



Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 16, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 19

Rains Once Again Slow Harvest of Hay and Small Grains

Fields were wet again across much of the state after last week brought more moisture. The wet weather made harvest of hay and small grains difficult and many reports indicated standing water had formed in low-lying areas. High winds and hail were reported in Trempealeau. The past week also saw above average temperatures that were reported as stressing various fruit and vegetable crops in Crawford County.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 6 to 9 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 86 to 90 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 67 to 71 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.74 inches in Milwaukee to 4.22 inches in La Crosse. There were 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn silked was reported at 98 percent complete. Across the state, 58 percent of corn was reported to be in the dough stage and 11 percent in the dent stage. Overall, corn was reported as looking good, with a few reports of corn being uneven in low-lying areas.

Across the state **soybeans** blooming was reported at 95 percent complete, while 79 percent were setting pods. Overall, soybeans were reported as looking good, with a few reports stating that soybeans have yellowed in some areas. In Clark County it was reported that some low-lying areas were showing signs of phytophthora, a mold that causes root rot.

Combining of **oats** continued last week, but was slowed by the wet weather. Oats harvested for grain was reported at 76 percent complete, up 4 percentage points from the previous week. Many reports indicated that some oat fields were too wet for heavy machinery to enter, slowing harvest last week. Weeds were becoming a larger problem in fields that have not been harvested yet.

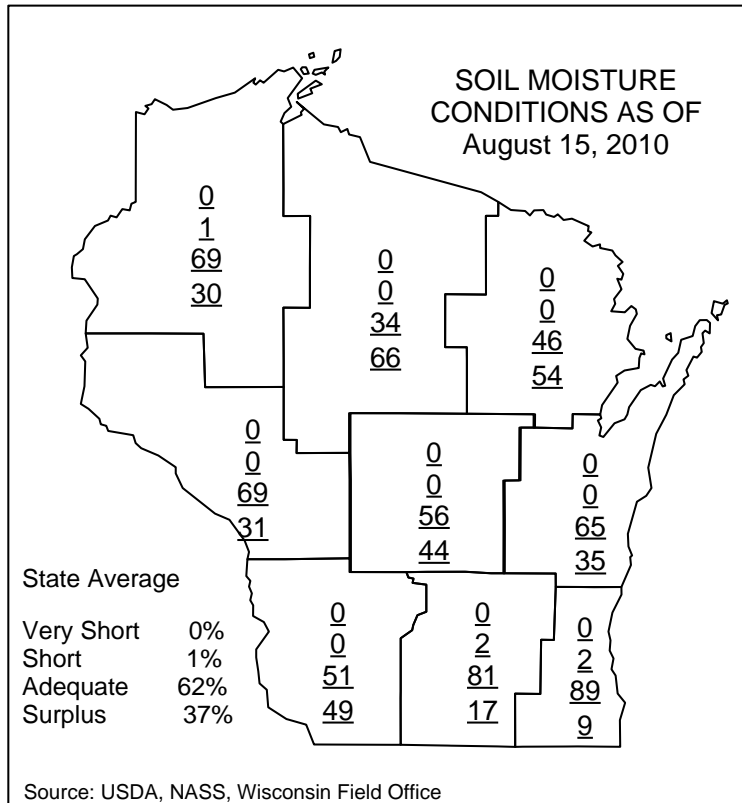
Second cutting **hay** slowly progressed statewide with 94 percent reported complete, an increase of 2 percentage points from the previous week. Third cutting hay was reported at 45 percent complete, an increase of 8 percentage points from the previous week. The recent wet conditions made harvesting of hay difficult across much of the state. For those that were able to get into the fields, many reported that the high humidity last week made it difficult to dry hay for baling.

Red **potato** harvest continued in Oneida County, and there was report of vine killing of white potatoes.

A report from Outagamie County stated that **cabbage** is drowning and rotting.

Cranberries were reported to have fruit set and were sizing up last week in Oneida County.

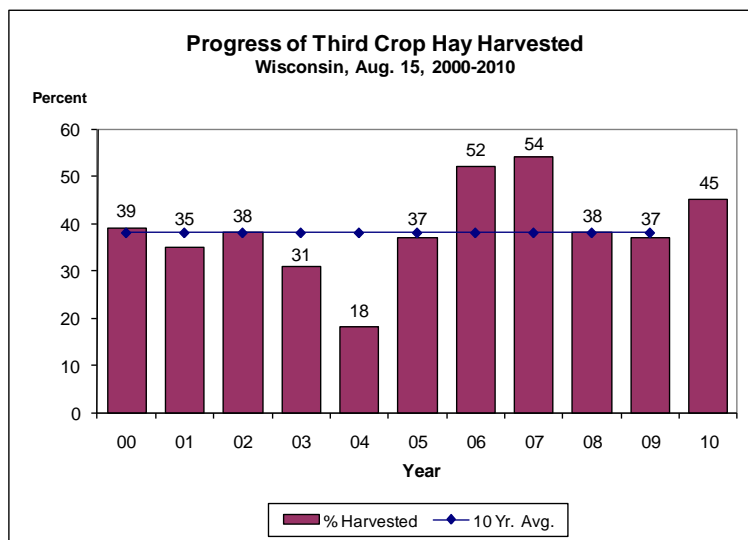
Apples yield was reported as being down in Chippewa County, and a report from Oneida County stated the apple size is smaller than normal.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 15, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	4	14	41	39
Soybean	1	3	13	45	38
Pasture	1	2	11	60	26

