



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 30, 2004

Vol. 04, No. 21

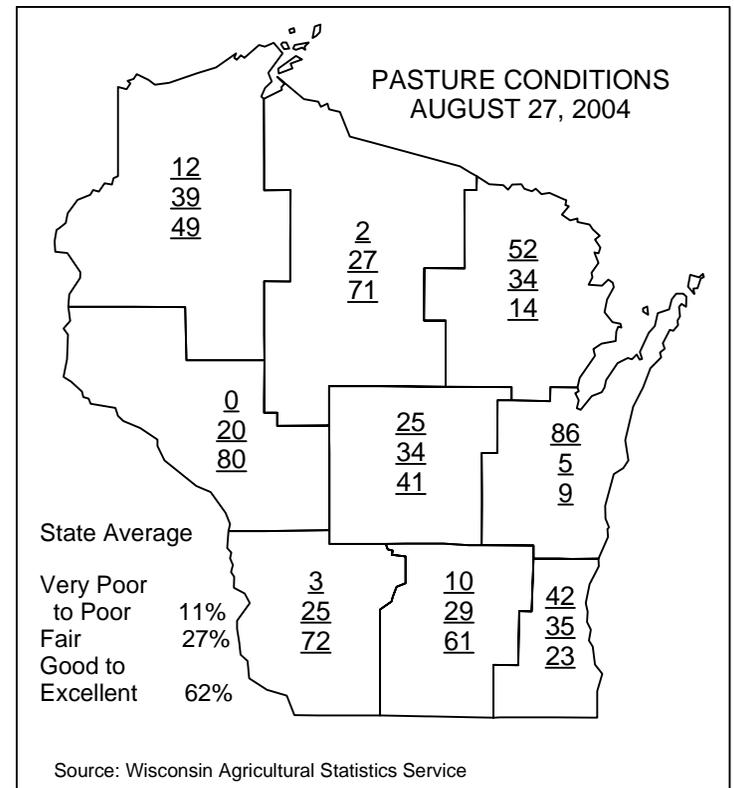
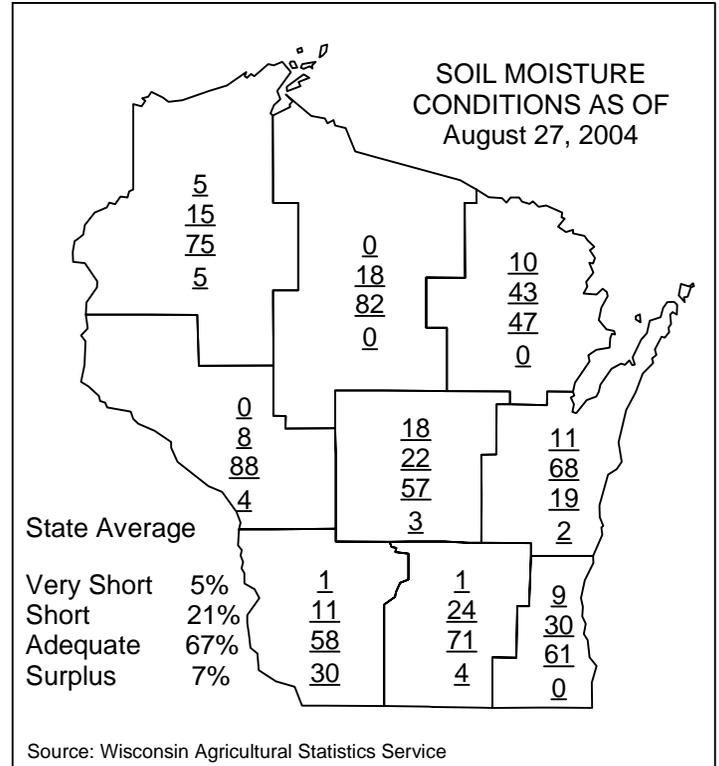
Crops Need Time and Heat

There were reports of scattered frost in northern areas of the state, with some damage on field edges and in low areas. Farmers are hoping for a late killing frost so crops have a chance to mature. Last week brought a welcome change to the usual cool temperatures this summer. Temperatures were 1 to 3 degrees above normal for this time of year, ranging from 50 to the high 80's. Precipitation ranged from trace amounts to almost 2 inches. Year-to-date precipitation in the northwestern part of the state is about 1 to 4 inches below normal, the west central part of the state is about 5 inches above normal, the south central part of the state is 2 inches above normal, and the southeastern part of the state is about normal. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 5% very short, 21% short, 67% adequate, and 7% surplus. There was an average of 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn is in need of heat statewide. In most parts of the state, corn is behind schedule for maturity. In some areas, the ears have not filled out due to the cool nights and days. In the southwestern part of the state, farmers are reporting that the corn looks good, but still has a long way to go until harvest. The lack of heat and sunshine has also slowed the development of **soybeans**. In some parts of the state, there are a lot of pods setting, but without warmth, soybeans will have a hard time reaching maturity. In some of the northern areas, farmers are reporting some white mold. Both corn and soybeans are two to three weeks behind normal. Third crop **hay** is looking good with reports of high quality and yield around the state. There are reports of insect and weed problems.

