Warm and dry conditions advanced row crop development during the week ending August 9, 2020, according USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork, the most so far this season. Field activities included cutting hay and harvesting small grains, potatoes, fruits and vegetables.

Topsoil moisture condition rated 3% very short, 14% short, 74% adequate and 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture condition rated 2% very short, 10% short, 79% adequate and 9% surplus.

Corn was 62% in the dough stage or beyond, 12 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the 5-year average. Corn condition rated 84% good to excellent. Soybeans setting pods reached 91%, almost 2 weeks ahead of last year and over a week ahead of the average. Soybean condition rated 84% good to excellent.

Spring wheat coloring was nearly complete at 98% with harvest 19% complete, 11 days ahead of last year but 2 days behind normal. Spring wheat condition rated 75% good to excellent. The oat harvest was 64% complete, 13 days ahead of last year and 1 week ahead of average. Barley for grain was 39% harvested. Barley condition rated 74% good to excellent.

Sunflower condition declined to 73% good to excellent. The potato harvest was over 2 weeks ahead of both last year and the average at 18% complete. Potato condition rated at 89% good to excellent. Sugarbeet condition remained at 93% good to excellent. Dry beans setting pods reached 94%. Dry bean condition declined to 80% good to excellent.

Minnesota’s second cutting of alfalfa hay was 91% complete. Pasture condition decreased to 65% good to excellent.
Maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 3, 2020, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 9, 2020.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
August 03, 2020 to August 09, 2020

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
August 03, 2020 to August 09, 2020

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/