



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

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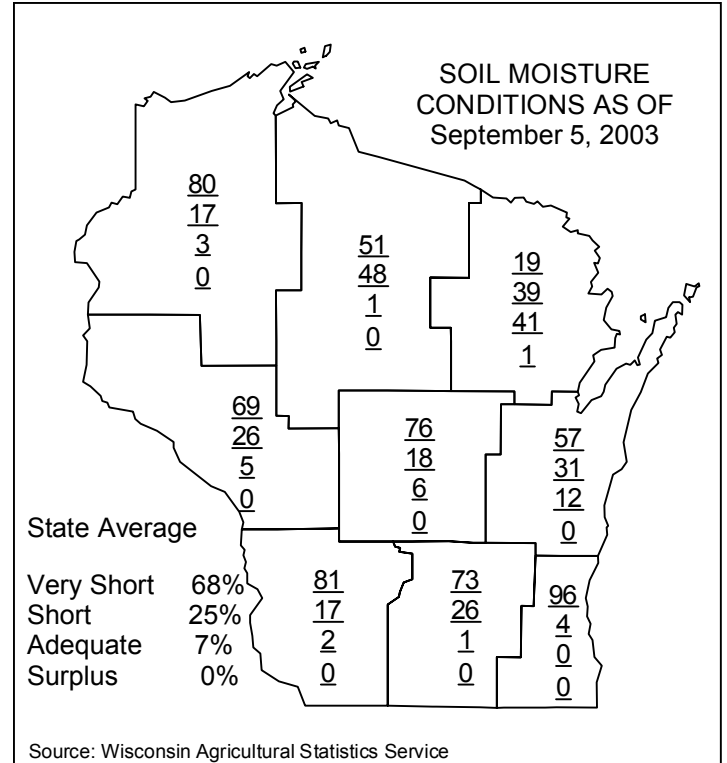
No Relief to Dry Conditions

Dry conditions continue to plague Wisconsin farm country. Temperatures were near normal for the week, but farmers cannot find a rainstorm to help the dry crops. The warm weather has raised growing degree days above normal in most locations, but crops are showing stress across much of the state. There were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated 68% very short, 25% short, 7% adequate, and 0% surplus. The Green Bay area has received their normal rainfall this year, but for most of the state, year-to-date precipitation levels are ranging from 6 to 11.5 inches behind normal. Field crops were struggling to maintain condition in the dry weather. Pastures have been dried up in most areas and are mostly dormant. Pasture feed conditions were rated 58% very poor, 25% poor, 13% fair, 4% good and 0% excellent. Livestock on pasture have been receiving supplemental feed in most areas of the state.

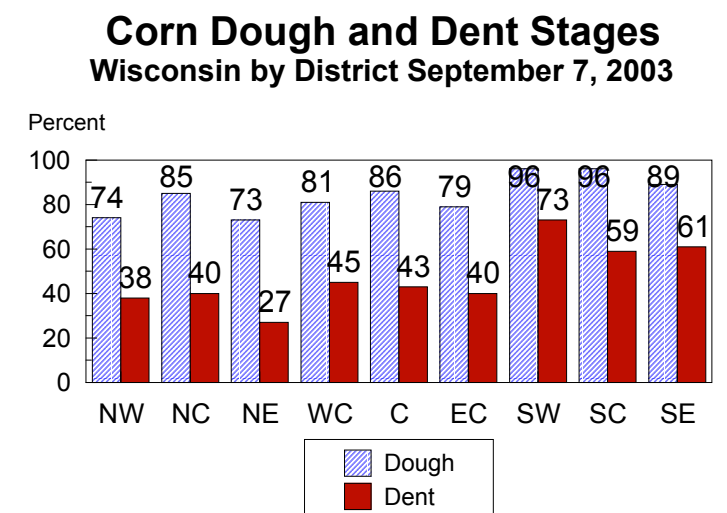
The **corn** silage harvest is progressing rapidly in dry areas of the state. There are concerns about the amount of grain on many stalks and the rapidly dropping moisture content of the plant. Some areas are mixing soybeans with corn to raise moisture levels for the ensiling process. Both corn and soybeans on heavy soils are maintaining condition, but lighter soils have shown severe stress. Corn condition was rated 19% very poor, 25% poor, 36% fair, 18% good and 2% excellent. The dry weather will affect yields in most areas. **Soybean** condition was in much the same shape as corn. The very dry areas are turning color and pod development appears to be significantly affected. Soybean silage is being made to supplement low forage supplies and to utilize marginal fields of beans.

The **alfalfa** harvest is continuing with the dry weather, allowing good quality hay to be made, but quantity is low in most places. Many areas will not get a fourth crop this season. Third crop harvest is at 82% complete, equal to both last year and the 5-year average. **Winter wheat** planting will wait until soil moisture conditions improve.

