



Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 6, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 18

Crops Hanging On, Pastures Slow to Recover

Wisconsin saw yet another week of scattered rainfall and above average temperatures this week. Hay and soybeans were responding well to any moisture received, though insect pressure continued to be a problem in many areas. Reports on corn were mixed, with some of the crop too far gone to pollinate and some of the crop in good or improving condition. There were several reports of drought-damaged corn being chopped for silage and forage. Reporters commented that pasture land was slow to recover and forage supplies were tight. Small grain harvest was wrapping up with better than average yields reported. A reporter from Calumet County noted that winter wheat fields were being replanted with additional fall forage. Soil moistures ranged from 40 percent short to very short in the Northeast District to 99 percent short to very short in the sandy Central District. There were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 84 to 88 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 62 to 70 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.32 inches in Green Bay to 1.51 inches in La Crosse. 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/>

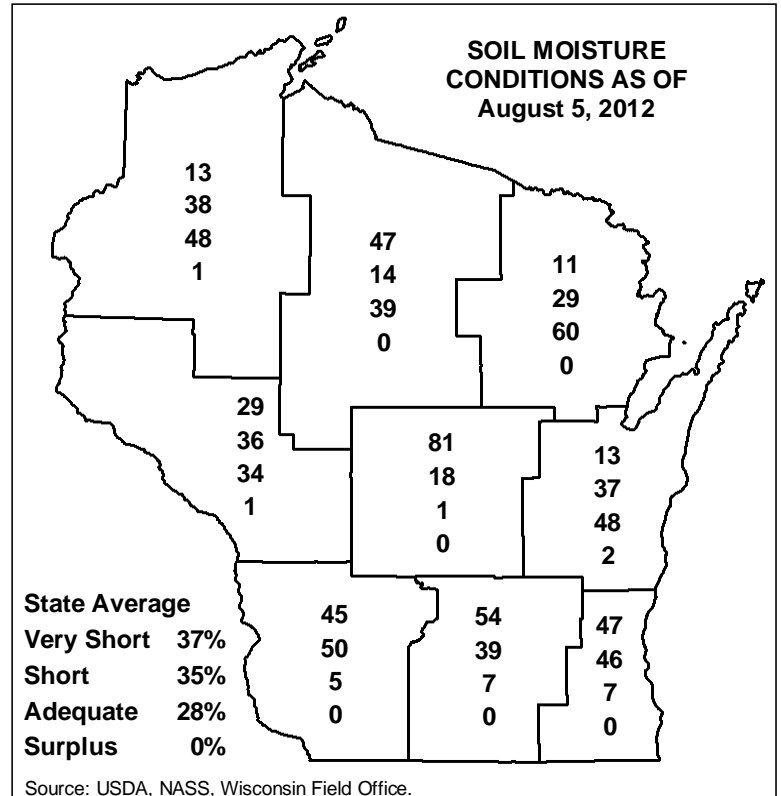
Corn was 93 percent silked and 25 percent in dough stage statewide. Corn silage was one percent harvested, about one month ahead of normal.

Soybeans were 92 percent blooming and 64 percent setting pods this week. Spider mites were reported in soybeans in several counties.

Oats were 83 percent harvested for grain. Yield reports this week ranged from 30-100 bushels per acre.

Third cutting hay was 80 percent harvested. Reporters noted that hay and alfalfa growth was spurred by recent rains, with the fourth crop cutting beginning in some areas. This was about two weeks ahead of normal for fourth crop hay harvest, and some producers were reportedly hoping for a fifth and even sixth crop this fall.

Sweet corn was being harvested in Oneida, Portage and Vernon Counties. **Snap beans** were being harvested in Portage and Door Counties, with yields reportedly below average. Reporters in Shawano and Oneida Counties commented that the **apple** trees showed very poor fruit set, and were dropping some fruit early due to wind and dry conditions.

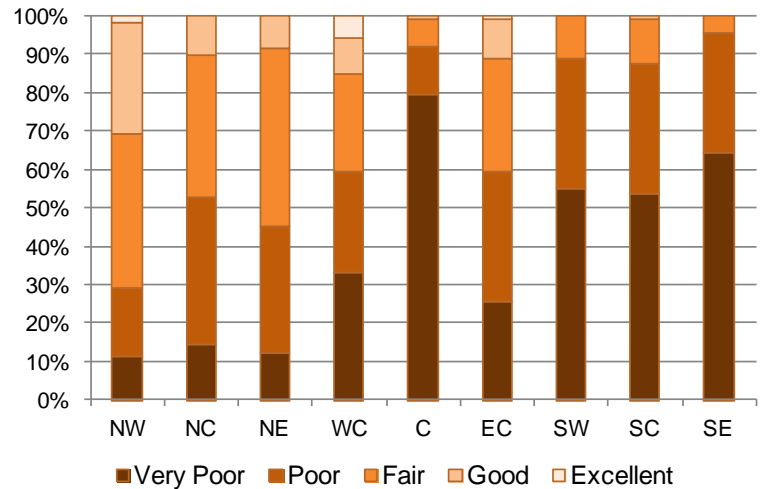


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 5, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	37	29	24	8	2
Corn	18	23	27	23	9
Soybeans	10	18	33	29	10

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Pasture Condition, Wisconsin, By District, August 5, 2012



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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	95	90	98	97	92	86	93	94	93	93	83	83	79
Corn in dough stage	20	31	20	26	19	21	50	25	5	25	10	14	12
Soybeans blooming	89	86	100	97	93	87	86	99	85	92	82	84	82
Soybeans setting pods	59	70	83	61	38	53	60	88	44	64	41	45	45
Oats Harvested	80	71	84	97	76	67	99	97	97	83	66	36	43
Third cutting hay	75	79	95	77	74	82	92	76	67	80	63	28	21

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BARRON-D.B. It is dry and we need rain.

