



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 3, 2002

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Warm Dry Week Pushes Harvest and Crop Conditions Statewide

The past week saw warm weather and little to no rain. The rains from the previous week went to good use in improving hay crop quantity for both third and fourth crops. Heavy overnight dew slowed hay harvest in some areas. Small grain harvest was winding down across the northern tier of counties. The warm weather also helped to fill out soybeans and some late corn.

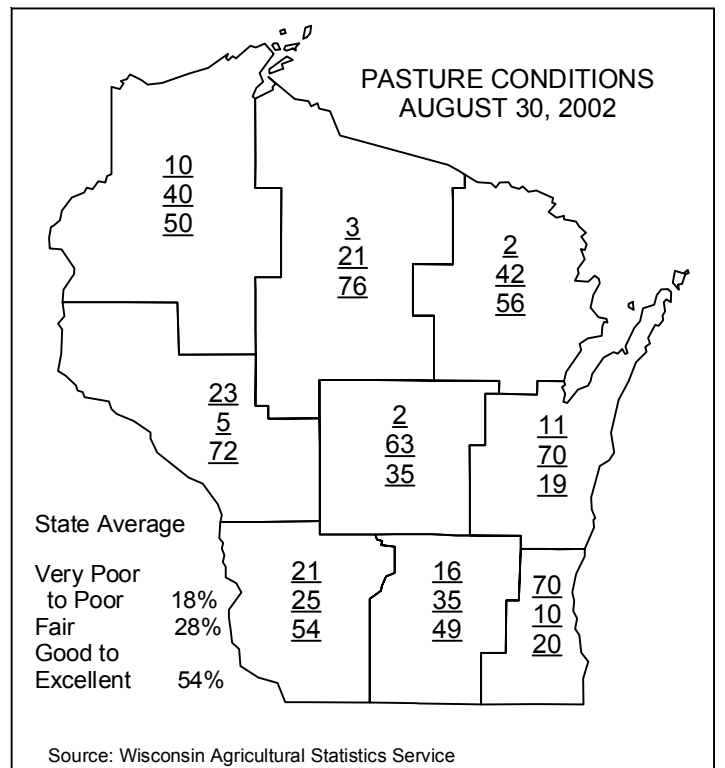
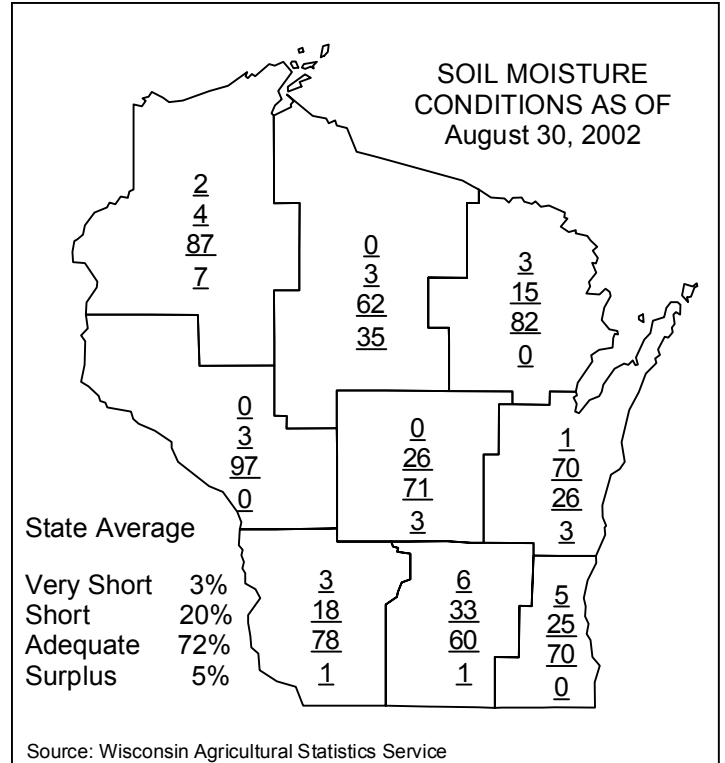
There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 3 percent very short, 20 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus.

Soybeans looked good across the state with improved moisture conditions and warm temperatures. Soybeans are beginning to turn color and many farmers reported good pod development. **Corn** condition was good in most areas of the state except in the southeast and south central regions, where lack of early moisture hampered development. Many areas reported the start of silage harvest with moisture around 67-73 percent. Lodging may become a problem due to corn borers around the state. At week's end, 80 percent of the corn was in the dough stage and 39 percent was in dent stage. This compares to last year at 57 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

The **hay** crop benefited the most from the warm, dry week. Harvest of third crop moved up 15 percent from last week to 73 percent complete. Fourth crop was also moving along with improved yields and quality. Alfalfa seedings in Shawano County were reported to be off to a great start.