The dry weather is blamed for early dropping of **apples** and some smaller than average fruit. **Potato** yields are reported to be good in irrigated areas. **Sweet corn** harvest is winding down quickly with the dry weather also. **Tobacco** harvest continued in the south and western areas.



Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	58	25	13	4	0
Corn	19	25	36	18	2
Soybeans	21	26	32	18	3



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 dough stage	74	85	73	81	86	79	96	96	89	86	85	86
Corn in dent stage	38	40	27	45	43	40	73	59	61	51	54	55
Soybeans turning color	40	40	31	39	35	43	54	51	47	46	50	41
Third cutting hay	73	65	75	90	82	87	93	91	93	82	82	82
Fourth cutting hay	5	0	1	9	3	6	18	17	11	9	23	16

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Ideal hay making weather, but very little hay to make due to dry conditions. Fields are turning brown, and it is to the point where rain won't help growth.

RUSK-G.P.: Dry weather continues with a few spotty showers. Crop condition is quite variable; heavier soils are still holding their own, light soils are in trouble. Some corn silage starting, moisture levels 60 to 65% on average. Nitrate testing so far is not showing nitrates as a serious problem. Soybeans on light soils are being cut for silage because of short forage supplies and a poor pod set. Hay and haylage harvest pretty much at a standstill because of the dry weather. Quality and quantity both going backwards at this point. Unless the stands are going to be rolled over, harvest should be done in our area. Expected to see a fair amount of fall seeding, but dry weather has prevented that.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Third crop hay is very short, yields will be very low. Quality should be good as weather has been good for making hay. Yields have been anywhere from 50% to 70% below normal. Potato yields appear alright due to the irrigation. Quality appears to be high. Grain yields varied throughout the county, yields were down on the lighter soils.

VILAS-L.K.: Oats and rye harvested are poor to fair crop. Potato harvest started this week. Some hay still being made, only because it is needed so bad-also poor.

OCONTO-D.T.: Crops maturing fast. Weather has been warm, but we have enough moisture to keep damage down. Corn starting to dent, soybeans loaded with pods, should be a very good crop.

EAU CLAIRE-M.P.: Great variability across the county this year. Some areas are burned up and others, with heavier soils, have some very good crops.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Corn harvest is underway. Yields are poor to fair. Soybeans are turning rapidly. The light spots in alfalfa fields are dormant. There is no soil moisture.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Silo filling is in full swing. Snap bean harvest completed. Potato and sweet corn harvest continues with good yields reported. Hay yields are down, shortages expected. Corn and soybeans are steadily declining. Soybeans dropping leaves already.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Quality and quantity of hay are good. Weeds are a problem. Some corn looks good. Some fields are drying up.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Third crop alfalfa was good quality and quantity, better than first or second crop. Received the rains about a month ago to set it off. Some corn on lighter ground has bottom leaves drying up. Soybeans are turning color.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Third crop alfalfa was very good, except on the hills. Corn and soybeans look like a perfect crop until the rains stopped. Now they look like the yields will be cut in half.

GRANT-R.R.: The quality of third and fourth crop alfalfa is good, but there is not much there. There are lots of insect pests coming. Soybeans are suffering most from the continual lack of rain.

GREEN-M.M.: Drought-stressed fields of corn were chopped as silage last week. Some soybeans were also harvested as silage due to poor pod set from drought. Soybeans on knolls have died prematurely due to dry weather. Fourth crop alfalfa cutting is very short due to lack of rainfall.

ROCK-C.O.: Corn for silage harvest is very dry. Most are surprised by the height and fewer acres needed to fill. Not sure if there will be any soybeans to combine or not.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Checked some soybeans; forty-three pods with mostly three beans in a pod. Soybeans on low ground do not seem to be stressed, no leaves dropping. One farmer is all done with third crop alfalfa cutting, and another is all done with fourth crop alfalfa cutting. A lot of corn is fired. No farmers are working the ground.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Lack of rain this week is taking a big toll on corn and soybean yields. Fields or spots in fields that hold water have crops that are still alive, balance is done growing for year. Alfalfa has stopped growing; will not be any fourth crop cutting. With no rain in the forecast for another week, I am not going to plant wheat until some rain comes.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 7, 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 Sep. 6	Mar. 1 to Sep. 6 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	80	48	90	42	64	0	2438	2186	0.00	0.00	n.a.	17.84
Green Bay	78	55	86	53	67	4	2050	2032	0.00	0.00	n.a.	20.73
La Crosse	80	55	93	49	68	1	2658	2453	0.00	0.00	n.a.	16.87
Madison	77	51	85	45	64	-1	2347	2389	0.00	0.00	n.a.	16.46
Milwaukee	75	56	85	51	66	-1	2172	n.a.	0.00	0.00	n.a.	13.22

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.