Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

June 19, 2006

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Dry Weather Assists Haying Process

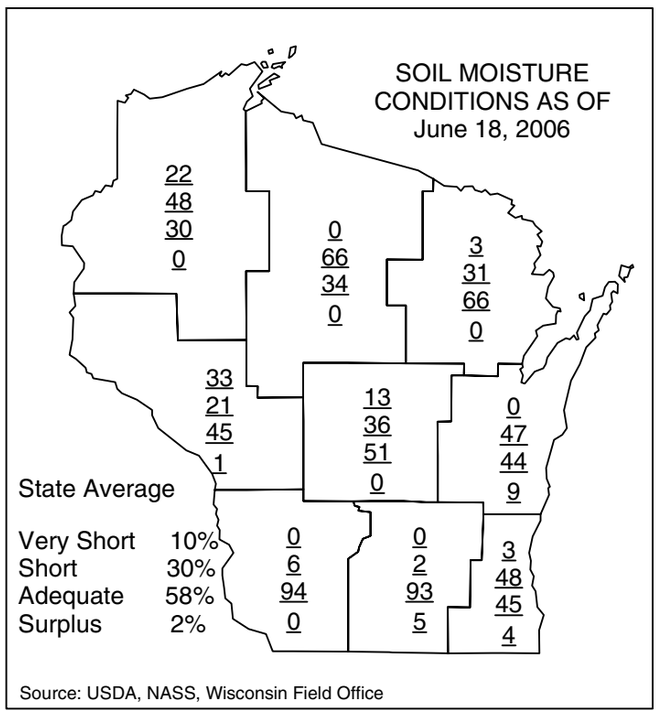
Dry weather throughout most of the state aided first crop hay harvest with progress ahead of normal. Rain is needed in north and central Wisconsin to help second crop hay regrowth. Temperatures were fairly normal for the week, ranging from average to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures were in the high 70s to low 80s in most areas. Low temperatures averaged in the mid to high 50s last week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0 inches in Milwaukee to 0.46 inches in La Crosse. Soil moisture conditions were at 10 percent very short, 30 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin.

Corn emergence was rated at 97 percent complete, at pace with last year's 97 percent and ahead the 5-year average of 91 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn continued to progress well over the week in spite of the lack of rain, but some northern and central areas of the state started to show signs of moisture stress. Northern areas of the state noticed a problem with weeds due to the dry weather and use of soil-applied herbicides.

Soybean planting reached 97 percent complete, behind last year's progress of 100 percent, and ahead of the 5-year average of 93 percent. Soybeans emerged was rated at 91 percent complete, below last year's average of 93 percent, but above the 5-year average of 80 percent. Soybeans looked good throughout the state, but dry weather in all but south central and southwest Wisconsin continued to keep soybeans behind average.

First cutting **alfalfa** was reported at 88 percent complete, above last year's 68 percent and the 5-year average of 55 percent. Warm weather continued to help hay making throughout the week. Yields have been reported as above average in most parts of the state. Second crop regrowth is starting in most parts of the state, but is slow due to lack of rain. Southwest and south central Wisconsin showed good progress of second crop hay, and more expected to begin this week.

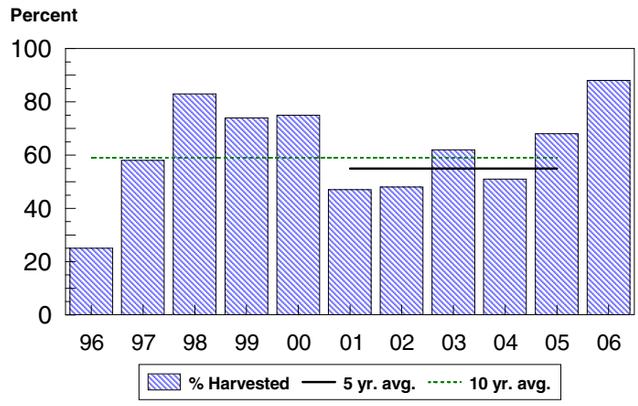
Oats have been rated as mostly good to excellent, with 42 percent of the crop headed. Dry weather helped oats to progress quickly during the week. **Sweet corn** planting is almost complete. **Cucumbers** continued to be planted during the week **Peas** look good and have emerged in most parts of the state. **Potatoes** are progressing well and look very good.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of June 18, 2006

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	7	25	44	22
Soybeans	1	5	26	52	16
Winter wheat	1	2	9	46	42
Oat	0	6	17	58	19
Pasture	2	8	27	48	15

