Scattered Rains Cause for Varied Corn Heights

Inconsistent rainfall in Central areas of the state has caused some uneven corn fields. Heights range from 6 to 11 inches throughout the state. Low temperatures averaged in the mid 50s last week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.03 inches in Milwaukee to 1.16 inches in La Crosse. Soil moisture conditions were at 6 percent very short, 13 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin.

Corn emergence was rated at 93 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year's 92 percent and the 5-year average of 83 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Spraying continued when weather permitted in most areas. Early week rain helped the corn crop in western counties, and heat helped to move corn along nicely. Patchy rains in central counties caused some farmers to have good progress, while others are replanting. Producers in northern counties are noticing signs of armyworms on various fields.

First cutting alfalfa was reported at 74 percent complete, above last year's 51 percent and the 5-year average of 37 percent. Warm weather helped hay making throughout the week, although some areas were held back by persistent rain. Yields have been reported as above average in most parts of the state, although rains still prevented some farmers in eastern counties from harvesting.

Oats have been rated as good to excellent, with 11 percent of the crop headed. Sweet corn was planted in the eastern areas of the state. Cucumbers continued to be planted during the week. Peas are almost completely planted.
BAYFIELD-S.S.: Hay crop is maturing early this year, but without rain it appears short. Most corn is up, but needs rain also.

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybeans are looking very good. There are some reductions from wire worms and maggots. Hay crop quality and yields have been about average. Spraying a lot of acres with GMO-Glyphosate tolerant crops.

CLARK-N.S.: Nearly all forage used for dairy has been harvested. Some grassy hay remains standing for beef, heifers, and transition cows. Uneven corn heights in some fields has demonstrated a few emergence problems. Weed control is being done in a timely manner.

MARATHON-M.K.: Good week for making hay. Crops are doing great.

FOREST-A.K.: Corn is growing nice and so are the weeds. Hay crop is normal-some is light and some heavy.

OCONTO-K.H.: Crops generally look good. There has been some minor replanting of corn due to seed rotting in the ground and some frost damage. Soybean fields are emerging evenly. Wheat and oats were virtually all headed out a week ago. First crop hay yields reported to be good. Post emergence weed control on corn seems to be working well.

DUNN-S.S.: All crops in this area are getting hit real hard by lack of rain. We received 0.40 inch of rain this past week-lots of stress on everything. Hay crop is fair to good. We will not have any second or third crop hay if we do not get rain soon. The only things looking good right now are irrigated crops. Crops, as a whole, looked real good three weeks ago, but the hot winds and no rain have changed that.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Corn and soybeans look good. First crop hay quality is good. Most, if not all, dairy hay has been harvested. A good rain covering the whole county would be nice.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Side dressing corn is in full swing as corn shot up this past week. Alfalfa regrowth looks real good.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Crops are looking good, some weedy fields. Crops generally look good three weeks ago, but the hot winds and no rain have changed that.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: A lot of yellow corn fields, need sun and warmer temperatures. Some drowned out areas of corn on clay soils in eastern side of the county. Hay harvest turned out pretty well-taller, but quality seems good.


SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: First crop hay harvest has been slow. About 25 percent of the corn is still not planted in our county due to wet soils. Will have a significant acreage of unplanted corn acres this year.

IOWA-K.V.: Second crop hay is growing back nicely. Weevil and Leafhopper damage is apparent. Soybean aphids are in some soybean fields. Crops and weed control, in general, look good.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Wet and windy spring has restricted the timing for applying crop protection products, thus some crops have more weeds. A few farmers are resorting to accepting the increased risk of erosion by using mechanical cultivation.

CORN-CL: Many growers are seeing low-lying areas with no crop emerged, although it was never under water. Many replanted these areas, some let them go. Most are wrapping up planting this week. Many have switched to total post-emerge spray programs due to the weather. First crop haylage was very good for tonnage.

RACINE-L.F.: Wheat crop is the best looking I have seen in the past few years. The corn rows are filling in and fields along the road are looking good. Still reports of northeast part of Racine County having trouble getting final crops in.