Thunderstorms and light showers provided a welcoming sight for some farmers and crops, but dry and hot conditions continued in other areas in need of rain, according USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 8, 2021. Field activities for the week included the harvesting of small grains.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 39% very short, 41% short, 19% adequate and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 38% very short, 44% short, 18% adequate and 0% surplus.

Corn in the dough stage reached 44%, four days behind last year and one day behind the average. Corn condition remained at 36% good to excellent. Soybeans setting pods reached 84%, two days behind last year but 3 days ahead of average. Soybean condition remained unchanged at 34% good to excellent.

Spring wheat harvested reached 76%, nearly 3 weeks ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Dry beans setting pods reached 95%. Dry bean condition declined to 18% good to excellent, compared to the previous week’s 20%.

Oats were at 75% harvested. Barley was at 82% harvested. Potatoes were at 8% harvested. Potatoes condition was 60% good to excellent. Sunflower condition remained at 32% good to excellent. Sugarbeet condition was at 69% good to excellent.

The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 89% complete.

Pasture condition was 35% very poor, 39% poor, 19% fair, 4% good and 3% excellent. Some livestock losses due to heat were reported.
Minnesota Temperatures and Precipitation for the week ending August 8, 2021

Maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 2, 2021, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on August 8, 2021.

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://mrcc.illinois.edu/U2U/gdd/

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