Small grain harvest mostly finished around the state. The favorable weather helped to compete the harvest. However, many **oat** fields reported heavy weed problems. **Rye** and **barley** harvest was also very near completion.

Tobacco harvest continued across Dane County last week. **Apple** harvest progressed with variable yields and some light populations in Lincoln County. **Sweet corn** and **cucumber** picking continued, with **potato** harvest beginning.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 30, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	4	14	28	49	5
Corn	5	10	25	43	17
Soybean	3	8	24	46	19

Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 1, 2002

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dough stage	70	75	67	82	80	76	88	86	91	80	57	74
Corn in dent stage	32	33	30	38	40	34	46	42	42	39	9	32
Soybeans turning color	7	10	5	12	14	15	19	18	22	15	2	15
Third cutting hay	57	58	62	78	71	81	87	88	89	73	68	64
Fourth cutting hay	3	10	6	11	8	9	12	15	10	10	2	n.a.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Ample warm weather and moisture have really pushed crops to mature. Blueberry season is still on with high yields.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Third crop hay harvest is nearing completion. Corn is ranging from early dough to dent stage. Soybeans look better than corn, overall.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Third and fourth crop hay was of good quality, but less than normal. Corn is in the milk stage. Cobs are small. Soybeans have pods almost to the ground. Very good sets. Weeds are a problem in corn and small grain fields. Oat harvest is about finished. Some barley is not done.

VILAS-L.K.: Oat harvest is about finished. Lots of grass. Oats were short, but good yields. No potato harvest yet. Spraying vines.

OCONTO-K.H.: Later cuttings of hay have generally been very good. Have heard producers intentions to only take three hay cuttings due to the late spring. Hay supplies are good with carry-over from last year. Corn and soybeans both look excellent and are making good development progress..

SHAWANO-B.R.: Alfalfa seedings that were done in the past few weeks are really off to a great start. Soil moisture is good for this time of year.

MONROE-W.D.: All crops are maturing nicely. Corn and soybeans look great; harvest will prove how good! Some third crop hay still has good quality and quantity. A few farmers started fourth crop hay which is short, but good quality.

PEPIN-H.R.: Third crop hay is looking good with good length. Lots of good hay put up. There is no fourth hay crop in this area yet. Lots of corn in heavy dent stage. Corn on light soil even looks fair now with all the moisture. Soybeans really have heavy stands; lots of lodging on heavy soils. Seems like soybeans have lots of pods this year.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Quantity of third crop hay is average with excellent quality. Weed growth is a problem. Recent rains have boosted growth of corn and soybeans.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Hay is very good quality, but low yields. Potato harvest is slow yet. Late soybeans and sweet corn look good. It's been a dry, warm week, and crops in this area need rain. Irrigation is steady on late crops.

DOOR-M.F.: The soybeans are just starting to turn with bottom leaves yellow. From the early look, the soybeans appear to be a bin buster here.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Alfalfa hay harvest is average. Potato leafhopper continues to be a problem on alfalfa where control measures have been ignored. Incomplete pollination of corn, due to drought, continues to be a scouting concern. Sweet corn yield has been very good.

CRAWFORD-D.W.: Lot of hay in our area. Corn looks good but a whole lot of corn borers.

GRANT-J.G.: Latest cutting of alfalfa hay is light. Heavy rains over the weekend slowed some corn silage and hay chopping.

COLUMBIA-B.G.: Farmers have started on fourth crop alfalfa. Tonnage and quality are pretty good. Some corn silage has started. Should evaluate corn fields now prior to harvest, for corn borer damage and dropped ears. There is some drought-stressed corn where the ear shanks are very brittle. In some cases, the ear is already drooping down prematurely.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Corn and soybeans which were not on hills or knolls seems to look decent, however, really bad elsewhere. Hay doing great with fourth crop 15-18 inches tall on good soils. Fall-seeded alfalfa emerged tremendously. Pastures are finally green again. Corn still too green to chop unless on sandy ground.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Hay will not dry. Some are talking about filling silos. Some fields of corn are not worth keeping for harvesting. Getting too late for fall seeding. No winter wheat seeded yet.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Corn that is still here, the development has been very fast. Soybeans are doing well.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Bob Hunter
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 1, 2002

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Aug. 31	Mar. 1 to Aug. 31 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	84	59	85	55	72	6	2341	2091	0.04	16.08	3.22	27.94
Green Bay	79	55	84	50	67	2	2098	1955	0.00	10.87	0.22	20.88
La Crosse	83	62	85	57	72	3	2563	2346	0.04	12.96	0.38	22.71
Madison	81	55	83	51	68	2	2332	2285	0.00	8.83	-3.43	19.70
Milwaukee	76	62	79	59	69	1	2360	n.a.	0.01	10.22	-1.01	20.79

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.