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 15, 2010

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn silked	99	99	99	100	98	93	99	100	100	98	97	88	95
Corn in dough stage	56	40	50	60	59	39	70	63	67	58	33	16	34
Corn in dent stage	8	1	9	8	9	4	24	12	20	11	2	n.a.	4
Soybeans blooming	93	97	89	97	100	90	89	99	93	95	89	88	94
Soybeans setting pods	52	84	70	82	96	73	68	91	79	79	57	62	76
Oats harvested	69	35	68	88	94	68	95	100	90	76	72	51	77
Second cutting hay	97	81	95	97	93	93	97	100	99	94	92	99	99
Third cutting hay	43	25	49	47	45	53	40	63	48	45	37	37	44

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

POLK-A.M.: The county received some heavy rainfall this week along with some high winds. Some of the low-lying areas have crops under water. No reports of significant damage.

WASHBURN-R.H.: All crops are excellent. All hay crops with excellent yields, hard to get second crop dry with rain and high humidity. Corn is the best.

CLARK-R.H.: Heavy rains on Friday have continued wet field conditions. With dry weather forecast early next week third cutting hay will be mowed and combines will begin moving in small grain fields. Weeds in oats have many fields green instead of yellow causing harvest difficulties. Vegetable crops display symptoms of the wet conditions, but farmers markets have good supply of fresh vegetables. Low areas of soybean fields are showing symptoms of phytophthora.

OCONTO-J.M.: Farmers reporting best looking crops in years. Going to need some dry weather to be able to harvest from wet fields.

BUFFALO-R.S.: 5.8 inches of rain for the week resulted in some erosion on corn and soybean fields. Some oats have not been harvested, probably never will be harvested. Fields were too wet to bale straw. Some are chopping third crop hay but a lot of second crop not harvested.

ST. CROIX-J.L.: Due to heavy rainfall this past week there has been very little harvesting completed. Along with the extensive moisture and very warm temperatures the third and fourth crops of hay are maturing quickly.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Very wet week, 3.5 inches. Sweet corn harvest began, good yields. Snap bean and potato harvest continues.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Fall raspberry harvest in full swing right now which is about 2-3 weeks ahead of normal. Squash is ripe and ready for market; also two weeks early.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: While this week did not see much rain, the threat was there almost every day, and that slowed the progression of any crop harvesting. In addition, the heat and oppressive humidity made the drying of any crops nearly impossible. The soybeans continue to grow and get taller by the day. In most areas, the plants are nearly waist high or higher. With the excessive moisture, the pods that are forming should fill out nicely. The same can be said for the corn crop. Cobs are beginning to form, and in quite a few cases, two cobs are being found on the stalks. The corn is tall this year. This should make for a bountiful corn silage harvest. Actually, this past week was pretty quiet in terms of any fieldwork being done. Many of the larger producers are

already finished with third crop hay and are awaiting the fourth crop, while some second is still waiting to be made. Yields for most hay crops this year have been above average, but the quality has not been the best, due to the rain delaying the harvest. This coming week sounds promising with lower humidity and sunny conditions. Producers wanting to make some quality dry hay should find the going easier this week. Some harvesting of oats and wheat will be continuing, along with the baling and chopping of straw. And some manure hauling was going on in the past week, but the ground is still too wet in certain areas for this job to be done safely. Again, the drier weather this week should help.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Corn and soybeans look very good with the exception of a few drowned out areas. Hay is doing very well but as before a challenge to harvest; weather has not been good for hay harvest. Apples and other tree and vine fruit seem to be holding their own but with the excessive heat these crops can literally "cook" on the tree. The wet, muggy and humid conditions have hurt tomatoes and potatoes. These conditions have also placed a lot of stress on other fruit and vegetable crops as well causing disease and other issues. Harvesting such crops is especially critical; with current weather conditions a lot of vegetable crops can rot in the fields and on the vines.

DANE-D.F.: Early apples are being picked, giant ragweed is evident on both corn and soybean fields. Hay harvest has resulted in excellent yields however; quality has been a struggle in some areas due to rain.

ROCK-R.S.: It is too hot for the crops, they are suffering from too much heat.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: All the corn we planted in April is dented. Soybeans area all setting pods. Plants are three feet plus tall. Red beets are being dug. Plenty of rain and heat should give us bumper corn and soybean crop. Working on third crop hay at this time.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Colette Childs
Statistician

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 15, 2010

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 Aug. 14	Mar. 1 to Aug. 14 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	87	67	92	64	77	6	2258	1805	3.41	16.15	6.00	22.42	2.04
Green Bay	86	70	91	66	78	9	2131	1674	1.39	17.63	9.16	25.27	7.22
La Crosse	90	71	94	69	80	7	2511	2019	4.22	19.31	9.21	27.82	6.75
Madison	86	69	92	68	78	7	2372	1962	3.04	19.40	9.56	29.45	8.27
Milwaukee	87	71	91	68	79	7	2305	n.a.	0.74	18.60	9.79	27.61	5.87

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.