Progress of First Crop Hay Harvested
June 18, 1996 - 2006, Wisconsin



Wisconsin Crop Progress, June 18, 2006

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 emerged	99	99	96	99	96	83	99	99	99	97	97	91
Average height of corn	15	15	13	14	12	9	18	18	13	15	14	10
Soybeans planted	99	99	94	99	96	89	99	99	100	97	100	93
Soybeans emerged	96	97	72	97	84	73	94	94	92	91	93	80
First cutting hay	96	86	89	92	82	80	91	82	96	88	68	55
Oats headed	48	15	24	34	47	38	65	62	49	42	33	25

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-R.B.: On sandy soil we could use 1.0 inch of rain. Some of the first crop hay cutting is a little short, but second crop seems to be pretty good.
CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Dry weather continues. Corn is rolling on sandy soils. Leafhoppers are present, but under thresholds. Alfalfa weevil adults and larvae found, but not enough feeding by larvae to justify spraying.
RUSK-G.P.: Corn and soybeans are looking good, but starting to show signs of moisture stress. Temperatures do not seem to know what to do, last weekend we had spotty frost again, followed by temperatures in the nineties by the end of the week. Oats are starting to head out-need moisture for them too. First crop hay is nearly done, and need rain for second crop also. Lots of spraying going on.
CLARK-N.S.: Early first-cut hayfields have shown much more regrowth than fields that were cut late.
VILAS-L.K.: No first crop hay done yet. Seen some six-foot tall rye this week. We need rain bad.
MARINETTE-D.S.: Rain is needed. Corn starting to show moisture stress.
SHAWANO-T.A.: Crops are moving with the heat. The first of second crop alfalfa is just beginning. Yields are outstanding.
MONROE-W.D.: Rain has slowed haying down again. Corn is looking better, and most soybeans have emerged. Second crop hay is doing quite well.
PEPIN-H.R.: Corn and soybeans are looking very good. Growth is good, considering little or no rain in our area. Second crop hay is very short due to dry conditions. Lots of bugs in the alfalfa-spraying needs to be done. Weed conditions are also slowed up due to dry weather.
PIERCE-J.K.: Still a little first crop hay to be made yet. Some second crop hay has been cut. Rain has been scattered around the county. Some have gotten pretty good rains and others not very far away have received nothing. Corn is looking good so far, despite the lack of moisture.
WAUPACA-D.H.: We are short on moisture. Rain showers have ended in this area. Good hay- making weather. Crops look good despite dry conditions.
WAUSHARA-L.K.: Corn and soybeans look good, but could use a little more moisture. Hay is all made with good quality and good yields.
FOND DU LAC-E.A.: A lot of corn was replanted in this area. First crop hay was a good crop. Second crop hay looks good. Need a good rain now. Winter wheat looks good.
SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Corn and soybeans that survived last months flooding look very good. Ponded and drowned areas of fields have been reworked and replanted. Crop emergence is happening quickly, as soil temperatures have risen quickly. First crop hay has been very good in both quantity and quality. The perennial weeds, especially Canada thistle and quackgrass, have been the most aggresive weeds in minimum or no-til fields.
GRANT-D.W.: Wet weather continues to hinder fieldwork. Crops and pasture look great. First crop alfalfa had tremendous yields and also good quality.
LAFAYETTE-M.R.: One field of alfalfa cut for second crop.
COLUMBIA-J.J.: Warmer nights are greatly improving plant growth. A good soaking rain would help now. Heavy first crop hay yields. Saw one farmer who has 15 acres of first crop hay to cut yet, but all his storage is full.
GREEN-F.Z.: Crops look good.
RACINE-L.F.: Cannot believe we are saying it, but we need rain. Prior rains pounded the ground to road-like conditions; need some rain to soften up the ground. The cool temperatures of this week did not help the crops, but the upcoming heat should get things on track again.
WAUKESHA-R.F.: No rain for 10 days-need some. Oats are short.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on June 18, 2006

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 June 17	Mar. 1 to June 17 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	83	57	92	41	70	4	956	699	0.02	0.66	-1.78	9.90
Green Bay	77	54	90	42	66	1	769	617	0.04	0.32	-1.56	12.33
La Crosse	80	59	90	44	70	1	966	796	0.46	1.62	-0.51	14.31
Madison	79	56	89	43	67	0	851	783	0.13	1.25	-0.94	16.01
Milwaukee	75	58	93	50	67	1	736	n.a.	0	0.03	-1.47	15.52

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.