Corn in dough stage was reported at 43%, behind both last year's 70%, and the 5-year average of 69%. Corn in dent stage was reported at 4%, well behind both last years 22% and the 5-year average of 24%. **Soybeans** setting pods were reported at 81%, behind both last year's and the 5-year average of 93%. Soybeans turning color was reported at 4%, behind both last year's 16%, and the 5-year average of 9%. **Oats** harvested was reported at 91%, behind both last year's 99%, and the 5-year average of 96%. Third cutting **hay** was reported at 52% complete, behind both last year's 66%, and the 5-year average of 64%.

Snapbeans harvest continues with good yields. **Potatoes** are being harvested, and the crop is looking good. **Cucumbers** are late due to the cool weather. **Cranberries** are suffering from the cool summer. Berry size is running smaller than normal. Some early **apples** are starting to ripen on the trees.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 27, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	2	9	27	54	8
Soybeans	3	12	30	36	19
Corn	5	20	23	40	12

Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 29, 2004

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	28	20	16	41	40	21	74	57	37	43	70	69
Corn in dent stage	3	1	2	8	2	3	7	4	1	4	22	24
Soybeans setting pods	95	71	75	80	83	49	95	95	79	81	93	93
Soybeans turning color	1	1	1	5	5	8	6	7	1	4	16	9
Oats harvested	90	79	88	92	98	77	100	97	100	91	99	96
Third cutting hay	40	45	53	41	46	33	58	73	54	52	66	64

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-A.B.: It is hard to get anything harvested; not a lot of rain, but no sun and cloudy with occasional drizzle. Wheat yields are about average. Significant white mold appearing now in the soybeans. Last of the corn is now tasseling. Best corn now entering the milk stage.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Moisture levels are again becoming short. Need time and heat for most corn and soybeans to make it.

WASHBURN-K.S.: Third cut hay, like earlier hay crops, is looking very nice. If hay can be put up between rain showers, quality should be excellent. Soybeans seem to be most affected. Cool, wet temperatures and lack of sunshine is having a profound effect on corn and soybean development; both crops are two-three weeks behind. Soybean white mold is also more prevalent this year.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Frost caused severe damage to many corn fields that were already at least three weeks behind in maturity due to cold weather. Many fields have little or no cobs. Oat yields are reported to be above average. Soybeans have not set pods well, and yields are expected to be below average. Hay yields are reported good for the most part, but some areas received very little rain in July, and that impacted total hay yields.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Scattered frost a week ago touched some of the soybeans and corn. Crops have too long to go to expect normal yield.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: There is more frost damage than I thought. Wet weather kept haying to a minimum, and little other harvest is happening. Seed corn producers are nervous.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Saw some pockets of frost last Saturday morning-nipped some corn and tops of soybean plants.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Third and fourth crop hay is producing below normal yields, but good quality. Late weeds are a problem. Corn is behind schedule for maturity. Grain yields are somewhat above normal.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Good quality third crop hay was made. There is not much hay made this week because it has been cloudy nearly all week. We have had no rain-we need rain and warm weather for corn and soybeans to mature. Some fields will not make it.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Third and fourth crop hay is average, but conditions have not been favorable for proper curing prior to storage. Leaf diseases are evident in corn and alfalfa fields. Several types of aphids in very high numbers are showing up in alfalfa fields. Weeds like volunteer wheat in fall-seeded alfalfa and respraying of lambsquarter escapes in Round-up ready soybeans have been the only spraying still going on in the area. Weed escapes from flooded herbicides and cold slow crop growth are everywhere. All the late-planted crops started out behind and the slow accumulation of growing degree days has crops way behind schedule. Many late-planted fields of corn and soybeans are flowering right now.

CRAWFORD-V.H.: Crops continue to look great. A little more heat would be nice, however. Unless we have a very early frost, the crops should be excellent.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Corn is late in maturing. Some soybean pods are empty.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Soybean pods are filling, and corn is looking better. Hay is rebounding very well. The heat is making a difference, but we need lots of it to finish off the crops.

GREEN-F.Z.: Some corn looks very good. There are some horse weeds or giant ragweeds in some corn fields. Weeds are higher than the corn. Hard to get hay dry-cloudy and rain every other day.

WALWORTH-E.P.: We have not had rain in two weeks; it seems to avoid us. Corn needs some rain and the soybeans also. Fourth cutting hay has not started. I guess the growing season has ended in the north.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Late-planted soybeans are just starting to shoot pods. Nitrogen leaching loss from all the rain we had this spring is showing in many fields.



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This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 29, 2004

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. 28	Mar. 1 to Aug. 28 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	77	59	86	55	68	1	1923	2075	0.20	8.22	-4.23	21.68
Green Bay	76	60	83	50	68	3	1783	1938	1.43	8.65	-1.52	25.06
La Crosse	78	62	89	59	70	1	2220	2324	0.59	16.72	4.70	33.58
Madison	77	61	84	53	69	2	2064	2261	0.97	14.04	2.15	32.32
Milwaukee	78	63	84	53	70	1	1961	n.a.	1.97	11.31	0.54	27.90

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 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.