RUSK-G.P.: Had almost an inch of rain last week. Crops are holding their own on all but the lightest soils. Oats are coming off with good quality and yield. Third crop is winding down, fourth crop is starting. A touch of fall in the air this morning with temps in the upper 40s. Corn silage about a month away and fall seedlings starting to gain.

CLARK-R.H.: Moisture is required for all our crops. Corn and soybeans need some moisture or there may be abortion of kernels and flowers. Hard to believe in mid-June we had too much rain. Small grain harvest is wrapping up, hay harvest has been close to average for yield and quality, but most producers will have a fourth cutting this year.

FLORENCE-T.B.: A heavy rain late last week along with some light showers this past week has started hay crops growing again. Very little second crop has been cut to this point, but the emergence of new growth could make harvest of a crop still possible this season. Would expect some grain to be harvested soon. Rain has started a second emergence of grasses and weed growth which will make combining difficult.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Rained 0.4 inches this week, cooler and some overcast, crops overall are not going backwards. But not going forward like you would like as well. Pivots are running nonstop where available.

DUNN-S.S.: Third crop yields of hay very short. We need rain.

LACROSSE-I.H.: Timely rains have improved the outlook of corn and beans that were in fair condition previously. Weeds are showing in some bean fields and some farmers are spraying for the weeds. Due to the lack of moisture third crop hay was very short. Corn in the sandy areas is hurting. Two inches of rain this week arrived at a critical time and will turn a questionable crop to one that is looking a lot better.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Will be harvesting squash next week.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Even though some areas have been short of rain, this area is now looking good. After more rain fell this week, the crops continue to improve daily. The soybeans have been putting on some height now, with some plants almost 4 feet high. The rain is allowing the pods to fill out. The biggest problem with the beans is the pests that are showing up, with spider mites being the most prevalent one at the present time. A heavy rain will wash the pests and their eggs off the plants, but none of the rain received has been of that variety. That leaves pesticide application as the best route to go. Most fields are looking very good, with no pesticide problems at all. The corn is also doing well, with many cobs starting to fill out nicely. Some plants may not be as tall as previous years due to the dry spell,

but the cobs are growing larger. There have been a few plants here and there knocked over due to some rootworm or weak root problems, but most plants are in excellent condition. Third crop hay continues to be harvested, with yields doing better with the recent rains. Some third crop that had been stunted and flowered out is now regrowing through the old plants and looking good. More third crop should be harvested this week. The fourth crop is also growing rapidly. Some of this alfalfa may be taken off in the next couple of weeks. Most of the small grains have now been harvested, with yields averaging pretty good. Oats, which is the grain mainly now coming off the fields, has been yielding in the 30 to 100 bushel range, with many reports over 50 bushels per acre. The rain that has fallen in the past two weeks has turned the crop conditions completely around and has saved this year's crops.

CRAWFORD-R.L.: Some spraying for spider mites. Crops look better because of the rain, but still short.

VERNON-K.L.: The county received anywhere from 0.3-1.0 inches of rain this week. The slight amount of rain has helped some pastures start to green up a little. Small grain harvest is complete with yields close to average or slightly above. Sweet corn is now available in good quantity. Third crop alfalfa yield was below normal, but good quality. Corn and beans have improved with rain.

ROCK-C.O.: Smut is starting to show in corn fields with higher than normal amounts. Early planted corn is terrible, too early to tell on late planted corn. Recent rains may help bean crop and fourth crop hay. Forage supplies will be very tight.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Top soil now has moisture. Corn and soybeans look good. Farmers are busy spraying soybeans for spider mites. A lot of spider mites around.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Corn is still in tough shape. Beans are looking up with 0.5 inch of rain this past week.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 5, 2012

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. 4	Mar. 1 To Aug. 4 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	88	62	94	55	75	+3	2242	1633	0.61	5.83	-2.87	17.60	-1.53
Green Bay	84	65	87	60	75	+5	2164	1509	0.32	8.03	+0.73	18.58	+1.69
La Crosse	87	64	93	60	76	+2	2481	1828	1.51	6.75	-2.01	18.29	-1.37
Madison	88	67	91	63	77	+5	2419	1780	0.42	4.45	-4.10	15.53	-4.38
Milwaukee	86	70	89	65	78	+6	2241	n.a.	0.55	4.59	-3.06	17.23	-3.28

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.