Above average temperatures and rainfall advanced crop development during the week ending July 19, 2020, according USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Sporadic strong winds, hail, and flooding were reported to have damaged some crops and reduced overall condition. Field activities included cutting hay and readying equipment for small grain harvest.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1% very short, 8% short, 77% adequate and 14% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1% very short, 7% short, 81% adequate and 11% surplus.

Silked corn, at 70%, was 6 days ahead of the 5-year average. Scattered accounts of corn reaching the dough stage were reported. Corn condition declined slightly to at 83% good to excellent. Soybeans blooming reached 81% this week, 13 days ahead of last year and one week ahead of normal. Soybeans were 29% setting pods, 12 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the average. Soybean condition declined slightly to 80% good to excellent.

Spring wheat headed was nearly complete at 98%. Spring wheat turning color was one week behind normal at 32%. Spring wheat condition was down slightly to 73% good to excellent. Oats turning color, at 78%, was 8 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of average. The oat harvest was 7% complete with 68% of the crop good to excellent. Barley was 56% coloring. Barley condition dropped to 70% good to excellent.

Sunflower condition rating decreased to 67% good to excellent. Potato condition decreased to 90% good to excellent. Dry beans blooming progress advanced to 81%, with 31% setting pods and condition down slightly to 85% good to excellent.

Minnesota’s second cutting of alfalfa hay was 71% complete, 6 days ahead of last year and 1 day ahead of average. All hay condition declined slightly to 60% good to excellent. Pasture conditions declined slightly to 60% good to excellent.
Maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on July 13, 2020, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on July 19, 2020.

National Weather Service data, courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Climatology Office, is available at:
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/historical/summary.html

Growing Degree Days can be found at https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/gdd

Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/