Warm, dry conditions allowed for the rapid harvest of small grain crops the week ending August 23, 2020, according USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Other field activities included cutting hay and harvesting potatoes, fruits and vegetables.

Statewide topsoil moisture condition rated 3% very short, 13% short, 74% adequate and 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture condition rated 3% very short, 10% short, 79% adequate and 8% surplus.

Corn had reached the dough stage or beyond on 91% of the acres, 17 days ahead of last year and one week ahead of the 5-year average. Corn acreage was 33% at or beyond the dent stage, 13 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of average. Harvesting corn silage was reported in areas short of feed supplies. Corn condition dropped slightly to 82% good to excellent. Soybeans were 7% turning color, 9 days ahead of last year but equal to average. Soybean condition also rated 82% good to excellent.

Nearly one-quarter of the spring wheat acres were harvested last week, advancing the total progress to 54% complete. This was 5 days ahead of last year but 5 days behind normal. The oat harvest was 88% complete, 9 days ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of average. Barley for grain harvest was 89% complete, 8 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of normal.

Sunflower condition declined slightly to 72% good to excellent. The potato harvest advanced 2 percentage points to 23% complete, remaining well ahead of last year and normal. Potato condition rated 92% good to excellent. Sugarbeet condition remained at 93% good to excellent. Dry beans dropping leaves was at 29% with condition improving to 82% good to excellent.

Minnesota’s second cutting of alfalfa hay was nearly complete at 97% cut. Pasture condition decreased to 59% good to excellent.
Minnesota Temperatures and Precipitation for the week ending August 23, 2020

Maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 17, 2020, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 23, 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/

National Weather Service data, courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Climatology Office, is available at: