | Since Sept 1  | Sept 1 dep. from normal |              |
| Green Bay                | 59          | -5                    | 1892               | 2033   | 0         | 0             | na                      | 17.63        |
| Madison                  | 58          | -8                    | 2160               | 2373   | 0         | 0             | na                      | 25.35        |

| Wisconsin Crop Progress     |              |         |               |           |        |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Crop and percent of acreage | East Central |         | State Average |           |        |
|                             | Central      | Central | This Year     | Last Year | 5-Year |
| Corn in dent                | 26           | 9       | 19            | 29        | 46     |
| Soybean leaves turned       | 12           | 10      | 9             | 25        | 36     |
| Fourth cut hay              | 10           | 21      | 19            | 22        | 16     |

**Crop Conditions: Corn: Very Poor=2%, Poor=6%, Fair=24%, Good=48%, Excellent=20%**

**Soybeans: Very Poor=2%, Poor=6%, Fair=24%, Good=50%, Excellent=18%**

### Observations of the week:

#### Corn Silage Dry-down Summary:

The first corn silage dry-down was held in conjunction with Dan and Gina Stokes field day on August 26. Samples could be described as field wet, i.e., no significant dry-down with corn silage between 73 to 75%. Last Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, the second corn silage dry-down was held at Egan Brothers Dairy. One sample from a 82 day hybrid planted in early May was just under 70% moisture. Kernel milk line was starting to move down the kernel, at about 80% milk line. All other samples were between 72 and 75% moisture. A sample from the same field was brought to both Stokes and Egan's. It was at 75% moisture on August 25 and dropped to 72% by September 4. The third corn silage dry down was held at Pamer Dairy on the 8<sup>th</sup>. 100 to 105 day relative maturity hybrids planted in mid to late May remained at 73 to

76% moisture. 98 relative maturity hybrids planted in early May are down to around 70% moisture. Also, samples from a stressed field, while planted late to a full season RM hybrid, were also at 70% moisture. I use a microwave to dry samples so error is within 2%.

The question becomes “When will corn silage be ready for harvest?” According to Joe Lauer, UW Corn Agronomist, a good rule-of-thumb is a 0.5 % moisture decrease per day (range of 0.4 to 0.7 depending on the year). Target moisture is 65 to 70% in a bunker, 60 to 70% in a bag, 60 to 65% in a concrete stave silo, and 50 to 60% in an oxygen limiting silo. If we want to start chopping corn silage at 65% moisture for storage in a stave silo and we use a field that has 72% moisture today, then the crop still needs to decrease 7% moisture. With a decline of 0.5% per day, this means we will need to wait another 14 days. If dry-down is fast, it could be as soon as 10 days or as long as 18 days. In an uneven field with wet spots and dry knolls, it is not unusual for plant moisture to vary by 10%.

On another note, soybean aphids still are hanging around, even with a soybean crop dropping leaves because of maturity.

**Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 18, August 28 2009**

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

No new report this week.

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

**Wednesday, September 2, 2009**

### **[Planting date effect on winter wheat grain yield and winter survival](#)**

As we prepare for the 2009/10 winter wheat production year it is good time to reflect back on the problems that we encountered and devise practical solutions that we can integrate into our upcoming field season. The most widespread issue in our 2009 wheat crop was winter-kill. In our field assessments winter survival was impacted by four major factors, three of which growers have direct control over.

1. The most obvious factor during a drive-by assessment was location within a field. Areas that were sheltered from driving winds as well as areas that held snow such as fence lines or shaded/wooded areas provided protection for crown tissue and increased winter survival.
2. Planting depth: Variability across a field with no topographical effect was mainly driven by planting depth. Wheat that was planted at less than 0.5 inches demonstrated more winterkill than wheat planted at the 1 inch depth. Please see: ([Recommendations for winter wheat establishment in 2009](#) for more information).
3. Genetics (winter-hardiness) played a huge role in 2009. Winter survival ratings ranged from 16 to 69% at our Chilton WI variety trial site and 22 to 73% at our Arlington WI

variety trial site. For specific information regarding varietal winter survival ratings please see [Wisconsin winter wheat performance tests - 2009](#).

4. Planting date: Results from our Lancaster and Arlington WI research sites show that yield and winter survival decreased as planting date was delayed (Table 1. and Image 1.). Given the delayed maturity of Wisconsin's field corn and soybean crop and the fact that delayed planting decreases winter survival growers should put greater weight in 2009 on selecting winter-hardy wheat varieties.

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

Lancaster, WI

| Planting date | Grain yield | Winter survival (%) |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 17-Sep        | 74.9        | 88.5                |
| 30-Sep        | 68.3        | 70.0                |
| 13-Oct        | 54.2        | 58.0                |

Arlington, WI

| Planting date | Grain yield | Winter survival (%) |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 18-Sep        | 101.9       | 83.8                |
| 1-Oct         | 93.3        | 55.3                |
| 17-Oct        | 73.9        | 30.0                |