



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 27, 2001

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Time, Heat, and Late Frost

During this season, the weather cycle has left crops in various growth stages throughout the state. Corn continues to be reported in stages from tassel to reaching maturity within the same area. The recent rainfall has improved pasture, corn, and soybean conditions. Crops still need additional heat units, continued rainfall, and a late frost before harvest. Soil moisture was reported 8% very short, 26% short, 64% adequate, and 2% surplus. There were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

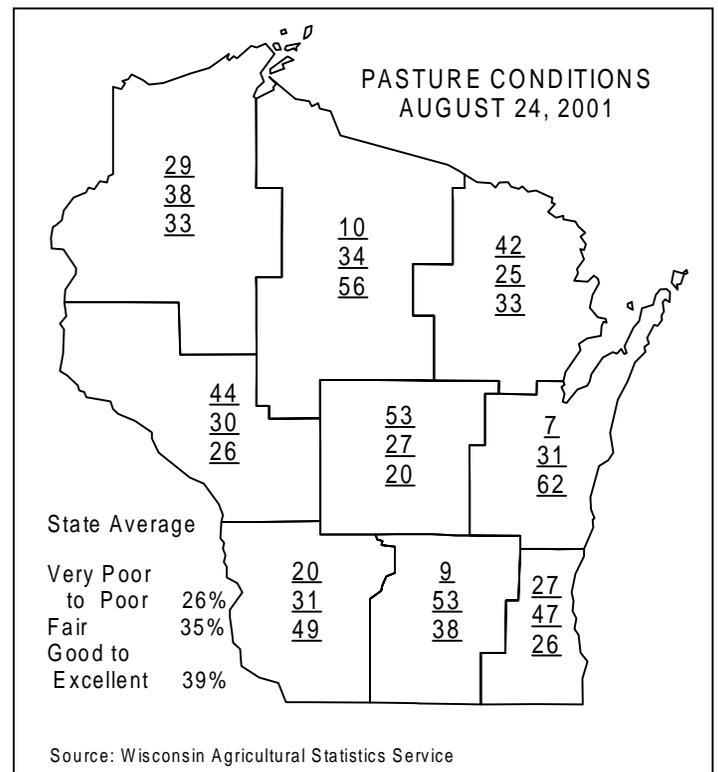
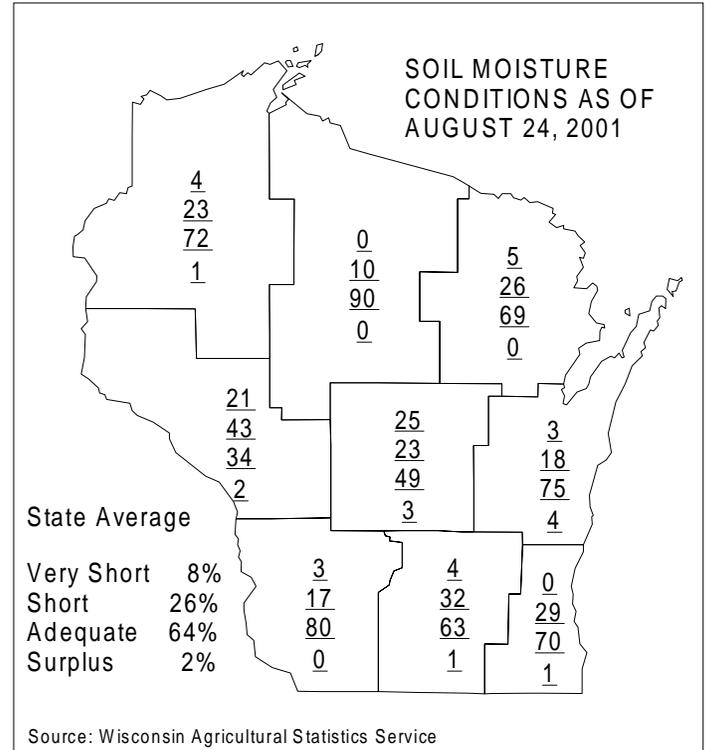
Corn in dough stage reached 37% last week, compared to 61% last year, and 59% for the 5-year average. Corn reaching dent stage was reported in scattered locations in the southern two-thirds of the state. Farmers in southern Wisconsin reported checking corn whole plant moisture level, in anticipation of silage harvest starting soon. A Grant County farmer reported 108-day corn, planted on April 25, tested 70 percent whole plant moisture on August 24.

Soybeans setting pods reached 74% complete this week, compared to 89% last year, and 85% for the 5-year average. Farmers throughout the state are reporting soybeans not setting pods well, with fewer pods per node, compared to recent years and early-planted fields with pods that are still flat. A Door County reporter noted soybean fields hit with rain are showing signs of white mold.

Oat harvest reached 87% complete last week, compared to 97% last year, and the 5-year average of 90%. Oat harvest is finishing up with late-planted oats yet to be harvested. Northern Wisconsin farmers reported small grain yields were mixed.

Third cutting **alfalfa** harvest reached 57% complete, statewide, compared to 65% last year, and 46% for the 5-year average. Statewide alfalfa fields were reported in second, third, or fourth cutting. Fall seeding started last week throughout the state.

