Cool, wet conditions did not hamper small grain harvest progress during the week ending August 16, 2020, according USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork, the fewest since the week ending July 12. Other field activities included cutting hay and harvesting potatoes, fruits and vegetables.

The wet weather recharged soil moisture in central Minnesota. Statewide topsoil moisture condition rated 2% very short, 12% short, 73% adequate and 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture condition rated 2% very short, 8% short, 81% adequate and 9% surplus.

Corn had reached the dough stage or beyond on 81% of the acres, 2 weeks ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the 5-year average. Twelve percent of the corn acreage was at or beyond the dent stage, 11 days ahead of last year but equal to average. There were scattered reports corn silage harvest has begun. Corn condition rated 83% good to excellent. Soybeans setting pods were almost complete at 97%, remaining ahead of last year and average. Scattered observations of soybeans turning color were reported. Soybean condition rated 84% good to excellent.

Spring wheat harvest was 31% complete, 6 days ahead of last year but 6 days behind normal. Spring wheat condition rated 76% good to excellent. The oat harvest was 78% complete, 10 days ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of average. Nearly one-third of the total barley for grain acreage was harvested during the week, advancing the statewide total to 70% complete. Barley condition rated 74% good to excellent.

Sunflower condition rated 74% good to excellent. The potato harvest advanced 3 percentage points to 18% complete, remaining well ahead of last year and normal. Potato condition improved to 92% good to excellent. Sugarbeet condition remained at 93% good to excellent. A few reports of sugarbeet harvest was received. Dry beans setting pods were nearly complete at 99% with 13% dropping leaves. Dry bean condition improved to 81% good to excellent.

Minnesota’s second cutting of alfalfa hay was 94% complete. Pasture condition increased to 67% good to excellent.
Maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 10, 2020, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 16, 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/