The Bayfield County **apple** crop was reported in very good condition, with the fruit starting to color. An Oconto County reporter noted that **vegetable** conditions improved with the recent rain fall.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 24, 2001					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	6	20	35	35	4
Corn	5	11	29	44	11
Soybean	4	8	27	45	16

Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 26, 2001

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	27	30	24	35	35	30	41	45	43	37	61	59
Soybeans setting pods	65	60	69	75	78	70	80	70	85	74	89	85
Oats harvested for grain	74	84	71	85	87	89	95	93	97	87	97	90
3rd crop Hay harvested	50	55	53	58	52	60	65	57	62	57	65	46

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Corn and soybeans look good.
CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Third crop hay harvest nearing completion. Beginning to get dry on light soils. Snap bean harvest in full swing. Apple crop appears to have above average yields.
WASHBURN -B.S.: Rains have been spotty, and many corn yields will be reduced by 30 percent. Third crop hay is short, and in some fields, not worth cutting.
CLARK-G.S.: Corn and soybean maturity is still a week or two behind normal. We had a small area of hail that did some damage to corn and soybeans.
PRICE-M.P.: Corn looks good, but needs moisture. Gardens are producing well. Lots of apples falling off the trees.
OCONTO-D.T.: Rains this week helped crops come back, and moisture levels are back to adequate again. Vegetable crops yield coming back up. Oat harvest finishing up. Wheat mostly all done, with very good yields.
EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Harvest of third crop hay progressing quickly. Corn needs time, heat, and late frost.
PEPIN-H.R.: Lots of corn getting close to silage. Some of the heat-stressed corn on light soils is dented with small ears and small kernels. Soybeans have looked better after some of these light rains. Some of the soybeans also hurt by hot, dry weather. They dropped some of the first blossoms. Potatoes on the light soils are getting close to harvest. Third crop hay yields fair, but good quality.
MARQUETTE-K.V.: Recent rains and cooler temperatures are welcome relief. Beans are looking better, and the late-planted corn has improved with recent rain. Pastures are starting to green up again.
PORTAGE-D.Z.: Third crop hay being put up, although one person told me he was starting on fourth cut next week. Potatoes seem to be set heavy this year, so size at harvest may be affected. Some dry land corn looks pretty bad at present, many cobs only half filled out.
WAUSHARA-L.K.: Corn looks good, but needs quite a bit of time to get ripe. It is hard to make hay because it rains every few days now. Quantity and quality are good if it gets dry.
DOOR-M.F.: Snap bean harvest is nearly 50 percent complete. The snap beans that had to go through the extremely dry conditions at flowering have yielded very poorly, under 2 tons per acre. We are now starting to see yields in the 4 ton range appear. In areas that

had hit or miss showers, the beans that got the hit, are starting to see some slight mold problems.
SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Third crop alfalfa is good where leafhoppers were sprayed. Otherwise, there are lots of weeds in alfalfa fields. Corn is progressing nicely; it has enough moisture now.
GRANT-G.C.: Timely rains have everything green and healthy. Husk on early corn starting to dry out. Hard to get third crop hay dry enough to bale.
SAUK-C.N.: Not a good week for making hay. Several showers occurring and some isolated storms throughout the week. Quantity of third crop hay a little less than normal. Reports of corn silage to be harvested at weeks' end.
COLUMBIA-R.S.: Had 1.50 inch of rain Wednesday night and Thursday a.m.-very good. Oats are running very good. Yields and test weights have made a good crop with lots of straw. Soybean aphids are here in full force-will have to wait and see how much yields are affected.
DODGE-J.F.: Field corn beginning to dent about 10 percent. Soybean aphid numbers have dropped dramatically due to disease. Pods on soybeans filling well. Spots of county had hail with much-needed rain on Saturday. Rain on Tuesday and Wednesday has helped a lot to relieve dry weather stress on crops.
JEFFERSON-J.M.: Rained 0.4 inch on Wednesday. Crops maturing at a good pace. Third crop alfalfa short. Lady beetles started showing up in the house this week.
WALWORTH-A.A.: Rained .09 inch Saturday and .04 Wednesday. Soybean aphids are almost gone in most fields. Sweet corn yields a little below average. Lima beans setting pods.
WAUKESHA-R.F.: One inch of rain on Tuesday. Some corn is too far gone for any help. Also, 10 percent of beans will amount to nothing. The one inch of rain will help fourth cut hay and finish rest of corn.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
 P.O. Box 8934
 Madison, WI 53708-8934
 (608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
 State Statistician

Angela Byers-Krantz
 Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 26, 2001

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. 25	Mar. 1 to Aug. 25 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	82	60	87	52	71	4	2,204	2,002	0.57	13.71	2.00	26.94
Green Bay	79	59	82	52	69	3	2,100	1,863	0.95	9.40	0.10	20.62
La Crosse	80	62	86	56	71	1	2,389	2,241	1.66	8.38	-2.50	21.37
Madison	78	60	81	51	69	2	2,252	2,178	2.91	16.12	5.79	27.59
Milwaukee	76	65	80	59	71	3	2,200	n.a.	2.66	12.21	2.68	25.60

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.